

WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation (CSCA) is a fellowship of scientists and those interested in science who want to understand how science should best interact with the life-giving Christian tradition. Science serves widely, and the Christian faith remains the world's largest global movement. Where these two cross is fascinating, fruitful, and worthy of our best attention. Our interdisciplinary discussions range through fields including cosmology, mathematics, ethics, the environment, medicine, genetics, geology, origin studies, engineering, science education, the history of science, epistemology, evidence of God's existence, biblical interpretation, and the understanding of humanity through the social sciences. CSCA members come to these challenges as researchers in academia and industry, as professors, theologians, philosophers, administrators, and as students just getting started.

WHAT WE DO

We hold free public lectures at public and Christian universities and other venues, often partnering with other organizations. We provide opportunities for fellowship, mentoring, and networking, especially for students, occasionally running in-depth topical workshops for pastors and scholars. Through our website, we strive to offer valuable resources for connecting Canadians to quality science-faith scholarship; many of our events are recorded for our YouTube channel. We also join the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) in the Annual Meeting of the ASA/CSCA, a science-and-Christianity conference held at the end of July. We work with the ASA in publishing our peer-reviewed academic journal, *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

- We confess the Triune God affirmed in the Nicene and Apostles' creeds which we accept as brief, faithful statements of Christian doctrine based upon Scripture.
- We accept the divine inspiration, trustworthiness and authority of the Bible in matters of faith and conduct.
- We believe that in creating and preserving the universe God has endowed it with contingent order and intelligibility, the basis of scientific investigation.



CSCA began 2018 with 11 local chapters – from coast to coast!

- We recognize our responsibility, as stewards of God's creation, to use science and technology for the good of humanity and the whole world.

OUR APPROACH

As an organization, the CSCA (and ASA) does not take a position when there is honest disagreement between Christians on an issue. So there is no one, official CSCA position on origins, biblical interpretation, mind-body questions, climate change, intelligent design, etc. We have members who take many different positions on these things. What we are committed to provide is an open, respectful, and welcoming forum for different perspectives on the relationship between Christianity with mainstream science. We believe that this environment is crucial to understanding each other and working toward our best recognition of the truth. CSCA strives to be “where the conversation happens.”

ORIGIN

The American Scientific Affiliation, or ASA, was founded as an international network of Christians in the sciences. The story begins with a June 1941 letter written by Will H. Houghton, the President of Moody Bible Institute. He called for an annual meeting of “science teachers who are Christians and who feel that some scientific facts are not having proper recognition, while some hypotheses are being presented as laboratory truth.” Two aims would be to equip ministers with scientific understanding and develop resources for Christian students to deal with challenges from science.

Five men responded and attended the first meeting in Chicago in 1941. These would become the founding fathers of the ASA, made up of scientists from academia and industry from all over the United States. From humble beginnings, the ASA went on to gain charitable status, hold large conventions, and make a concerted effort toward visibility in the

secular sphere. Membership grew considerably, with the high-water mark at about 2,700 members. On whether to include the word “Christian” in the name, ASA's leadership felt this would hinder their wider effectiveness and impact. Moreover, the brightest and most effective lights seemed to shine on an individual basis: rigorous scientists and intellectuals who took their faith just as seriously.

Canadians have been numbered among ASA members from the earliest days. Frank Allen (University of Manitoba) joined as early as 1946, becoming ASA's first Honorary Fellow in 1965; Brian P. Sutherland (Consolidated Mining & Smelting, Rossland, BC) served as ASA's Vice President 1953-56. The first ASA/CSCA annual meeting on Canadian soil was held in 1972 at York University, Toronto. It was then that Ontario's John F. Stewart (medical doctor, Anglican priest, & former missionary) proposed a “Canadian Scientific Affiliation.” Three motivating factors were (1) the ASA's resources were being stretched too thinly to do justice to Canada; (2) following Expo '67 in Montréal and the Repatriation of our Constitution from Britain, there was a Canadian sense of “coming of age” and taking responsibility for ourselves; and (3) new income tax laws meant Canadians could no longer make tax-deductible donations to ASA. With gracious enthusiasm, the ASA agreed.

Douglas Morrison (Professor of Animal & Poultry Science, University of Guelph) and Dan Osmond (Professor of Physiology & Medicine, University of Toronto) joined Stewart to found the “CSA” in 1973, specifically to address and express some of the unique challenges and insights of science and Christian faith in the Canadian context. Soon, however, the name adopted was “Canadian Scientific and Christian Affiliation,” and we've seen that being up-front about our Christian distinctiveness is perhaps more necessary in the Canadian context.

DEVELOPMENT

From here the CSCA's history can be viewed in four major stages. During the **founding period (1973-95)**, we were based at the University of Guelph, with major influences at the Universities of Waterloo and Toronto—primary led by Morrison (Executive Director through 1998) and Osmond (President). During the **second stage (1995-2003)**, David A. Humphreys (Chemistry, McMaster University), served

“Faith and Science, eh?”



CANADIAN
Scientific & Christian
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What Is the CSCA?



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SOURCES

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FIND OUT MORE

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as Executive Director (1999-2003), and the centre of CSCA influence shifted to the University of Waterloo under Robert Mann (Professor of Physics; CSCA President 1996-2005); wider influence expanded to McMaster University, The King’s University (Edmonton), and Trinity Western University (Langley, BC)—the location of the joint ASA/CSCA meeting in 2004. The **third stage (2003-15)** brought a shift of CSCA’s administrative centre to the office of Don McNally (NetAccess Systems; Executive Director since 2003) in Hamilton. During this period, the CSCA settled on a standard nine-year pattern for our Executive Council, with each new appointee spending three years as Vice President, then President, and finally Past President. Bob Geddes (retired pastor & geologist with the Ontario Geological Survey) became CSCA’s (non-rotational) Secretary/Treasurer in 2009. In 2010, we added a Student and Early Career position, so that our Executive Council has five members (the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the Council).

The **fourth stage** began in 2016 with our three-year Local Chapters Project, funded by a grant from the Templeton World Charity Foundation, Inc. This allowed us to hire a full-time Project Development Officer, working out of an office at Trinity Western University. We have grown from three local chapters—Vancouver, Edmonton, and Hamilton—to eleven, now including Calgary, Saskatchewan, Winnipeg, Waterloo, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal, and Nova Scotia. We will be working on ways to ensure sustainability and future growth.

The CSCA shares resources and service with the ASA. All CSCA members are ASA members. While distinctively Canadian, and with members from coast to coast, the CSCA appreciates that it is part of an international movement exploring these questions. 🍁

CSCA’s “*Faith and Science, Eh?*” pamphlets are provided as a courtesy to help Canadians explore intersections of science and Christian faith in a variety of areas. Each pamphlet reflects the views of the author and not necessarily those of CSCA staff or members. These pamphlets are accessible at csca.ca/pamphlets and may be downloaded, printed, and distributed free of charge. This pamphlet edited by Mark McEwan (CSCA Project Development Officer).

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