The Chemical Institute of Canada
L'Institut de chimie du Canada

# THE CATALYSIS DIVISION

April 13, 2026

Dear members of the Catalysis Division of the Chemical Institute of Canada:

As the nomination committee of the Division, we are pleased to present the Slate of the candidates for the 2026-2028 Division Executive Committee members. Any further nominations should bear the signatures of at least two members of the division and be accompanied by the written consents of the nominee to serve and should be sent to the Chair of the Nomination Committee (Hui Wang at hui.wang@usask.ca) no later than two weeks before the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on May 27, 2026. If no further nominations are received, the slate shall be presented at the AGM for adoption. If any further nomination is received, the vote shall be run by secret ballot at the AGM.

**Chair Elect: Jan Kopyscinski, McGill University.** Jan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering. His research group, the Catalytic Process Engineering Laboratory, is engaged in the development and understanding of catalyzed processes and reactor engineering concepts dedicated to sustainable energy conversion technologies. His team is focused on thermo- and plasma catalysis for CO2 hydrogena6on, CH4 activation, dry reforming and ammonia synthesis.

**Vice Chair Elect: Nicolas Abatzoglou, Université de Sherbrooke.** Nicolas is a Professor in the Department of Chemical & Biotechnological Engineering. As an expert in process engineering involving the use and behaviour of granular materials in chemical and physical processes, Nicolas is the director of GRTP (Group for Research on Technologies and Processes). His teaching area is industrial process design, thermocatalytic reactors and technology transfer. He has also served as Chemical Engineering Department Head.

Nicolas held the Pfizer industrial research chair in pharmaceutical processes from 2008 to 2022. He has numerous national and international collaborations and served as one of the leaders in Canada's NCE Network BioFuelNet for biorefining. He has been the leader of the Canadian side of the HORIZON Europe-funded GOLD and ICARUS projects. He is co-founder of Enerkem Technologies, a forerunner of Enerkem, a spin-off in the field of energy and renewable materials.

Nicolas has received numerous academic and professional awards and is a world-renowned researcher and technology transfer expert. His scientific output includes 200+ publications, keynote speeches, invited lectures, patents and book chapters. His career has been recognized with Fellowships of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Engineering Institute of Canada and the Canadian Institute of Chemistry/Canadian Society of Chemical Engineering.

**Secretary/Treasurer Elect: Robert Scott, University of Saskatchewan.** Robert Scott is a Professor of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Saskatchewan. Prof. Scott's work focuses on the rational design of nanoscale heterogeneous catalysts through bottom-up synthetic approaches that involve making well-defined nanoparticles and clusters followed by activating them on supports. His group has developed expertise in X-ray absorption spectroscopy and high energy scattering experiments at the nearby Canadian Light Source to characterize the short and medium range order of nanoscale catalysts via EXAFS and pair distribution function analyses. This work has led to the development of a range of in situ and operando setups that allow the interrogation of catalyst speciation for both liquid phase and high-temperature reactions of gases over solid heterogenous catalysts.

**Member-at-Large 2024-2028:**

**Himanshi Dhawan, Accelera by Cummins.** Himanshi Dhawan is a Materials Scientist at Mitrex in Etobicoke, where she specializes in developing innovative products for building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV). Prior to joining Mitrex, she worked as a Membrane Electrode Assembly (MEA) Scientist at Accelera by Cummins Inc., the company's green energy division in Mississauga, Ontario. She holds a PhD from the University of Alberta, where her research focused on catalyst development for water electrolysis. Through her career, Himanshi has built broad experience in the clean energy sector, contributing to technologies spanning solar energy, fuel cells, electrolyzers, and bioelectrochemical systems.

**Sami Khan, Simon Fraser University.** Sami is an Assistant Professor in the School of Sustainable Energy Engineering at Simon Fraser University. His group, Engineered Interfaces for Sustainable Energy (EISEn) aims to improve the performance and longevity of sustainable energy systems by fundamentally understanding and tuning electro-chemo-physical interac6ons at interfaces. By studying gas-solid and gas liquid interfaces, his group is enhancing rates and life6mes of carbon capture and conversion processes and biomass energy systems. His group is also interested in we8ability and adhesion of reactants and products at (electro)cataly6c interfaces.

**Chester Upham, University of British Columbia.** Chester is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering. His group's research focuses on the development of catalysts and processes to reduce or eliminate carbon dioxide emissions. Topic areas include thermal catalysis, reactor design, liquid heterogeneous catalysis, dry reforming, methane pyrolysis, syngas produc6on and conversion, chemical looping, and high temperature membrane development. These are applied to $CO_2$-free production of hydrogen, liquid fuels, and chemicals, and associated separa6on technologies.

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**Members-at-Large 2026-2028**

**Samir Mushrif, University of Alberta.** Samir is a Professor in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering. His research areas include design and development of novel catalysts, solvents and reactor systems for the conversion of lignocellulosic biomass and bio-waste to fuels and chemicals and investigation of novel transition metal, metal oxide and metalloid doped catalysts for the conversion of methane and CO2 and for the production of Hydrogen. Their research focuses on implement of an integrated simulation and experimental approach, so as to have an effective bottom–up method of novel catalysts and reaction systems design.

**Mohsen Shakouri, Canadian Light Source.** Mohsen is a Senior Scientist at the Canadian Light Source (CLS), where he leads SXRMB (Soft X-ray Microcharacterization Beamline) and IDEAS (Industry, Development, Education, Applications, Students) beamline. With more than a decade of professional experience, his research focuses on applying advanced X-ray spectroscopy, microscopy, and crystallography to investigate catalytic mechanisms, electrochemical interfaces, and functional materials for energy and environmental applications. Mohsen also serves as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Yan Zhang, Memorial University.** Yan is a professor in the Department of Process Engineering at Memorial University of Newfoundland. She has over 20 years of experience in catalytic reaction and adsorption, with more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles. Her research interests concentrate on the synthesis of visible-light responsive photocatalysts for CO2 hydrogenation and the degradation of diverse water pollutants. She is actively involved in the development of porous biopolymer-based adsorbents for environmental remediation purposes.

Nomination committee for the 2026 AGM of Canadian Catalysis Division

Chair: Hui Wang
Members: Quan (Sophia) He and Ajay Dalai