



CORS • SCRO

Canadian Operational Research Society

Société canadienne de recherche opérationnelle

The
Bulletin

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TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
In This Issue	2
CORS Council	3
Section and Chapter Presidents	3
President's Message	4
2025 CORS Annual Conference	5
Announcements	6
CORS Diploma	8
Funding Opportunities	8
Traveling Speaker Program	8
Graduate Student Funding	9
EDI Event Fund	10
CORS Awards: Call for Nominations	12
Harold Larnder Prize	12
Omond Solandt Award	12
Award of Merit	12
Eldon Gunn Service Award	13
EDI Excellence Award	14
CORS Competitions	16
Practice Prize Competition	16
Student Paper Competition	18
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)	20
SIG News	21
Meetings and Conferences	22
The Next Issue	23
CORS Policies	23
About CORS	



IN THIS ISSUE

Dear CORS members,

This issue starts with a message from the President, Anjali Awasthi, highlighting the exciting developments within CORS. These include a website upgrade, new student chapters, a call for proposals to host CORS 2026, and a focus on collaborations with other OR societies. Anjali also encourages members to submit abstracts for CORS 2025 and participate in the various activities and awards.

Additionally, it features updates on the 2025 CORS Annual Conference, funding opportunities and calls for nominations for various awards. It also includes information on competitions, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and upcoming meetings and conferences.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin.

Cheers,

Andrea

CORS Council

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President
Councillors

Anjali Awasthi
Marco Bijvank
Majid Taghavi
Kent Kostuk
Samira Rahimi
Saied Samiedaluie (23–25)
Salimur Choudhury (23–25)
Ana María Anaya-Arenas (24–26)
Eman Almehdawe (24–26)
Danielle Ripsman
Nadia Lahrichi, Joe Naoum-Sawaya

Student Councillor
Standing Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Membership
Education & Student Affairs
Program

Saied Samiedaluie
Nadia Lahrichi, Eman Almehdawe
Marco Bijvank, Anjali Awasthi, Fredrik
Odegaard, Borzou Rostami, Kent Kostuk
Amir Ardestani-Jaafari, Eman Almehdawe,
Saied Samiedaluie
Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Andrea Friars, Ana
María Anaya-Arenas

Public Relations

Publications

Ad-Hoc Committees

Awards
Award of Merit

Marco Bijvank
Samira Rahimi, James Bookbinder,
Taraneh Sowlati
Samira Rahimi, Anjali Awasthi (co-chairs)
Antoine Legrain
Andre Cire (Open)
Aliaa Alnaggar (Undergraduate)
Samira Rahimi, Anjali Awasthi
Ana María Anaya-Arenas, Eman
Almehdawe, Saied Samiedaluie, Anjali
Awasthi
Kent Kostuk, Anjali Awasthi, Samira
Rahimi, Marco Bijvank
Salimur Choudhury, Anjali Awasthi, Ana
María Anaya-Arenas
Majid Taghavi, Eman Almehdawe, Saied
Samiedaluie, Anjali Awasthi, Ana María
Anaya-Arenas
Samira Rahimi
Samira Rahimi

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
Practice Prize Competition
Student Paper Competition

Past Presidents Advisory Board
SIG Relations

Financial Planning

Industry

Micro Events

Nominating
Traveling Speaker Program

Appointed Positions

INFOR Editor
Bulletin Editor
IFORS Representative

Joe Naoum-Sawaya
Andrea Friars
Majid Taghavi

Administrative Coordinator

Erla Anderson

CORS COUNCIL

CORS Council consists of the officers of the society, four councillors, the immediate past president, and the standing committee chairs.

President	Anjali Awasthi, Concordia University, president@cors.ca
Vice-President	Marco Bijvank, University of Calgary, vicepresident@cors.ca
Secretary	Majid Taghavi, Saint Mary's University, secretary@cors.ca
Treasurer	Kent Kostuk, Engcomp, treasurer@cors.ca
Past President	Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi, McGill University, pastpresident@cors.ca
Councillor (2023–2025)	Saied Samiedaluie, University of Alberta, samiedal@ualberta.ca
Councillor (2023–2025)	Salimur Choudhury, Queen's University, s.choudhury@queensu.ca
Councillor (2024–2026)	Ana María Anaya-Arenas, UQAM, Anaya-Arenas.Ana_Maria@uqam.ca
Councillor (2024–2026)	Eman Almehdawe, University of Regina, eman.almehdawe@uregina.ca
Student Councillor	Danielle Ripsman, University of Waterloo, daripsma@uwaterloo.ca
Standing Committee Chair	Nadia Lahrichi, École Polytechnique de Montréal, nadia.lahrichi@polymtl.ca
Standing Committee Chair	Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Ivey Business School, jnaoum-sawaya@ivey.ca

