

DRAFT
PROPOSAL FOR
2012 SSC
ANNUAL MEETING
IN
WINDSOR, ONTARIO



Respectfully submitted by:

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Introduction:

The Statistical Society of Canada has never held its annual meeting in Windsor. Every society has an obligation to be inclusive of all the areas that it serves. The City of Windsor has many interesting characteristics that would result in an excellent educational, cultural, and profitable conference. Thus the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Windsor is advocating that the 2012 SSC Annual Meeting be held in Windsor. It is worth pointing out that the 2010 Annual Winter meeting of the Canadian Mathematical Society will be held in Windsor. Also, the 16th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics was held at the University of Windsor in 2007, and the first Southern Ontario Matrices and Statistics Days Conference was also held at the University of Windsor in 2005. These meetings were well attended and well received; please see a comment from one of the participants at the end of this section. This shows that the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Windsor is experienced in running successful conferences.

The University of Windsor possesses the necessary facilities required to run conferences of a reasonable size. Recent major conferences at Windsor included the Artificial Intelligence Conference (May 27-30, 2008, 600 people), the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (June 18-21, 2008, 500 people) and the annual Kaplan Schweser Financial Analysis Seminars (May 3-9, 2008, 400 people). Since that time, the new Medical Education building with its excellent and modern facilities has been opened, which puts our University in an even better position to hold conferences. The University of Windsor and its Department of Mathematics and Statistics is well prepared with rooms, facilities, experience, and eager enthusiastic people, ready to host the 2012 SSC Annual Meeting.

Karl E Gustafson <gustafs@euclid.Colorado.EDU> wrote on 18/06/2007 18:38:55:

*> Dear Ejaz,
> I would like to congratulate you and your team for a really
> exceptional management of the conference IWMS 16 in Windsor
> June 1-3 2007. Also I thank you personally for making us all
> feel so welcome there. I have been to "billions" of conferences
> (or so it seems...) and in my opinion, your team's performance
> was among the very best.
>
> With best regards,
>
> Karl Gustafson*

About Windsor:

Windsor (www.citywindsor.ca) is the most southerly major city in Canada. We are located at the crossroads of North America, 15 minutes from both the start of Ontario's Highway 401 or Michigan's I-75/I-96, and facing one of Canada's most beautiful waterfronts on the Detroit River, as you can see by the photos on the cover page. Windsor has a national park less than an hour away - **Point Pelee National Park** (www.pc.gc.ca/pn-np/on/pelee/index_E.asp) - a bird watcher's paradise. A tour to the park could be arranged. On the drive there, one can visit the **Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary** (www.jackminer.com), both located around the City of Leamington. Leamington (www.discover-southern-ontario.com/leamington.html), located 40 minutes south of Windsor, is the **Tomato Capital of Canada** and visitors are amazed by the enormity of the greenhouses in the area. Another area to consider visiting is the historic Town of Amherstburg (www.amherstburg.ca). Amherstburg is one of the oldest towns in the province. It's unique, century old buildings and lovely waterfront setting is the perfect scenic getaway! It was home to an underground railroad, as featured at the North American Black Historical Museum (www.blackhistoricalmuseum.org), as well as Fort Malden, which played an important role in both the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837 and includes original buildings and an interactive museum (www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/on/malden/index_e.asp).

The City of Windsor has its excellent **Art Gallery of Windsor** (www.artgalleryofwindsor.com) and a large outdoor art exhibit along the waterfront, called the **Odette Sculpture Garden** (www.citywindsor.ca/000354.asp). **Caesar's Windsor** not only provides fabulous dining and gaming opportunities, but is also home to a 5000 seat auditorium which hosts legendary performers throughout the year. For example, recent performers included Jay Leno, Celine Dion, Wynona Judd, Dr. Phil, Howie Mandel, and Elton John (www.caesarswindsortickets.com). Also located within the city is a Science Center (www.cssciencecity.com), which many an eager child has visited. Windsor's incredible ethnic diversity allows for an eclectic collection of restaurants to satisfy a wide variety of tastes. With its warm climate, the Windsor/Essex region has a rapidly growing **wine industry** which is competing with the Niagara region, and a wine tour can easily be arranged (www.canadasouthwinetours.com).

Windsor's Neighbour, Detroit:

One of Windsor's special features is that it is a medium-sized Canadian city with a large American city in such close proximity. Just across the Detroit River is the major metropolitan city of Detroit, which can easily be reached via the Ambassador Bridge (www.ambassadorbridge.com) or the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel. Bring your passport to do some shopping or sightseeing. In addition to its sports teams, Detroit has the fabulous Detroit Institute of Art (<http://www.dia.org>), the Detroit Science Center (<http://www.detroitssciencecenter.org>), which is home to a planetarium and an IMAX, the Henry Ford Museum (www.hfmngv.org/) and adjacent Greenfield Village (www.hfmngv.org/village/index.aspx) - a huge 19th century outdoor hands on American museum, including a reconstruction of Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory Complex moved from New Jersey. Detroit also has one of the largest used bookstores in the United States (John King's). And of course, Detroit has great shopping malls (Fairlane Town Center, GM Renaissance Center, Great Lakes Crossing, Greektown, Twelve Oaks Mall - www.10best.com/Detroit,MI/Shopping). There are also excellent restaurants in the Detroit area including a large number of excellent and inexpensive Mexican restaurants just across the bridge next to the University of Windsor.



Availability of Accommodation:

Accommodation should be easily available for students attending SSC, using the University of Windsor campus housing, depending on the precise dates chosen. An alternative for students and faculty would be the inexpensive hotels/motels on Huron Church Road, which is the main artery leading to the Ambassador Bridge crossing into the United States, and to the University of Windsor. One motel often used by incoming students costs \$40 per night.

