

Friday, March 6th, 2015

Dear Colleagues:

The idea of holding the 2015 Congress of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA) in Mexico City stemmed from the extraordinary experience we had during the CSLA Congress in Cuba in 2007. We created links with the international community and explored new horizons. National organizations frequently hold their congresses or missions abroad. Such an initiative is perceived as providing added value and a unique learning experience to our members -- acquiring knowledge about distinctive landscapes, sharing ideas on common issues, making new contacts, etc. Furthermore, interest in holding our annual congress outside Canada was expressed following the 2007 Congress and in a survey of our members in 2012.

Secondly, holding the 2015 CSLA Congress in Mexico City, a world class metropolis, provides a remarkable environment in which to explore the concept of "livable cities" and the themes of the Congress -- active transportation, heritage conservation, a green approach to infrastructures -- a unique training and enrichment opportunity that our members will be able to apply in their professional practice.

Third, Mexico is relatively close to Canada, and is a NAFTA partner. The distance to Mexico City is no greater than that between Montréal and Vancouver. It has all the facilities required to receive an international congress. We will meet in the Hilton Reforma, a first class hotel in the heart of the historic centre of the city.

Fourth, Mexico City has an extremely rich history and culture -- its architecture is also unique. Landscape architecture is expanding rapidly in Mexico. That means that the participants in the 2015 CSLA Congress will be able to discuss and compare the way they plan, design and complete projects with their Mexican colleagues.

Finally, support for our professionals will be shown both locally and at the international level. Indeed, this is an excellent opportunity to work with the Mexican Society of Landscape Architects (SAPM) by positioning Canadian landscape architects as references in their fields.

I hope this will convince you to participate in the 2015 Congress in Mexico City, a meeting that will remain a standard reference in the minds of every participant.

Come and share a memorable experience. We're looking forward to seeing you!

Sincerely yours,



Serge Poitras, AAPQ, FCSLA
Chair, 2015 Congress Planning Committee