SECTION AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Atlantic	Claver Diallo, Dalhousie University, claver.diallo@dal.ca
Quebec & Quebec Student	Irène Abi-Zeid, Université Laval, irene.abi-zeid@osd.ulaval.ca
Montreal	Nadia Lahrichi, Polytechnique Montréal, nadia.lahrichi@polymtl.ca
Ottawa	Dragos Calitoiu, Carleton University, calitoiu@math.carleton.ca
Toronto	Hassan Anis, University of Toronto, hassan.anis@mail.utoronto.ca
Southwest Ontario	Joe Naoum-Sawaya, Western University, jnaoum-sawaya@ivey.ca
Saskatoon	Mohammadreza Nematollahi, University of Saskatchewan, nematollahi@edwards.usask.ca
Calgary	Marco Bijvank, University of Calgary, secretary@cors.ca
Edmonton	Armann Ingólfsson, University of Alberta, armann.ingolfsson@ualberta.ca
Vancouver	Gregory Paradis, University of British Columbia, 0@01101.io
Waterloo Student	Danielle Ripsman, University of Waterloo, daripsma@uwaterloo.ca
Montreal Student	Başak Tozlu, Concordia University, basaktozlu@gmail.com
Toronto Student	Maira MacNeil, University of Toronto, m.macneil@mail.utoronto.ca
Hamilton Student	Ahana Malhotra, McMaster University, malhoa25@mcmaster.ca
Okanagan Student	Armita Tehranchi, UBC Okanagan, armitat@mail.ubc.ca
Alberta Student	Sina Taheria, University of Calgary, Sina.Taheria@ucalgary.ca



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear colleagues,

I am excited to share the second CORS bulletin for 2024, filled with important updates.

First, I'm happy to announce that we are upgrading the CORS website's content management system from DRUPAL 7 to DRUPAL 10. This enhancement is essential for improving our website's security against hacking, phishing, and spam, and we anticipate completing the transition by January 2025.

I'm also thrilled to report the establishment of a new CORS student chapter in Alberta — congratulations! Additionally, we are in the process of launching another student chapter for the CORS Kingston section.

We are pleased to announce a call for proposals to host CORS 2026. This presents a wonderful opportunity to advance Operations Research (OR) within the American diaspora. If you're interested in organizing or know someone who might be, please get in touch with me.

This year, we are focusing on collaboration with other OR societies through joint events, including workshops, schools, and conferences. CORS is supporting CanQueue 2024, HOpER 2025, the CORS 2025 EDI initiative, and IFORS 2029.

In September 2024, we held our first micro event of the year, centered on energy management. I would like to extend special thanks to Dr. Golam Kabir from the University of Regina and Mr. Sushil Sharma from Sustaineco, India, for their insightful presentations on this topic.

As we approach CORS 2025, now is the time to consider submitting your abstracts and participating in student competitions. You can also organize workshops and special sessions on themes of interest by reaching out to the program committee. Nominations are open for various academic and industry awards for CORS 2025.

Several special issues have been launched by Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for submission to our journal, INFOR. Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss the deadlines!

Finally, we owe our accomplishments to dedicated volunteers, long-time friends, and loyal members like you. Thank you for your support in shaping the mission and vision of OR in Canada.

Best regards,

Anjali



Edmonton skyline (Source: Wikipedia)

2025 CORS Annual Conference in Edmonton

9–11 June 2025, The Westin Edmonton Hotel

On behalf of the conference organizing committee, we would like to invite you to join us in Edmonton, Alberta, for the 2025 CORS Annual conference. Located in downtown Edmonton, the conference venue provides easy access to several restaurants and museums, the Edmonton Arts and Ice Districts, and the Edmonton River Valley (the largest urban park in Canada). Other tourist attractions in the city include the West Edmonton Mall, Fort Edmonton Park, Royal Alberta Museum, and Art Gallery of Alberta.

The conference website is live now: <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/cors2025/home>
Abstract submission deadline: **March 3, 2025**. Abstract submission and registrations will open soon.

We look forward to seeing you in Edmonton.



