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Dear Professor Eaton:

At the recent CFES meeting in Calgary, where Bernhard Mayer represented CCCESD, the CFES council of members voted and approved the motion that CFES (on behalf of the earth science community of Canada) should submit a bid in 2012 for Canada to host the 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress in 2020. Since this overwhelming vote of approval in early May, a small group of CFES Board members have been mapping out immediate and longer term needs for this bid to be successfully delivered. As confirmed during the discussion at the council meeting, we appreciate and recognize that the member associations will be part of this effort.

One of the first steps is to finalize the membership of the IGC 2020 Bid Committee. As of November I will transition from President to Past President of CFES and will therefore be able to fully devote considerable time as Chair of this committee. Two other CFES Board members will be part of this overarching bid committee: President Elect Bill Stiebel and International Director Peter Bobrowsky.

With this letter I am formally inviting member associations to nominate one or two individuals who are willing to potentially serve as volunteers on the bid committee. The expectations may be summarized as:

- 2 year term commitment, with option to continue in any of the many positions that will be required if we win the bid.
- Willingness to chair a subcommittee – the members of the bid committee will each have to run smaller subcommittees addressing specific issues.
- Some areas of experience that would be useful include:
  - Running field trips. At least 50 field trips should be proposed for the initial bid document, which should include Mexico and the USA besides Canada.
  - Proposing and planning scientific, technical and trade show program/events.

- Organising symposia and main themes.
- Social, cultural and outreach program and activities.
- Sponsorship fund raising.
- Marketing, promotion and advertising.
- Finance.

Our primary concern is an active but volunteered contribution to the next two years of effort. However, giving due consideration that the IGC event will be held 10 from now, it would be nice to involve keen, energetic and productive young scientists to start helping now. Please consider diversity in your nominations! Timing dictates our schedule. The next two years will be extremely busy. Venue confirmation, ongoing fund raising, pan-Canadian calls for contributions, etc. must be well underway by the end of 2010. **Please submit your nominations directly to me by 15 August 2010 at the latest.** If this date is a problem, please reply as to when you consider you can respond positively. The CFES Board will finalize and announce committee membership shortly thereafter. On behalf of CFES I want to personally thank you again for the positive support of this historic initiative we have agreed to undertake. Our aim is clearly to win the bid in 2012. The 2020 meeting will immensely benefit Canada and in particular Canadian geosciences, so a collective effort is required by the entire earth science community to deliver a spectacular, flawless and winning bid.

Yours truly



Bill Mercer

President, CFES

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