

Presented to the 102nd Annual General Meeting

It has been another year of dealing with the pandemic and its affect on how we do our work. The Institute continued to support virtual meetings of constituent bodies using Zoom. As I write this in the second half of September we have resumed in-person meetings. These meetings will adhere to local health guidelines, and we will be responsive to both positive and negative changes in the status of the pandemic across the country.

With travel and meeting restrictions in place throughout most of 2021, my PIPSC activities have been quite limited. Continuing our much delayed and disrupted 100th Anniversary celebrations we have organized tree planting efforts throughout Canada. While this originated as a national, Institute-wide initiative the final steps of finding a location and organizing the event have been effectively led by the Regional Executives.

As I wind down my active involvement with the Institute, I have been reflecting on approximately twenty-eight (28) years of participation spread over the last thirty-seven (37) years. It has been an enjoyable experience with far more positives than negatives. It was a pleasure to be involved with the 100th Anniversary and the updating of our story in *Leading Progress*. While starting the next chapter with the trials and tribulations of a pandemic is inauspicious, I will remind you that the Institute started with a tragedy back in 1920. Just a month into our first year the sudden and unexpected death of our first president, Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, was “a staggering blow to the new organization”. The Institute may have staggered, but it continued and has been going strong ever since.

As we move into 2022 you will be led by a different President and a new Board of Directors. With at least eight (8) of the Board members being elected to a position in which they have never served there is likely to be a steep learning curve. Please be patient and supportive as they learn to work together on behalf of all the members.