Royal Alberta Museum (Source: Wikipedia)



Art Gallery of Alberta (Source: Wikipedia)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORS Membership

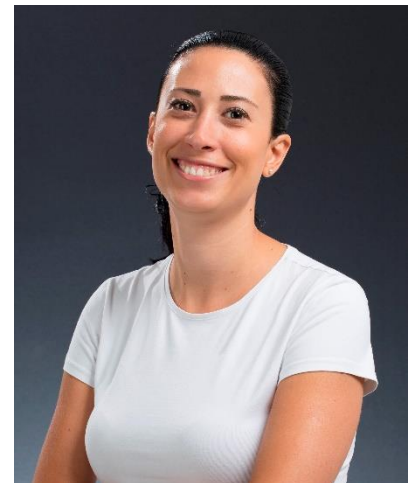
Renew your CORS membership for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

You may be able to use an NSERC grant to pay membership dues for yourself and your graduate students.

Please renew your membership on the CORS website.

NORAM Vice President

More exciting news. Starting on January 1, 2025, the new Regional Vice President representing the Association of North American Operations Research Societies (NORAM) on the Administrative Committee of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) is Sibel Alumur Alev. She will take on this position for three years. CORS has selected Sibel as Regional VP after having served as CORS Councillor in 2022-2024. Sibel is a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Management Science and Engineering at the University of Waterloo (<https://uwaterloo.ca/scholar/salumura>).



For those who do not know, IFORS is a 60-year-old organization and is composed of more than 50 national societies dedicated to advancing operational research worldwide. Committed to global welfare, IFORS emphasizes applying operational research in areas where it is most needed, particularly in developing countries. IFORS is governed by an Administrative Committee (AC), consisting of one President, four regional Vice Presidents, and one Vice President at large, all elected by IFORS members. Additionally, IFORS has a Board of Representatives from each member country, responsible for voting on major organizational matters, while the AC oversees activity execution and prepares proposals for Board approval. Within IFORS, NORAM represents North America, specifically through CORS and INFORMS.

Sibel's duties as member of the IFORS Administrative Committee include (but are not limited to) approving the annual budget, assisting in formulating the agenda for meetings of the Board of Representatives, approving policies with respect to financial transactions, establishing committees to pursue IFORS activities, and formulating and proposing new activities aimed at furthering IFORS's objectives. If you have any suggestions for Sibel, please feel free to contact her at sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca.



Call for proposals: 2026 CORS Conference

This is a call for proposals to host the CORS Conference in 2026. All proposals will be evaluated by CORS Council. A proposal to host the 2026 CORS Conference should address the following:

1. The name of the conference chair (or one of the conference co-chairs) to serve as the primary contact between conference organizers and the Society officers. The names of other people involved in organizing the conference, such as the program chair.
2. The planned conference dates. The conference shall be held between mid-May and mid-June. Any deviation from this timing must be approved by CORS Council.
3. Information regarding the conference venue. This should include the number of tracks your proposal would be able to accommodate including the number of people in the rooms. CORS Council is required to have their Annual General Meeting (AGM) for all attending CORS members during the conference. This has usually been held over lunch on the second day of the conference. Is there a large auditorium available for the meeting? What is the intended location to organize the CORS banquet? Are there sufficient hotel options available within close vicinity of the conference venue?
4. It is important for the CORS officers that the conference runs on at least a break-even basis. Please provide a rough budget for the conference, including facility charges and catering charges (coffee breaks, lunch for the AGM and dinner for the CORS banquet). Include what you anticipate charging for the conference in order to break even. Note that historically, anywhere between 30 to 45% of attendees are students and thus charged significantly less. In the past couple of years, the average charges were about CAD 650 for regular members (CAD 550 for early registration) and CAD 275 for student members (CAD 200 for early registration). Indicate if your institution will be able to contribute sponsorship money to the conference.
5. Please provide any additional information that you feel would be relevant to CORS Council when evaluating the attractiveness of your proposal to host the 2026 CORS Conference.

Full proposals should be sent to the Secretary of CORS, Majid Taghavi, at secretary@cors.ca before **January 15, 2025**.



CORS DIPLOMA

The CORS Diploma is awarded by the Canadian Operational Research Society, in association with participating Canadian universities, to recognize CORS members who have successfully completed a program of study which has included significant exposure to operational research in the following areas: OR techniques, probability and statistics, computers and systems, and applications of OR. The objective of the Diploma is to encourage students to pursue an educational program in the field of operational research and to recognize their achievement in successfully completing such a program. It benefits the university by highlighting the fact that a student can gain significant exposure to operational research through a particular course of study offered at that university. It benefits CORS by encouraging students to pursue a career in OR and by attracting new members.

