It’s time to get our ACE on! There are just three weeks until A&WMA’s Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE) in Québec City and I couldn’t be more excited. The venue—awesome. The list of speakers—impressive. And the opportunity to see and interact with so many of our members—priceless!

This month’s EM highlights many of the topics we will be talking about in Québec and focuses on specific border issues that affect industries, regulatory programs, and residents on both sides of the line. I remember when we first started discussing the ACE in Québec in 2018. We had multiple conversations about how to drive cross-border participation and interest. And, as I look at the list of registrants right now, there is no doubt that our local host committee, board, councils, and volunteer force have succeeded in that effort.

As you’ll see when you step inside the door at the Centre des Congrès de Québec, we have strong participation not only from both sides of the border, but also from around the world. Approximately 50 percent of our abstract submissions come from U.S.-based authors, and another 30 percent from Canadian authors. The other 20 percent includes strong participation from Chile—home of the next UNFCC Conference of the Parties—France, Taiwan, China, Egypt, and 13 other countries from throughout the World. It is so exciting to see ACE embrace the international heart of our Association and still provide a concentrated focus on topics that are relevant to our core member base.

This year’s list of keynote speakers also reflects that cross-border feel. We’re honored to once again be joined by William Wehrum, Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Air and Radiation. His take on U.S. air policy will be accompanied by a discussion on Canadian air initiatives from Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment from Deux-Montagnes and Jean-Yves Benoit, Director of the Carbon Market for the Québec Ministry of Sustainable Development. The industrial side of the conversation, and another U.S. perspective, will be provided by George Minter, Regional Vice President for Southern California Gas Company. Last but not least, we will also get a different take on environmental issues from Dr. Francois Reeves, Cardiologist and Association Professor of Medicine from the University of Montréal, who will discuss the impact that environmental drivers have on cardiac health. It should be a spectacular keynote panel that provides many different perspectives on the environmental challenges that our members face.

Outside of the keynote and technical sessions, ACE is set to provide a host of networking and professional development opportunities. Our student and young professional (YP) program is loaded with opportunities to connect with colleagues and mentors, from the student welcome reception, to the YP mentor breakfast, and speed networking events. Also, attendees will have the opportunity to network and talk cross-border issues at the Opening Reception, where we get the chance to welcome you to Québec City in a grand fashion; the Honors and Awards Ceremony, where we recognize those that have excelled in their professional career and service to the Association; the Women’s Professional Development Luncheon; and the networking breaks and closing reception in the Exhibit Hall. And whether you’re a student, YP, or seasoned professional, make sure you set aside time to swing by the YP Hub, meet some of your Association leadership, take in some of our exhibitor product demonstrations, or just take a load off your feet. And if you still have energy left at the end of our week, we are running a series of professional development courses on a variety of topics all day Friday.

As you page through this month’s EM, I hope your excitement for ACE grows and the little teaser that the articles in this issue provide leave you looking forward to a more extensive conversation in Québec. Last but not least, don’t forget the Annual Association Business meeting will be held at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25th. Please join us then to hear the details on the Association’s business operations, and please take time throughout the week to pull me and the other A&WMA Board members aside to introduce yourself and share your thoughts on the Association. À Bientôt! em