

ACEC British Columbia

Newsbrief

August 2013



Message from the President Keith Sashaw

Now that the summer is nearing its end, ACEC-British Columbia is ramping up its delivery of activities, and we are busy putting together the details for what promises to be another excellent year of events, sessions and activities.

Planning is already well underway on the annual Transportation Conference, which will be held on January 28th, 2014. As in previous years, there will be great keynote speakers, interesting break-out sessions and a tour of the latest developments, which this year will be on some projects associated with the Port of Metro Vancouver.

ACEC-BC will also be rolling out some great Professional Development seminars to help our members keep abreast of changing trends. We are pleased to offer a

session on dealing with risk management and project delivery principles, which is essential in today's environment. We will also be offering an exciting course on business development, which will teach the basics of effectively promoting your company and in developing long term relationships with owners.

Needless to say, we will also be offering our renowned mixers. This year we have set up mixers with Richmond-Delta, Port Metro Vancouver, Burnaby-New Westminster, Vancouver Island, Fraser Valley, Translink, BC Hydro, Metro Vancouver and Surrey-Langley. Those who have attended these sessions in the past can attest to the value of meeting with representative of the owners to hear first-hand about upcoming opportunities and to socialize with their representatives and others from the design community.

The Young Professionals Group also has an interesting year planned for their events that will take place in Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna and Nanaimo. Again these sessions provide great opportunities to build connections and develop a network of contacts that can serve one well in their career.

Work is also well underway for this year's Awards of Excellence Gala on April 12th, 2014. All ACEC-BC members have projects worthy of submission, so plan now to enter your favorite project and to be at the "must attend" function for BC's consulting engineers. The deadline for submitting projects

is January 21st, so be sure to watch for the call for entries.

Of course it's not all work. We have two great golf tournaments coming up in the next few weeks, one on September 11th in Kelowna and the other on September 27th in Victoria.

While these events are going on, our various committees will also be meeting to advance the interests of consulting engineers throughout BC. These committees include Building Engineering Committee, Business Practice Committee, Membership Affairs Committee, Municipal Engineering Committee, Professional Development

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Awards Road Show

September 28 – October 27

Science World

1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver

December 2 - December 20

Fred Kaiser Building

2332 Main Mall, UBC

January 8 - January 24

Coquitlam City Hall

3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam

Be sure to check out the project display boards, and vote for your favourite in the Peoples' Choice Award online poll ...

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx

Message from the President*continued from page 1 ...*

Committee, Resource & Energy Engineering Committee, Transportation Engineering Committee, and the Young Professionals Group Steering Committee, as well as of course the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. It is through the hard work of these committees that ACEC-BC continues to represent the over 9,000 employees of our member firms. If you are interested in getting more involved, developing a broad spectrum of contacts and contributing to the work done on your industry's behalf, contact ACEC-BC to find out how to get involved.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many up-coming events!



Keith Sashaw
President & CEO, ACEC British Columbia

2013-14 YPG Season Passes

With the start of another YPG breakfast seminar season just around the corner, now is the time to purchase your organization's season passes. A season pass allows a representative from your company to attend all the breakfasts in one region for a year. The pass is fully transferable, so any Young Professional from your company can use it and by purchasing one your firm can save up to \$15 on individual event tickets.

Lower Mainland:

\$330 + GST for a season pass or
\$1500 + GST for a Block of 5 season passes



Vancouver Island:

\$275 + GST for a season pass or
\$1250 + GST for a Block of 5 season passes

Okanagan:

\$165 + GST for a season pass or
\$750 + GST for a Block of 5 season passes

To purchase your 2013-2014 season passes, Contact Alla Samusevich at




 (604) 687-2811,  alla@acec-bc.ca

Accessible Wilderness Society seeks volunteer to complete road project

The Accessible Wilderness Society (AWS) is a non-profit organization planning to create Canada's first universally designed wilderness lodge and campground, on a 25 acre site on Roberts Lake, Vancouver Island approximately 35km north of Campbell River. In this case, universal design means *accessible to all* – those with disabilities and those without disabilities.

AWS is excited to begin developing this project but currently they are about 900 meters short of a road to the property line. Several road building companies have offered to build the road, but all have requested an engineering plan.

Hon. Shirley Bond, Hon. Stephanie Cadieux and Michelle Stillwell, MLA Parksville-Qualicum have been strong supporters of this project and have endorsed the AWS fully. AWS is seeking the assistance of an ACEC-BC member who might be willing to complete a road engineering plan as a contribution to the project. AWS have suggested that perhaps they could offer to name one of our campsites after the particular company involved, or in their names.

If you are interested in getting involved in this worthy effort, we encourage you to contact Dan Bauer, President, Accessible Wilderness Society at (250) 923-9612,  info@awsociety.org We also would appreciate being advised if any of our members are able to assist – please call ACEC-BC President Keith Sashaw at  (604) 687-2811 ext. 1, or copy your email to  info@acec-bc.ca

For more information about the Accessible Wilderness Society and the Roberts Lake Project, visit the AWS web site,

 www.awsociety.org

Accessible
WILDERNESS
Society 

Upcoming Events

September 11

Okanagan Golf Tournament
The Harvest Golf Club, Kelowna

September 12

YPG Okanagan Breakfast Seminar
Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna

September 16 – 20

UBCM 2013 Convention
Vancouver Convention Centre

September 19

YPG Breakfast Seminar
Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver

September 22 – 25

TAC Conference
Winnipeg Convention Centre

September 27

YPG Victoria Breakfast Seminar
The Union Club, Victoria

September 27

Vancouver Island Golf Tournament
Westin Bear Mountain Resort, Victoria

October 2

Richmond-Delta Mixer
Delta Airport Hotel, Richmond

October 3

Professional Development Seminar
Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver

October 16

Burnaby-New Westminster Mixer
Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby

October 24 – 26

APEGBC AGM & Conference
Whistler Convention Centre

January 28

Facing the Future Transportation Conference 2014
Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver

February 19 – 20

Buildex Vancouver
Vancouver Convention Centre West

April 12

ACEC-BC Awards Gala
Vancouver Convention Centre West

PWGSC refuses limitation clauses

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) has issued an advisory to its member firms with concerns about how the federal government is handling contracts in the Pacific region.

