

Report from Ottawa: "AtlantiChem"

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The Houses of Parliament in Ottawa from along the Rideau Canal.



The National Arts Centre and downtown Ottawa.

A discussion was held on June 14, 2015, in Ottawa, Ontario, at the Canadian Chemistry Conference to explore the possibility of holding a meeting in late 2017 or early 2018 that would involve chemists in the area around the Atlantic Ocean ("AtlantiChem") analogous to the pentennial PacifiChem.

Representing the Canadian Society for Chemistry were Youla Tsantrizos, President; Neil Burford, Vice-President; Hugh Horton, Treasurer; Roland Andersson, Executive Director; and Directors Joan Kingston and Bernadette Dacey.

For the ACS, the attendees were Diane Grob Schmidt, President; Denise Creech, Director, Member and Scientific Advancement Division; Lori Brown, Office of International Activities; Steve Meyers, Office of Professional Development; Julie Smist, (Springfield College), former Chair of the Northeast ACS Region (NERACS); and Morton Hoffman (Boston University), NESACS representative to the NERACS Board of Directors and member of the International Activities Committee.

The Chemical Society of Mexico was represented by its President, Lena Ruiz Azuara.

AtlantiChem, which would take place every five years, would initially aim to attract about 1,000 attendees for presentations and discussions on targeted topics, such as STEM education, neuroscience, biotechnology, and nanotechnology. It would be scheduled in

December 2017 or January 2018 so as not to conflict with other national and international conferences, and held in a warm and inviting location.

Support for AtlantiChem has also come from the Brazilian Chemical Society and the Federation of African Societies of Chemistry. However, at this time the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) has expressed reservations about participating.

Among the issues that must be resolved very soon are those of financial commitments, potential costs, location, program, and the governance model.

Another meeting of the interested parties will take place during the ACS National Meeting in Boston in August.