For more information, see the CORS website.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Traveling Speaker Program

The Traveling Speaker Program (TSP) enables local sections to bring OR practitioners and researchers in Canada as speakers to their local events. To keep costs in line while maximizing the CORS national profile, CORS sponsorship will be limited to 50% of the total expenses, up to a maximum of \$500 per speaker or \$1000 for a single event (conference, workshop). Other expenses can be covered by the local section. The program of the event must acknowledge the contribution of CORS. The president of the local section must contact the TSP Coordinator to obtain approval for funding at least one month in advance of the event date. Payment will be made by the CORS Treasurer upon receipt of the Expense Form.

The president of the local section fills out the application form on the CORS website and submits the form to the TSP Coordinator Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi (pastpresident@cors.ca)

Graduate Student Funding

Description

CORS partially funds graduate students attending CORS annual meetings.

Eligibility

The candidate must be:

- A Student Member of CORS
- Enrolled in a graduate program in a field related to operational research
- Studying at a Canadian university or a Canadian citizen or permanent resident studying abroad
- Attend the conference and present their registration receipt to receive any funding.

Selection Considerations

The following criteria are to be used to determine the amount awarded to each eligible applicant:

- Whether the applicant is presenting a paper at the conference.
- Travel cost from student's home city to the conference.

Application Process

The application form for funding is available on the CORS website. Applications must be received at least two months before the conference date to receive full consideration. Applicants who meet this deadline will be notified at least one month before the conference date whether their application was successful.

Administration of Funding

The CORS Education & Student Affairs Chair determines who will receive funding and the amount of the award. The CORS Treasurer administers the distribution of funds after receiving confirmation that the student attended the conference.

Reimbursement Process

Students must submit proof they attended the conference (e.g., boarding pass, selfie at conference site) within 30 days of the Annual CORS Conference to the CORS Treasurer (treasurer@cors.ca) and must copy their supervisors on the email. The CORS Treasurer administers the distribution of funds after receiving confirmation that the student attended the conference and will notify the student's supervisor.

Please submit applications by **24 March 2025** to CORS Education & Student Affairs Chair Nadia Lahrichi (nadia.lahrichi@polymtl.ca)



Call for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Event Fund

CORS is pleased to announce the opening of applications for the EDI Event fund. This grant is designed to support individuals, groups, and organizations in creating events that actively promote and celebrate EDI within our community. We invite you to submit your innovative event proposals for consideration.

About the fund:

The EDI Event Fund is aimed at empowering initiatives that foster a more inclusive and equitable environment within CORS members community. Through this fund, we aim to encourage and support events that:

- Raise awareness about the importance of EDI.
- Create platforms for underrepresented voices and communities to be heard.
- Educate and engage the community in constructive conversations around EDI topics.
- Celebrate and showcase diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences.

This event could be applied to any communities (e.g., Indigenous community) in different levels (e.g., university, sections, SIGs, etc.) within CORS.

Details:

Eligibility: Individuals, and groups within CORS are eligible to apply.

Grant Amount: Funds of up to \$1000 will be awarded to selected proposals.

Application Deadline: All proposals must be submitted by **January 13, 2025**.

Timeline: Proposed events must take place between **January 22, 2025**, and **May 30, 2025**.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on their alignment with EDI and CORS goals, innovation, impact, feasibility, and community engagement.

Application Guidelines:

Interested applicants should submit maximum **two-page proposal*** that includes the following information:

Event Overview: A brief description of the event, including its objectives, format, and intended outcomes.

EDI Focus: Clearly outline how the event aligns with EDI principles and contributes to creating a more inclusive environment.

Target Audience: Identify the intended audience for the event and explain how it will be accessible and inclusive to diverse participants.

Event Agenda: Provide a detailed agenda or program outline, including speakers, workshops, activities, and any interactive components.



Budget: Breakdown of how the grant funds will be utilized, including expenses for venue, materials, speakers, promotion, and other relevant costs.

Community Impact: Describe the expected impact of the event on the community, such as any anticipated outcomes, learning experiences, or changes in perspectives.

