

Welcome to Toronto!

On behalf of the Conference Steering Committee we would like to welcome one and all to Toronto, Canada and to the Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI) Pipelines 2018 Conference. Toronto is the largest city in Canada, the fourth largest city in North America, and is a premier destination. Its rich diversity offers boundless visitor experiences and learning opportunities.

In its 38th year, this Conference has continued to provide a great forum where pipeline practitioners can gather to exchange ideas and get revitalized. The unique attribute for the 2018 Conference is that it is the first International Conference under the auspices of UESI to be held in Canada. We anticipate close to 1000 attendees from our global pipeline community.

In keeping with this year's Conference theme of "**Revitalizing Global Underground Utility Infrastructure**", we have developed a strong program with over 180 peer-reviewed papers, poster sessions and panel discussions spread over 8 tracks, plus 6 focused pre-conference workshops. The presentations will cover various aspects of pipelines, utilities, surveying and geomatics. We expect strong participation of exhibitors to compliment the technical sessions and given past success, the program is designed to allow ample time to visit the exhibit hall.

The Conference will kick-off officially on Sunday evening with a networking reception in the exhibit hall. A plenary breakfast featuring **Michael Cook**, the photographer who turned Toronto's sewers into art, will precede the technical sessions on Monday. Prior to start of the technical sessions on Tuesday, we are introducing this year The Women in Engineering Breakfast. At Tuesday's luncheon, we will recognize and honor the contributions of three dedicated professionals in our industry by bestowing the ASCE Stephen D. Bechtel Pipelines Engineering Award, the UESI Pipelines Division Award of Excellence, and the ASCE Surveying and Geomatics Award. The luncheon will also showcase commentator/author **Rex Murphy** as the keynote speaker.

There will be numerous opportunities to network during the catered functions in the exhibit hall, dinner Tuesday evening at Centre Island located a short ferry ride

in Toronto Inner Harbor, and golf on Wednesday at the conclusion of the conference. The attendees will also have the opportunity to tour the City's John Street Pumping Station and the Energy Transfer Station that houses Enwave's Deep Lake Water Cooling system which is the world's largest lake source cooling system.

Come to Toronto and join your peers and be part of revitalizing global underground utility infrastructure community. In addition, bring home with you fond memories of one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world.

Cheers and see you in Toronto!