Workshop on Growing a Successful Chapter
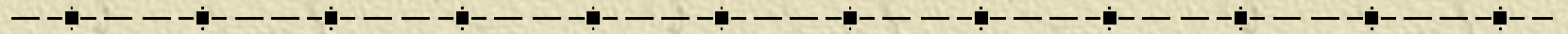
Montreal, Canada: Introduction

- **Approximately 300 COMSOC Members.**
- **Chapter is a joint COMSOC/IT Chapter.**
- **Five Universities in the Area With EE and CS Programs are McGill University, Concordia University, École Polytechnique, ETS and INRS.**
- **Telecom industry Nortel, Ericsson, Harris, Motorola, …) is still there, but, not as strong as before.**

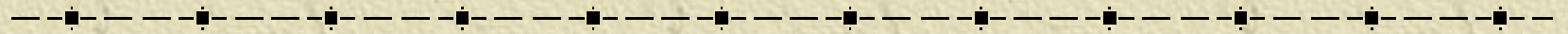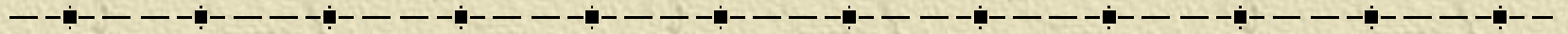# 2003 NA-RCCC

Workshop on Growing a Successful Chapter

Montreal, Canada: Technical Meetings

* **2-3 technical meeting with 25-30 people.**
* **Technical meetings are held after working hours to encourage people from the industry to attend.**
* **They are held in downtown area (usually in one of the universities).**
* **Topics are chosen to be of interest to the people from the local telecom industry.**

# 2003 NA-RCCC

Workshop on Growing a Successful Chapter

Montreal, Canada: Technical Meetings

- Meeting notices are emailed to all IEEE membership and advertised in the Phase Courrante. We also advertise to sister organizations.
- Students are encouraged to attend. Students are also asked to help in the organization of the event.
- Chapter cooperates with other local chapters with similar interests, e.g., Signal Processing.
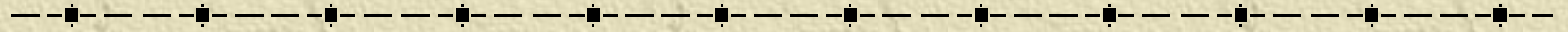
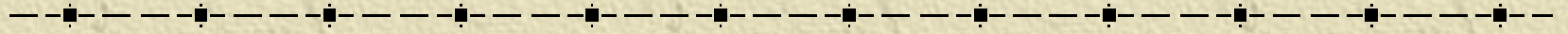## Montreal, Canada: Relation with the Section

※ **Chapter works closely with the section.**

※ **The section has recently appointed a responsible for chapters' activities.**

※ **The financial matters are managed by the section.**

※ **Section also help us with the advertising of the vents and introduction of volunteers.**

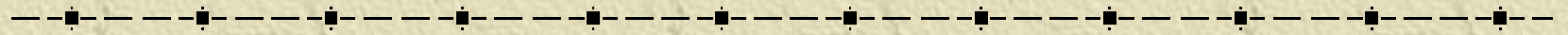# 2003 NA-RCCC

Workshop on Growing a Successful Chapter

Montreal, Canada

✳ **Challenges:**

- **How to Hold Successful Meetings (a *local* issue).**
- **How to Increase Membership (a *global* issue).**

Montreal, Canada – Holding Successful Meetings

* **Selection of Topics:** *The topics are chosen such that they appeal to a wide audience. They are both informative and interesting.*

* **Selection of the Speaker:** *We choose someone who is either known to the community or whose organization is known to them.*

* **Advertising:** *We advertise an event once well in advance and then send a reminder before the event.*
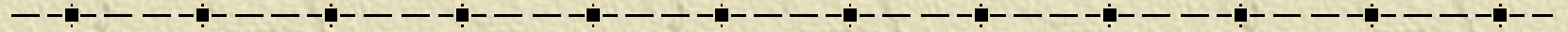
Montreal, Canada – Increasing Membership

* **Problem 1:** *The availability of the e-version of the IEEE publications to students and engineers working for major companies has diminished the traditional value of the membership.*

* **Problem 2:** *The down-turn in telecom industry has shrunk our potential membership pool.*

* **Solution:** *Putting more emphasis on "non-technical" issues such as networking, training and placement => To create new membership values.*