Accommodation options for faculty members who prefer nicer facilities include a wide range of hotels, including Ramada Plaza, Radisson Riverfront Hotel, Hilton Windsor, Comfort Suites, Travelodge Hotel, Holiday Inn Select, Marquis Plaza Hotel, Quality Suites, Hampton Inn & Suites, Caesars Windsor Casino Hotel, and many, many others. Prices are less than in most other cities in Canada. Detroit held the Superbowl in 2006 and many of the visitors stayed in Windsor. The city can easily handle a small number like 500 participants. Since Windsor will be hosting the CMS meetings in 2010, we will have experience in negotiating for a block of rooms at a reasonable rate (and better than in most cities in Canada).



On-campus housing would mean a five minute walk to the conference. Off campus hotels would mean a 5 minute drive or 25 minute walk through the Sculpture Garden by the Detroit River. Taxis could also be used.

Location of the Conference:

The most cost effective location for the conference would be the University of Windsor campus. Alternatives include the Cleary International Centre (www.thecleary.com) or Caesar's Windsor (www.caesarswindsor.com).

Classrooms on campus would be available for parallel sessions and large rooms for plenary sessions are available. The CAW Centre or the Ambassador Auditorium could be set up for exhibitors and coffee breaks or coffee breaks can be set up near the classrooms.

Enthusiasm:

The Statistics and Probability faculty and students are delighted at the prospect of hosting the SSC annual meeting. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has expertise and experience at organizing conferences and it has people who are prepared to work hard to make the SSC 2012 Annual Meeting a great success.

Dates:

The dates are still to be determined.

Supporting Letters: (from President and Dean) to be added.

Meals:

Lunch could be provided by Campus Food Services. However, The University of Windsor is not separated from the surrounding city. There are restaurants within walking distance, including hamburgers, pizza, Chinese, Pakistani, Somali, Ethiopian, Thai to mention a few, at very reasonable prices.

Breakfast and lunch committee meetings where food is provided could take place at a number of different areas on campus such as the McPherson Lounge in Alumni Hall and the Oak Room in Vanier Hall. If desired, there are many choices for meeting space off-campus at locations such as the Cleary Centre, Art Gallery, and local hotels.

Banquet:

The banquet would likely be held at Caesar's Windsor or at the Cleary International Centre. For those staying in hotels downtown, it should be a five or ten minute walk to the Casino (and less to the Cleary Centre). If people are leaving from the University, then buses can be arranged.

Classroom Charges:

The University does not charge for classrooms nor for equipment, but the conference will be charged for technical support if meetings are held on a weekend. As a result, our recommendation is to not hold sessions on the weekend, if possible. Poster sessions and other types of meetings are fine for weekends.

Funding:

We expect to receive \$5000 in support from the University. If the conference is run efficiently and economically, we expect to make a profit for the SSC, as happened in Regina in 1999, where the SSC made over \$5000 in profit (with the same individual, Dr. S. Ejaz Ahmed, as one of the the main local organizer). We expect that almost all of the workers will be volunteers, which will keep expenses down.

Potential for Participants from the USA:

The University of Windsor has two large neighbouring universities in the Detroit area with strong statistics groups. One is Oakland University (www.oakland.edu) and the other is Wayne State University (<http://wayne.edu>). The University of Windsor has a special relationship with Oakland University to provide graduate level statistics courses to students from both institutions, via satellite. Also, within an hour's drive of Windsor, there are several other universities in Michigan with outstanding researchers in statistics and probability, including the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor (www.umich.edu), University of Michigan – Dearborn (www.umd.umich.edu), Kettering University (Troy, www.kettering.edu), Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti, www.emich.edu), University of Detroit-Mercy (www.udmercy.edu). Even the University of Toledo, in Ohio, is just a one hour drive from Windsor. If there are invitations to academics elsewhere in the United States (as plenary speakers or workshop presenters), then the Detroit Airport is a mere 45 minute drive away with good shuttle service to Windsor. Many international travelers will find this convenient and cost effective. There is a very real possibility of getting some new American (or ex-Canadian) attendees to the SSC conference, if held in Windsor. Some of our faculty are members of the ASA Detroit and ASA Ann Arbor Chapters. Recently, Dr. Ahmed held a visiting professorship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Some of our recent colloquium speakers have been from these universities. In a nutshell, in recent years we have established a solid working relationship with the statistical community in nearby American universities, which makes it an opportune time for the SSC to hold its annual meeting in Windsor.

Organizer:

The main local organizer contact is Dr. Ejaz Ahmed, Head, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Windsor (seahmed@uwindsor.ca).

The Statistics and Probability group within the department has shown full support and commitment. Both mathematicians and statisticians will be working together for the CMS 2010 National Meeting and the same will be true for the SSC Meeting in 2012. About 40-50 of our senior undergraduate and graduates students will be fully participating to make the event successful and financially viable. Some faculty from other departments will also be involved. We have a large number of contacts, having served many faculty members and students from other disciplines through our Centre for Statistical Consulting, Research, and Learning Services.

Summary:

Within Ontario, Windsor is a four hour drive from Toronto or Hamilton, a 3 hour drive from Waterloo, and a two hour drive from London. Internationally, it's a ten minute drive from Detroit, a one hour drive from Ann Arbor or Toledo, a 3 hour drive from Cleveland or Columbus, Ohio, and a five hour drive from Chicago, Illinois. So we would like to stress this convenience of “**Location, Location, Location**”.

The City of Windsor, the University of Windsor, and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics have the right critical mass in terms of location, facilities, experience, and people, and above all, we have a very high level of energy and we are full of enthusiasm to do a fine job!

Potential Sponsors:

The University of Windsor

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics

The Faculty of Science

The Centre for Statistical Consulting, Research, and Learning Services