*Proposals written in French will be allowed to submit additional half page, “in support of evidence demonstrating that French documents require approximately 20% more space than similar English documents. (ref: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29300.html>)”

Submission Instructions:

Submit your proposal electronically in PDF format to CORS secretary and EDI chair(s) (secretary@cors.ca, and samira.rahimi@mcgill.ca) by **January 13, 2025**. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

EDI Committee



CORS AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

HAROLD LARNDER PRIZE

The Harold Larnder Prize is awarded annually to an individual who has achieved international distinction in operational research. The prize winner delivers the Harold Larnder Memorial Lecture, on a topic of general interest to operational researchers, at the CORS Annual Conference. Harold Larnder was a well-known Canadian in wartime OR. He played a major part in the development of an effective radar-based air defense system during the Battle of Britain. He returned to Canada in 1951 to join the Canadian Defence Research Board and was President of CORS in 1966–67.

Please submit nominations to CORS Awards Committee Chair Marco Bijvank (vicepresident@cors.ca)

OMOND SOLANDT AWARD

The Omond Solandt Award is presented to an organization, private or governmental, that is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to Operational Research in Canada. Dr. Solandt was the founder and first chair of the Defence Research Board (DRB). At various times in his life, he headed the Science Council of Canada, was vice chair of Canadian National Railways (CNR), and Chancellor of the University of Toronto.

It is the responsibility of the Awards Committee, with input from the Local Conference Organizing Committee, to select the recipient of the Solandt Award. Where possible, the nominee is a local organization, or a regional or national organization that is significant to the local area. To nominate a company for the award, please email the company's name, headquarters location (city, country), and a brief statement supporting the nomination. Please also provide a contact person within the company if possible.

Please submit nominations to CORS Awards Committee Chair Marco Bijvank (vicepresident@cors.ca)

AWARD OF MERIT

The Award of Merit is presented annually to a current or past member of CORS in recognition of significant contributions to the profession of operational research.

Significant contributions to the profession of OR can include:

- being specially recognized as an operational research practitioner;
- the development of a methodology relevant to the use of operational research;
- the supervision and development of operational research competence in others;
- the promotion of operational research in Canada through talks, presentations, articles, books, or by other means.
- service to CORS at either the national or local level.

Please submit nominations by **3 March 2025** to CORS Award of Merit Chair Samira Abbasgholizadeh-Rahimi (pastpresident@cors.ca)



ELDON GUNN SERVICE AWARD

Description

The Eldon Gunn Service Award is presented to members of the society who have made outstanding contributions of time and service to the society: at the national or local level, as conference organizers or as editors of CORS publications. Eldon Gunn was a major contributor to the society since the early 1980s and to operational research in Canada since the 1970s. He was one of the first recipients of the Service Award in 1987, after serving on council and acting as conference chair for the 27th annual conference in Halifax in 1985. He went on to serve as president of the society in 1991 and continued his service with passion up until his passing in 2016.

If you know of anyone who has dedicated their time to CORS and who has a longstanding service record, please consider nominating them for the Eldon Gunn Service Award. CORS Council urges all local sections to consider and nominate their best candidates. Nominations should include the candidate's name, activities, positions, and corresponding years of service. The Awards Committee will evaluate the submissions and bring forward potential recipients to Council for approval. Nominees will be evaluated based on a point system. As a guideline, winners should have 2000 or more points. Previous winners are not eligible for additional Service Awards. A list of past recipients can be found on the CORS website.

Please submit nominations to CORS Awards Committee Chair Marco Bijvank (vicepresident@cors.ca)

POINT SYSTEM

Responsibility	Points	Responsibility	Points
CORS Council		Publications	
President	500	Bulletin Editor	200
Vice-President	350	INFOR Editor	350
Secretary	300	INFOR Special Issue	250
Treasurer	300	Others	150
Councillor	250		
Appointed Member	200	Local Council	
Past President	250	President	250
		Vice-President	175
International Conference		Secretary	150
Conference Chair	350	Treasurer	150
Committee Chair	300	Others	100
Committee Member	200	Past President	100
National Conference			
Conference Chair	300		
Committee Chair	250		
Committee Member	200		



Call for Applicants: Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Excellence Award

We are excited to announce the call for nomination for the prestigious EDI Excellence Award presented by CORS. This award recognizes individuals, groups, or initiatives that have demonstrated outstanding commitment and achievements in advancing EDI within CORS.

About the Award:

The EDI Excellence Award is designed to honor those who have gone above and beyond to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for all members of our society. We are seeking applicants who have made significant contributions to promoting diversity, ensuring equal opportunities, and fostering an atmosphere of respect and understanding.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Open to individuals or groups within CORS (nominated or self-nomination).
- Nominees must have made notable contributions to advancing EDI within fields/communities related to CORS.

