

Proposed merger: Western Canada Chapter (WCC), Toronto Chapter and Eastern Canada Chapter (ECC)

Rationale:

A merger of the Canadian SLA chapters was proposed by the Western Canada Chapter (WCC) executive leadership in late 2018, as a way to address the annual difficulty in recruiting key board roles. The new combined chapter, named the Canadian Chapter/Section canadienne will allow a larger pool from which to draw for board positions, and will work to provide events and professional development opportunities for members in all Canadian Provinces and Territories.

Vote:

The memberships of all three Chapters have been sent a ballot via SurveyMonkey.com in an email with this document. The voting period is open now until September 27, 2019.

In order to proceed, two-thirds majority of the members from **each** chapter who submits a ballot must vote “yes” in order for the proposal to move forward. Each chapter’s vote is separate from each other.

Process:

The process is laid out in the [Recommended Practices for Units](#) document, Unit Structure, Section F, beginning on page 27.

Timeline

- November 2018 – The WCC executive approached the other two Canadian chapters (Toronto Chapter and Eastern Canada Chapter (ECC)) to see what challenges and successes they had been facing, and floated the idea of a potential merger.
- January and February 2019 – The executive members of the three Canadian chapters surveyed their respective boards to see if exploring the idea of a merger were worth pursuing. The results indicated that there was interest.

- March 2019 – The executive members of the three Canadian chapters and the SLA Chapter Cabinet Chair met to further discuss the idea of merging. Both WCC and Toronto were interested in exploring the idea of merging more. ECC indicated that at the moment they were not interested in a merger, but might be later on. It was agreed to work on a draft MOU for discussion at the next meeting.
- June 2019 – The executive members of the three Canadian chapters and the SLA Chapter Cabinet Chair met to discuss the draft MOU. ECC indicated that they were interested in continuing merger talks.
- July 2019 - The executive members of the three Canadian chapters met and agreed to proceed with a vote of each chapter's membership.
- August 2019 - The executive members of the three Canadian chapters finalized the MOU.

Advantages & disadvantages of choices

Option	Advantages	Challenges
Merged Chapter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only 1 volunteer Board to maintain or fill - Stronger Canadian wide collaboration - Better connection to all Canadian SLA members - Forum for Canada wide issues and experiences - Wider reach for potential sponsors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Different logistical obstacles - Need strong regional representation to serve members - Need to coordinate around different time zones - Need to coordinate finances across Canada

Distinct Chapters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintains current regional identity- Control over own finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Difficulties in filling volunteer positions for each Board- Declining membership
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