



YPG Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2013

Another ACEC BC year is upon us. The planning efforts by the provincial and regional volunteers have been intense over the past few months. Work is still ongoing to deliver a successful and empowering year for Young Professionals within ACEC BC organizations. If you are into socializing, learning, networking, watching balls bounce and drop through contraptions or wearing an ugly sweater then there is something for you this year to get excited about.



As usual we are planning breakfast seminars that aim to develop the business side of engineering and provide a venue for Young Professionals to meet and discuss current trends in the industry. A partial list of events and speakers is present within the newsletter. This year the YPG Breakfast Seminars will also be held in two new locations: Nanaimo and Kamloops. We are looking forward to expanding the YP program to these areas this year.

I am also excited to share with you that we are planning to cross promote events with the U40 Group of the Vancouver Regional Construction Association starting this year. The U40 Group has many similarities to the ACEC YPG group including its age, focus on business development and that its members are facing similar issues within their industries. The demographic shift and skills shortage in the industry is a topic in the forefront for many Young Professionals and the companies they work for. This is also conveyed to the U40 YP's who are being told that they will have to do the work of 3 people when the old gang retires.

We have a great opportunity to meet and discuss such topics at our first collaborative event in mid December. The U40 group has provided a summary description of their activities and goals which you can find in this newsletter. We are looking forward to the inevitable synergy between the groups and the opportunity to share ideas in the coming year.

The ACEC BC YPG group is also connected to the other YP groups within the provinces through the YP Network. The current Lower Mainland Chair Charlie Yao has passed on his duties as YP Representative to Patrick Ho this year and has also provided a summary of the YP Network in this newsletter.

This quarterly newsletter is our opportunity to share our plans and upcoming activities with you.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please feel free to get in contact with us for more information about any of these activities or to get involved! You can find us on Facebook, Twitter, or through email at info@acec-bc.ca.

Mark Byram, ACEC BC YPG Provincial Chair

Also in this edition:

- ACEC YPN
- ACEC BC Okanagan Group Updates
- U40 Network
- 2013-2014 Breakfast Seminars

ACEC Young Professional Network

The ACEC Young Professional Network is a group of young consulting engineers representing the various provincial consulting association YP groups across Canada in a single, national forum. The group is enjoying its 3rd year of existence, most recently meeting at the ACEC conference in Lake Louise, AB.



The group meets via teleconference monthly to discuss items impacting YPs across Canada and to knowledge-share amongst the various YP groups in their successes and challenges. The group also maintains close ties to FIDIC, the international federation for consulting engineers. The meetings culminate in organizing YP specific events during the annual ACEC conference. These include a tech tour, provincial reports, networking events and round table discussions. The discussions focus on items of importance to YP's in the context of ACEC: advocacy, business development, career opportunities, market trends, etc.

Participation in the group and the conference remain a tremendous opportunity to share thoughts with leaders in both the private and public sector and influence how strategies and policies are developed with respect to YPs. I've had the privilege of participating in the past two years and have the honour of welcoming Patrick Ho to continue BC's representation at ACEC's YP group.

Charlie Yao, ACEC BC YPG Lower Mainland Chair



2013 ACEC Conference in Lake Louise, AB

ACEC BC YPG - Okanagan Group

The Thompson-Okanagan ACEC BC YPG has three breakfast seminars planned for the upcoming year. The first event is on September 12, 2013 which will host Keith Sashaw, current President of ACEC BC. Keith will review the recent performance of the construction industry in British Columbia and look ahead to some of the opportunities, challenges and trends facing the industry and consultants.

Breakfast seminars are also scheduled for February 13 and May 22, 2014. If you have topics in mind for future seminars, please contact ACEC or the new Thompson-Okanagan Chair Natasha Orliczky.

The Committee will continue to maintain its connection with the Okanagan Young Professionals Collective (OYP), a non-profit group organized through the Central Okanagan Economic Development Committee. This group aims to connect young professionals in the region from different organizations to streamline efforts and resources put towards young professional initiatives. Watch for upcoming OYP networking and social events by signing up for their newsletter at: <http://oypcollective.com>.

Lastly, Anne Girtz will be stepping down as the Thompson-Okanagan Chair as of September 1, and will be replaced by Natasha Orliczky. The Steering Committee is still looking for new members to help with events. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Natasha at Natasha.Orliczky@focus.ca.

Anne Girtz, ACEC BC YPG Thompson-Okanagan Outgoing Chair

U40 Network: Building the Future, One Event at a Time

Vancouver Regional Construction Association's Under 40 Network (VRCA U40), made up of young construction professionals, has become a tour de force. The network has been garnering interest outside of the usual construction realm by getting involved with and contributing to, the community at large.



