



Tech Talk

CSCT Member Profile: Kevin Ferris, MCIC

Kevin Ferris received his BSc (majoring in chemistry, mathematics, and statistics) in 1988 from the University of New Brunswick. He also received a chemical technology diploma from the New Brunswick Community College in Saint John, with honours in 1993. After working for a short period in organic synthesis R&D and the oil refining and pulp and paper industries, Ferris decided that he would like to create his own chemical company. Thus, Ferris Chemicals and Consulting was created in 1995. Its original focus was pulp and paper testing reagent production and analytical testing for customers in the Maritimes.

In 1999, the company was incorporated as Ferris Chemicals Limited. With this came more of a focus on chemical production and less on testing (although they still have a few select groups of clients). The company currently produces and supplies reagents for all areas of chemistry for customers all across Canada and has a distributor in Ontario. The company's quality system is based on ISO 9001:2008.

Ferris Chemicals also manufactures a line of personal care and cleaning products (Free & Clean™) for individuals who are chemically sensitive or have sensitivities to smell. The current product line

includes liquid laundry and hand dishwashing detergent, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, liquid hand soap, hand and body lotion and automatic dishwashing powder. Ferris is a member of the American Chemical Society, the UNB Alumni Association and the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. He has also been the director of certification for the Canadian Society of Chemical Technology since 1997.



Do you know a CSCT member who we should profile? Contact us and let us know why!

Eastern Student Symposium

CSCT hosted the CSCT Eastern Student Symposium in London, Ont. on October 25, 2011 at the Canadian Chemical Engineering Conference. Panel discussions with representatives from Holland, Fanshawe and Niagara Colleges showed students that there is high quality research being carried out at the colleges, in connection with industry. This was also highlighted by a talk on sustainability by

Maika Lauten of Fanshawe College. Career talks provided information on the diverse careers that are available to students upon graduation.

Mehdi Sheikhzadeh, symposium organizer, has given the challenge to other colleges to host future student symposia of this sort. The CSCT is already planning for this to become an annual event.

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MOST RECENT CERTIFIED CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGIST (cCT) RECIPIENTS

- Zach Scribner, Edmonton, Alta.
- Francis de Vera Vallejo, Hamilton, Ont.
- David Fogel, Montreal, Que.

CSCT LABORATORY SAFETY COURSE

May 28-29
Calgary, Alta.

September 17-18
Toronto, Ont.

For information about the course and registration form, go to www.cheminst.ca/profdev

Membership Has Its Benefits

Your society has a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with other societies that provide additional benefits to CSCT members. An MOU with the Canadian Technology Accreditation Board (CTAB) outlines our agreement to participate in joint accreditations of chemical technology programs at colleges across Canada, enhances technical education in Canada and promotes lifelong learning. This MOU was renewed in November 2011.

The Board is also pursuing opportunities for agreements with provincial technical societies. The New

Brunswick Society for Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (NBSCETT) MOU was renewed. It includes joint initiatives for professional development of members in the chemical technologies, participation in the accreditation process and the benefits of dual membership through reduced annual membership rates. A previous MOU with the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) is currently under review. The provincial societies agree with the CSCT that we provide the opportunity for

membership to each others' constituents, and that we provide recognition of certified technologist status in each others' societies (with some exceptions). Your Board of Directors believes these are valuable benefits the CSCT provides to its membership and will create an opportunity for easier mobility between provinces.

TechTip

Installing GC Columns

Proper installation of a new GC column is essential to ensuring symmetrical and narrow peaks, at the efficiency promised by the manufacturer. The following steps are necessary if the column is not pre-conditioned by the manufacturer. If you have purchased a pre-conditioned column, steps 5 and 6 may be omitted.

1. Attach a nut and ferrule to the injector end of the column.

2. Cut about 2 cm off the injector end and discard (if graphite from the ferrule has entered the column it is adsorptive and will cause tailing peaks).

3. Measure the insertion distance (according to the manufacturer's manual for the injector being used) and connect the column to the injector.

4. Set a flow rate of at least 1 mL/min and allow carrier gas flow for 15 min

5. Set the column oven to 30°C less than the column maximum temperature and heat overnight. This step will remove any solvents and unbound stationary phase without running them through the detector and fouling it.

6. Cool the oven.

7. Attach a nut and ferrule to the detector end of the column and cut about 2 cm off the end and discard.

8. Measure the insertion distance (according to the manufacturer's manual for the detector being used) and connect the column to the detector.

The column should now be ready to use!

Note: For laboratories utilizing hydrogen as the carrier gas this procedure should not be performed due to the possibility of fire/explosion. If you use hydrogen you should purchase pre-conditioned columns.

JOIN CSCT FOR 2012 AND RECEIVE THESE BENEFITS

A new ACCN featuring more news reporting;

Networking opportunities with chemical scientists, engineers, technologists and technicians;

Certified chemical technologist (cCT) designation for increased job mobility;

Career services online and through job fairs;

Reduced life, home and auto insurance rates.

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