



Canadian Mathematical Society
Société mathématique du Canada

Dear CMS Members,

Over the past year, the Canadian Mathematical Society has been undertaking an important review of how it is governed. This work began with an independent Governance Review and has now progressed through the first two phases of a carefully planned reform process.

We are writing to share, in plain terms, what this means for you.

Why change is needed

The Governance Review found that CMS's current structure has become too large and diffuse to operate efficiently. Roles between the Board, committees, and staff were not always clear, decision-making could be slow, and there was no consistent system for training directors or evaluating governance effectiveness.

These issues do not affect CMS's mission — to advance mathematics in Canada — but they do affect how effectively that mission can be carried out.

What is being built

Phases 1 and 2 of the reform have designed a new governance structure that will:

- Create a smaller Executive Board responsible for governance, strategy, finance, and oversight
- Establish a Council to provide academic, scholarly and operational advice
- Clarify the operational role of the Executive Director as the CEO of the organization
- Align committees to ensure they fulfill their oversight functions
- Introduce director training, onboarding, and evaluation processes
- Create a Governance Manual and modern governance tools

Importantly, this work has already been completed at the design level. What remains is for members to formally adopt the updated By-laws that reflect this structure.

What will happen next

At the AGM, members will be asked to approve the By-law amendments that activate this new structure. As well, members will be asked to approve the transition plan that will see the new structure fully implement by June 2027.



Canadian Mathematical Society
Soci t  math matique du Canada

In the next 4 weeks, as part of your AGM package, members will receive:

- A copy of the revised By-laws, compliant with the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- A summary of the proposed changes
- A summary of the transition plan
- The opportunity to ask questions and attend one of two town halls on May 28, 2026.

The vote on these changes will be at the AGM on June 6, 2026.

What will not change

- CMS's mission
- CMS programs and publications
- The central role of academic leadership in the Society

What will change is how clearly responsibility, accountability, and oversight are defined.

Our goal

These reforms are designed to make CMS more transparent, more accountable, and better positioned to serve its members and the mathematical community for years to come.

We encourage you to read the materials that will be shared, participate in the consultation process, and join us at the AGM to take part in this important step for the Society.

Sincerely,

Tim Alderson, Kseniya Garaschuk, and Dave Oakden

The CMS Governance Review Ad-hoc Committee on Structural Recommendations