When the group originally started four years ago, there were five people on the email distribution list. The group has since grown to over 300 members, representing all areas of the construction industry from national general contracting firms, subcontractors, manufacturers and suppliers, financial advisors, insurance brokers and law firms.

One of the U40 Network's community initiatives is the annual Volunteer Day at the Zajac Ranch for Children. The ranch operates summer camps for children with chronic, life threatening or debilitating diseases. This year, close to 40 volunteers from the U40 Network took the time to tackle a variety of construction projects including painting, landscaping, wiring and electrical work, shelving installations, and foundation construction.

The network also supports KidStart, a children's mentorship non-profit origination, and have set a goal to raise \$3,000 in donations for the charity this year. On top of this generous donation, the U40 Network will be sending five children and mentor pairs from KidStart to a Canadians baseball game in June.

The U40 Network keeps their members busy with a full calendar of events occurring throughout the year. The activities are primarily attended by the under 40 demographic however there are multiple events where the over 40 VRCA members are invited to join the fun.

The 2013 year started off with the Annual General Meeting and Popsicle Building Competition. Other events in 2013 have included a curling night, go-karting, "Night at the Nat" Baseball and Barbeque, networking mingler/'pub nights' and two mentoring breakfast sessions featuring Tony Maida of Bird Construction and Grant Turnbull of Turnbull Construction Services Ltd.

The fall will include a tour of a newly constructed brewery to commemorate Oktoberfest in October, and the 3rd Annual Casino Night, held at the Moose Down Under Bar & Grill on November 21st. All these events can be found on the U40 calendar: <http://www.vrca.bc.ca/u40group/default.aspx>.

The first planned combined event for the U40 and YPG will be held December 19 in downtown Vancouver. Keith Sashaw ACEC President and past president at VRCA will be in attendance to discuss some of the issues affecting both groups. Wear your ugly sweater and you may be able to walk away with a prize!

2013-2014 Breakfast Seminars

Below is a partial list of upcoming Breakfast Seminars for each ACEC BC YPG region. Please note that this information could change in the future, so please visit the [Events Calendar](#) for updates!

Lower Mainland Group

19-Sep-2013	Speaker: Keith Sashaw (President and CEO, ACEC British Columbia) Topic: Current Trends & Strategies for Consultants Working in the Construction Industry Speaker: Cameron Gatey (ACEC Chair / Urban Systems) Topic: ACEC-BC and It's Role in Your Industry
14-Nov-2013	Speaker: Joanna Piros (UBC Sauder School / COUNTERPOINT Communications) Topic: Public speaking and presentations
14-Jan-2014	Speaker: Mark Ferguson (Metro Vancouver) Topic: Owner/Client's perspective
4-Mar-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD
29-Apr-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD
24-Jun-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD

Vancouver Island Group - Victoria

27-Sep-2013	Speaker: Keith Sashaw (President and CEO, ACEC British Columbia) Topic: Current Trends & Strategies for Consultants Working in the Construction Industry
21-Nov-2013	Speaker: Pierre Gallant (Morrison Hershfield) Topic: CCDC Contracts: An Overview and the Role of Consultant
16-Jan-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: Design Build Project Coordination
15-May-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: Technical Writing - How to become a better editor of your work
26-Jun-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD

Vancouver Island Group - Nanaimo

13-Mar-2013	Speaker: TBD Topic: Contracts and Contract Language
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Okanagan Group - Kelowna

12-Sep-2013	Speaker: Keith Sashaw (President and CEO, ACEC British Columbia) Topic: Current Trends & Strategies for Consultants Working in the Construction Industry
13-Feb-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD
22-May-2014	Speaker: TBD Topic: TBD

Okanagan Group - Kamloops

22-May-2013	Speaker: Cameron Gatey (Chair, ACEC British Columbia) Topic: TBD
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**Social Media**

To get information regarding upcoming YPG seminars and events please find us at your favourite social media outlet.



Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/acecbc>,



Follow us on Twitter: @acecbc,



Join our group on LinkedIn: ACEC British Columbia Young Professionals Group, or



Check out our webpage: <http://www.acec-bc.ca/young-professionals>.

Young Professional Liaison

Want to keep your company and yourself informed about ACEC BC YPG events and updates? Become a Young Professionals liaison! We are looking for one representative from each member firm to act as a liaison between their company and the APEG BC Young Professionals Group. Please email us at ypg@acec-bc.ca to become your firm's ACEC BC YPG liaison.