Message from Amir Aghdam, IEEE Canada President,
Sections Congress 2014

As the list of top five recommendations was announced on August 24 during the closing ceremonies of IEEE Sections Congress 2014, I thought of the many hours given by our IEEE Canada volunteers in developing our submission.

I was therefore pleased—but not entirely surprised—when one of the five clearly originated from our team (see 4. in the list to the right). Thanks again to all who either contributed, collected or helped evaluate opinions and recommendations for future IEEE directions.

As your Section's fall program of activities begins, I urge you to continue to provide input to your Section Executive. The delegates who attended Sections Congress have come back charged with fresh approaches and new ideas, and will be eager to engage with you.

Each Sections Congress includes a multitude of sessions for delegates to learn from the experiences of seasoned volunteers—leaders of Section, Chapter and Affinity Group activities. The following IEEE Canada volunteers shared their expertise at Sections Congress, and where arrangements can be made, would be happy to do so again right here at home in Region 7.

Wahab Almutahdi (Ottawa Section) — Gave a "tour" of the IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE), which has training modules for 25 IEEE leadership positions and more than 70 modules on professional development. *Wahab is a senior committee member, IEEE Center for Leadership Excellence.*

Mazana Armstrong (Vancouver Section) — reviewed some of the Power and Energy Society strategies and tools offered to Chapters and showed through various examples how PES Chapter Chairs have achieved success. *Mazana is Regional Representative for United States and Canada, IEEE Power & Energy Society, 2014 Governing Board.*

Top five recommendations presented to Member Geographic Activities Board

1. Include free access to IEEE Digital Library as a member benefit. Promote other IEEE services and products based on their usage and preferences (adopt Google Business Model).

2. Develop an incentive and recognition program for companies that invest in full or partial support of their employees' IEEE membership dues.

3. Introduce loyalty rewards such as publication access, conference fees, standards for continued membership.

4. Provide a tool to build, promote, record, host and broadcast technical events at the local level and make them available to IEEE members.

5. Enhance vTools for better usability by volunteers and provide a training program to the Sections.

List of all 34 final recommendations.

Dave Kemp (Winnipeg Section)— presented on activities that Section Chairs and Life Members Affinity Group Chairs can use to improve engagement of Life members in their Sections. *Dave is a Member-at-Large, IEEE Life Members Committee, a former IEEE Canada Life Members Committee Chair, and a past IEEE Canada President (1998-1999).*

Maike Luiken (London Section) — explored how Sections and Chapters can identify and make contact with local subject matter experts and build a network of invited speakers. *Maike received a 2013 MGA Achievement Award for outstanding member engagement, facilitated through highly successful guest speaker programs that fostered local partnerships.*

Mario Milicevic (Toronto Section) — detailed the many opportunities for technical development and professional growth offered to Young Professionals. *Mario received a 2013 MGA GOLD Achievement Award for leadership in supporting student transition to full member, and for innovation in organizing local YP events; he will be IEEE Young Professionals Committee Chair, 2015.*

Left to Right: *A social hour is enjoyed by Anader Benyamin-Seeyar (Montreal Section; SC '14 Coordinator for R7), Janet Davis (Ottawa Section), Katrina Davis (Guest) and Maria Rey (Ottawa Section; Chair, IHTC 2015).*