Award Categories:

Individual/Group Excellence: Recognizing an individual or group of individuals who has shown exceptional dedication to promoting EDI.

Application Guidelines:

Interested applicants should submit maximum two-page* application letter that includes the following information:

- Provide detailed description of the nominee's contributions to EDI.
- Highlight specific achievements, initiatives, or strategies employed to foster an inclusive environment.
- Include supporting evidence such as testimonials, impact metrics, and relevant documentation.

Submissions should be concise, focusing on key achievements.

*Proposals written in French will be allowed to submit additional half page, "in support of evidence demonstrating that French documents require approximately 20% more space than similar English documents. (ref: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29300.html>)"

Selection Process:



CORS EDI committee will evaluate all applications. Applications will be assessed based on the significance of impact, innovation, sustainability, and collaboration. Award recipients will be notified via email and announced on CORS annual conference.

Recognition:

Award recipients will receive a distinguished certificate and 500\$ award honoring their achievement.

Application Deadline:

Please submit your applications in PDF format to CORS secretary and EDI chair(s) (secretary@cors.ca, and samira.rahimi@mcgill.ca) by **February 17, 2025** to be considered for this award. Late submissions will not be accepted.

EDI Committee



CORS COMPETITIONS

PRACTICE PRIZE COMPETITION

Description

The Practice Prize Competition recognizes the outstanding application of OR by practitioners in Canada, and it attracts quality papers to the CORS Annual Conference.

Award

The Prize Committee will determine, at its discretion, First, Second, and Honourable Mention awards and the distribution of up to \$1800 in prize money according to the extent to which the finalists have reported on a completed, practical application with results that had a significant, verifiable, and (preferably) quantifiable impact on the performance of the client organization. Every member of the winning teams receives a certificate.

Eligibility

The applicant must be a resident of Canada. The submission must include work completed over the last two years, but the entire project may have taken place over a longer period. The project may include published work, but it cannot have been previously submitted to this competition.

The Process

By **2 March 2025** applicants must submit electronic copies of the following to the **Chair of the Practice Prize Committee Antoine Legrain** (antoine.legrain@polymtl.ca):

- An abstract, not exceeding 500 words, outlining the successful application of OR.
- A letter from an executive of the client organization attesting that the application had an impact and giving permission for the project to be presented at the CORS Annual Conference.
- The names, titles, phone numbers, and email addresses of all authors and of at least one executive of the client organization.

By **30 March 2025** the judging committee, consisting of three past winners of the Practice Prize, will select up to four finalists according to the following criteria:

- The challenge of the application of OR and the significance of the problem.
- The quality of the analysis and modeling and implementation of the results.
- The impact on the client organization.



By **27 April 2025**, the finalists must:

- Submit a detailed written report, not exceeding 25 pages in the body, presenting a "case history" of the project describing its development from start to finish and focusing on the challenges and results.
- Submit a one-page project summary including key messages and best practices, suitable for publication in the CORS Bulletin and on the CORS website.

Finalists must present the project at the Practice Prize Sessions at the CORS Annual Conference.

Based on the written report and the oral presentation, the judges will determine the prizes to be awarded and announced at the banquet. The committee reserves the right not to award any prize.



STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

Application deadline: 24 March 2025

Open Category Chair: Andre Cire (andre.cire@rotman.utoronto.ca)

Undergraduate Category Chair: Aliaa Alnaggar (aliaa.alnaggar@torontomu.ca)

Description

Each year CORS conducts a student paper competition to recognize the contribution of a paper either directly to the field of operational research through the development of methodology or to another field through the application of operational research. The competition serves to showcase the high quality of OR education in Canada as well as the excellence of the new generation of operational researchers. Prizes are awarded in two categories: Undergraduate and Open.

Requirements

The applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student in a Canadian institution, in an undergraduate, masters, or PhD program during the school year **2023–2024**. Canadians who are studying outside of Canada are also eligible. Papers for which all applicants are undergraduates may be submitted to either category: Open or Undergraduate, but not to both. Papers for which some authors are graduate students must be submitted to the Open category. MBA students (and other specialized master students) must submit to the Open category with their applied projects. Published papers are eligible for the competition only if their initial submission date (for publication) is after the previous year's CORS Annual Conference. Supervisors and industry partners may appear as coauthors on the paper, but the first authors must be the applicants. The applicants must have made substantial contribution to the project and have written the paper with only minor editorial assistance. If the paper includes such non-student authors, the supervisor should include information about the roles of the various authors when confirming the eligibility of the students.

