



## The Saskatchewan Chemist

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### 1. Happy New Year from the ACPS

2017 will be a busy year for the ACPS! We have grown our membership substantially over the past year, and now feel that we are in a strong position to make the case that we represent the chemistry profession in Saskatchewan and that we are prepared to move to self regulation. This year we will be stepping up our government relations efforts to realize self-regulation as professional chemists.

Please mark June 21, 2017 (7 PM) in your calendar as the date of the ACPS Annual Meeting of Members. Details will be circulated closer to the meeting, including proxies and options for joining the meeting remotely.

Stephen Urquhart, P.Chem  
President, ACPS

### 2.) 2017 Membership Renewals

Membership renewals for 2017 are now active on the ACPS website ([www.saskpchem.ca](http://www.saskpchem.ca)). To renew, please login on the website, and select **Membership Renewal** at the top of the page.

Membership is an important way to show your support for the Association and for the goal of regulating the chemistry profession in Saskatchewan.

We have made an important change for 2017; members no longer have the option of 'opting out' of email communication. Communicating with our members is central to the work the Association does, and the board found that the 'opt-out' made this more difficult. We all dislike 'spam', so we will do our best to keep messages few, focused and necessary. We sent ~12 messages to ACPS members in 2016.

Please note If you joined the ACPS after November 1, 2016, your membership will run until the end of 2017.

### **3.) The ACPS Members' Column**

As a member of the chemical profession have you ever been annoyed (dismayed, troubled, amused, ...) by the random use of the word "chemical" (read: "toxic, dangerous, evil, ...") in the public media? I certainly have (been annoyed, dismayed, troubled and even amused from time to time), and after 50 or so years in the chemical profession I thought it was still not too late for me to do something about it. I have now just finished giving a course entitled "Chemistry for Informed Consumers" to a class of about 40 organized by the Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning organization. The course consisted of eight roughly 2-hour sessions on the following topics: the basics (one session on each of chemistry and measurements), chemistry at the supermarket, chemistry in the kitchen, chemistry in the laundry (and other cleaning and waste disposal topics), environmental chemistry (2 sessions) and chemistry "mistakes" (lack of knowledge, studied ignorance and pseudoscience). The result has been most gratifying and I can now say, with some certainty, that when the participants use the term "chemical" they will now include a suitably chosen preceding adjective. Trace chemical constituents in consumer goods (and, of course, all sorts of things) remain a public concern, but will no longer be regarded with uninformed horror by at least 40 Saskatchewan seniors.

As a member of the ACPS do you have anecdotes, information, opinions, ... to share with the membership? If you do, email draft text to [ron.steer@usask.ca](mailto:ron.steer@usask.ca) for publication in this column.

Ron Steer

Member, ACPS

#### 4.) 2017 AGM for the FCPC to be held in Saskatoon

The ACPS will be hosting the Annual General Meeting for the Federation of Canada's Professional Chemists (FCPC; [www.cpchem.ca](http://www.cpchem.ca)) on April 27, 2017, in Saskatoon. The FCPC is the national council of provincial professional chemists organizations, which works to advance the interests of the professional chemist as a regulated occupation in all provinces and territories by coordinating information, facilitating discussion and developing consensus. Membership in the FCPC has been valuable to the ACPS, as our sibling provincial organizations with regulatory authority have provided us with tremendous guidance and support.

#### 5.) E&O Insurance

Professional Liability Insurance is available for ACPS members, at a group rate organized by the Federation of Canada's Professional Chemists (FCPC). For more information, click the "About Us" tab on the APCS website, [www.saskpchem.ca](http://www.saskpchem.ca).

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**Our mailing address is:**

Association of the Chemistry Profession of Saskatchewan  
Department of Chemistry, University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada S7N 5C9  
<https://www.saskpchem.ca/>

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