All competitors should apply for CORS student funding by the deadline in case they become a finalist at <https://www.cors.ca/?q=content/student-funding>

Entry Requirements

- Abstract of 200 words or less. Author's name, address, phone number, and email address. Make sure the abstract clearly highlights the motivation, contribution, and potential impact of the paper.
- Academic institution and supervisor's name, if applicable.
- Indication of whether the team is planning to attend the CORS Annual Conference if selected as Finalists. Note that papers selected as Finalists must be presented at the conference to further be considered for First Prize or Honourable Mention.
- A PDF copy of the paper:
 - No longer than 35 pages (with minimum 1-inch margins, maximum 34 lines per page, and minimum font size of Times 11) including all figures, tables, appendices, and references.



- The submitted paper must not contain any information identifying the authors or their institutions.
- An email from the supervisor indicating that the participant is the first author of the paper should be sent to the Competition Chair. Supervisors must agree to be part of the competition's arbitration committee, which requires the evaluation of three competition documents in April. If this is not possible, the supervisor should designate an appropriate alternate member of the committee.

Selection Criteria

- Contribution of the paper either directly to the field of operational research through the development of methodology or to another field through the application of operational research
- Originality
- Writing style, clarity, organization, and conciseness of the paper

Awards

- Prizes are awarded per paper. Cheques are sent to the first authors (unless otherwise specified), and allocation of prize money is up to the co-authors.
- Open Category: First Prize \$500, Honorable Mention \$100. One award per team.
- Undergraduate Category: First Prize \$200, Honorable Mention \$50. One award per team.
- All papers selected as Finalists receive a certificate.
- If an undergraduate student wins the open competition, no undergraduate prize will be awarded. Honourable mentions will be provided if there is no winner.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

A SIG provides a mechanism to promote CORS, the SIG area, and the SIG members, as well as the opportunity for CORS members with common interests to interact and network.

Analytics SIG

Gregory Paradis, cors.analytics.sig@01101.io
University of British Columbia
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Analytics>

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability SIG

Fuzhan Nasiri, fuzhan.nasiri@concordia.ca
Concordia University
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Energy>

Forestry SIG

Krishna Teja Malladi, malladi.kt@gmail.com
University of British Columbia
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Forestry>

Health Care Operational Research SIG

Valérie Bélanger, valerie.3.belanger@hec.ca
HEC Montréal
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/HCOR>

Queueing and Applied Probability SIG

Yichuan Ding, daniel.ding@mcgill.ca
McGill University
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Queueing>

Teaching and Learning SIG

Andrea Friars, andreafrs@gmail.com
Canadian Blood Services
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Teaching>

Transportation and Logistics SIG

Sibel Alumur Alev, sibel.alumur@uwaterloo.ca
University of Waterloo
<https://www.cors.ca/SIG/Transportation>

If you would like to join a SIG, contact the people listed above, or indicate when you renew your CORS membership. CORS encourages members with common interest in an area within or related to operational research to form additional SIGs. More information can be found on the CORS website.

If you are interested in forming a SIG in a particular area, contact Marco Bijvank
(vicepresident@cors.ca)



SIG NEWS

Teaching and Learning SIG

We're excited to continue an ongoing series where YOU get to share your favorite teaching resources. Whether it's an engaging case study, an innovative game, or cutting-edge software that has made a difference in your courses, we want to hear about it! Submit your reviews to andreafrs@gmail.com and let your fellow members discover the tools that have elevated your teaching experience. Let's inspire and learn from each other.

This issue's review is courtesy of Amir Rastpour (Amir.Rastpour@ontariotechu.ca) and Amir welcomes you to reach out by e-mail if you want more information

"I teach Statistics to second year business students and have developed a game which I play in my first class to motivate the students. We developed a spreadsheet-based game for the first class of an undergraduate Statistics course to motivate students and reduce learning anxiety. Implemented via Google Forms and Sheets, it can be played in both online and in-person classes of any size. The game helps students grasp key statistical concepts and understand the practical value of the tools they will learn. Over six years, pre- and post-game discussions have shown that the game improves students' perceptions of the course and clarifies their understanding of the material."

The game has recently been published in Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education (<https://doi.org/10.1080/26939169.2024.2319152>) and some of our SIG members may find it useful.



MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Business Meetings

5 June 2024	Meeting #1, Conference
20 Sep 2024	Meeting #2, Teleconference
15 Nov 2024	Meeting #3, Montreal
24 Jan 2025	Meeting #4, Teleconference
14 Mar 2025	Meeting #5, Teleconference
25 April 2025	Meeting #6, Teleconference, Financial Planning Committee
8 June 2025	Meeting #7, Conference
9 June 2025	Meeting #8, Conference, SIGs, Sections, Chapters
10 June 2025	Meeting #9, Conference, CORS AGM

CORS Annual Conferences

9–11 June 2025 Annual Conference, Edmonton, Alta.

WWW Conference Listings

CORS: www.cors.ca/?q=content/cors-annual-conferences

INFORMS: <https://www.informs.org/Meetings-Conferences>

IFORS: www.ifors.org/web

Netlib Conference Database: <ftp://ftp.cc.ac.cn/netlib/confdb/Conferences.html>

SIAM: www.siam.org/meetings/calendar.php

POMS: <https://pomsmeetings.org>

EURO: www.euro-online.org/web/pages/460/calendar



THE NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Bulletin will be published in **February**. Contributions to this issue, especially news on the activities of local sections or CORS members, should be submitted by **17 January 2025** to:

Andrea Friars
Editor, CORS Bulletin
Email: AndreaFriars@gmail.com

The preferred method of submission is by an MS Word attachment to an email.

CORS BULLETIN TRANSLATION POLICY

Items that are CORS business will be translated into English and French. All other items will be published in the language in which they are submitted.

CORS BULLETIN ADVERTISING POLICY

Ads cost \$120 per page, proportional for fractional pages. Logos and prepared layouts can be accommodated. This fee also includes distribution of the advertisement on the CORS Mailing List. Direct inquiries to the Editor.

CORS MAILING LIST

As a benefit of membership, members may use the CORS Mailing List to transmit messages, announcements, and job postings to the entire membership or to a targeted subgroup such as a local section. For example:

- messages regarding the activities and business of the society
- announcements about conferences, conference sessions, special journal issues, seminars, or other activities if these are related to operational research in its broadest sense
- job postings of general interest to CORS members

The Mailing List is not used for commercial purposes, and all messages are vetted before they are sent out. To submit items to the Mailing List, please email members@cors.ca

For non-members, a fee of \$60 is charged for the distribution of job postings and other announcements or messages of interest to the CORS membership.



The **Canadian Operational Research Society** was founded in 1958. Its goal is to advance the theory and practice of OR and to stimulate and promote contacts between people interested in the subject.

Publications: A quarterly scientific journal called *INFOR* and a news *Bulletin*.

Meetings: An annual national conference with an award ceremony, occasionally organized jointly with an international society (IFORS, INFORMS), and numerous local events organized by local sections.

Local Sections & Chapters: CORS has 12 local sections located throughout Canada and six student chapters.

Awards and Prizes: CORS presents the following annual awards and prizes at its conference:

Award of Merit for significant contributions to OR of a present or past member.

Harold Larnder Award to an individual who has achieved international distinction in OR.

Omond Solandt Award to an organization, private or governmental, that is deemed to have made an outstanding contribution to OR in Canada.

Practice Prize for the challenging application of the OR approach to the solution of applied problems.

Eldon Gunn Service Award for outstanding contributions of time and service to the society.

Student Paper Competition to recognize the contribution of a paper either directly to the field of OR through the development of methodology or to another field through the application of OR.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Excellence Award to recognize outstanding commitment and achievements in advancing EDI within CORS.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Event Fund to support initiatives that actively promote and celebrate EDI within CORS.

Student Member Leadership Award in recognition of exemplary leadership in service to the Society as a student member.

Student Chapter Recognition in recognition of members of student chapters in promoting OR in the student membership at the local and national levels.

Graduate Student Funding: CORS encourages attendance of graduate students at its conference by providing partial funding. Visit the CORS website for details.

CORS Diploma: This diploma is awarded to students graduating from a university curriculum comprising several OR courses. Criteria can be found on the CORS website.

Membership Directory: An online directory of CORS members is available as a membership benefit.

To join CORS: Go to the CORS website and join online by credit card using the form found under membership or complete the PDF application form found on the CORS website and mail it with payment.

Fees: Member \$140; Retired Member \$55; Student Member \$55 (including post-doctoral researchers)

Website: <https://www.cors.ca>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/CORS_President

INFOR: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tinf20>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/canadian-operational-research-society>

CORS-SCRO

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