PWGSC's Pacific Region recently issued a statement saying: "... PWGSC will no longer be in a position to accept any reports that have incorporated in them any Statements of Limitations (or equivalent). The only relevant limitations clauses are those specifically written into the contract."

The new restriction is apparently based on advice from the Department of Justice.

ACEC disagrees with the position of PWGSC, saying that the use of a Statement of Limitations in an engineering report is common practice and "provides necessary contextual background for the work undertaken by the consultant, and provides guidance as to the circumstances in which it should be read."

Together with ACEC-BC, the association is meeting with government representatives to discuss the issue. In the meantime it is recommending that firms be careful when pursuing PWGSC projects in order to mitigate the risks.

According to ACEC, examples of statements of limitations that PWGSC has rejected include:

"Site conditions described in this report are based on information obtained during the assessment conducted and are based solely on the condition of the property at the time of the Site assessment."

"This report was prepared, based in part, on information obtained from historic information sources. In evaluating the site, XXXX has relied in good faith on information provided."

"The findings and conclusions documented in this report have been prepared for the specific application to this project, and have been developed in a manner consistent with that level of care normally exercised by professionals currently practicing under similar conditions in the jurisdiction."

"Regulatory statutes are subject to interpretation. These interpretations may change over time and should be reviewed."

"If new information is discovered during future work, the conclusion of this report should be re-evaluated and the report amended, as required, prior to any reliance upon the information presented herein."

For more information, contact ACEC at  (613) 236-0569,  www.acec.ca

Update on PWGSC limitation clauses...

In response to the advisory issued by ACEC to its members, PWGSC has advised that they will accept reports that incorporate a "Statement of Limitations", or equivalent as long as they contain no wording that would serve to modify or contradict anything in the Contract, Standing Offer, Supply Arrangement, Call-up or Task Authorization as applicable.

2014 Awards for Engineering Excellence – Coming Soon!

For the past 24 years, the Awards for Engineering Excellence program has recognized and celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of our members. The annual gala is attended by politicians, senior government officials, client groups, industry leaders and peers, with over 500 attendees this year. Participants in the program receive valuable recognition at the premier industry and networking event for British Columbia's consulting engineers.

Now is the time to start identifying projects you would like to highlight at the 2014 Awards Gala – April 12th at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The competition will be launched in September 2013. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Awards program, please contact the ACEC-British Columbia secretariat at...

 info@acec-bc.ca


 (604) 687-2811

or visit our website:

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx

Major Conference on Tolling comes to Vancouver

From September 22 to 25th, over 800 delegates from around the world will be meeting in Vancouver to discuss the latest developments in road tolling. When it comes to tapping new opportunities and taking on new challenges, tolling agencies have seen it all. From new technology to innovative financing, from severe storms to the heavy weather of political controversy, IBTTA members have plenty of experience with sudden, significant challenges. It's hard to think of any aspect of toll road financing, operations, or management that hasn't gone through at least one major transformation over the last decade. Agencies have responded by being creative and resilient, and by connecting with industry colleagues to share ideas, information, and support. Just as tolling itself is part of a toolbox of highway financing options, tolling agencies have developed a menu of answers to the major questions they face—from funding and contracting, to technology, to emergency planning, to the best mix of transportation modes for different community types and sizes. IBTTA's Annual Meeting is where all that knowledge comes together in a mix of general sessions, breakout panels, and hallway conversations that will prepare you to deal with the next unexpected challenge on the horizon.

To register or for more information, visit  www.ibtta.org/Events/EventDetailWithVideo.cfm?ItemNumber=6534

IBTTA
TOLLING. MOVING SMARTER.

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE, TUNNEL AND TURNPIKE ASSOCIATION

Online Awards Road Show

Be sure to check out the project display boards from the 2013 Awards for Engineering Excellence competition on our web site...

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx

and be sure vote for your favorite project in the **People's Choice Poll** – results of the poll will be announced in September.

Call for Volunteers

ACEC-British Columbia Committees

Participation in ACEC-BC committees is a great way to **learn** about the key issues and best practices in our industry, extend your **network** of business contacts, and help **advance** the goals and objectives of *your* industry association.

There is a wide range of ACEC-British Columbia committees – there is sure to be one or more that will suit your interests, experience and abilities. The main line committees are:

- Business Practice
- Membership Affairs
- Professional Development
- Young Professionals Group
 - Victoria YPG
 - Lower Mainland YPG
 - Okanagan YPG
- Building Engineering
- Municipal Engineering
- Resource & Energy
- Transportation


There are also 2 regional liaison groups that act as a forum for regional issues, and organize regional mixers and events,

- Vancouver Island Liaison
- Thompson-Okanagan Liaison

Many of the main line committees have several active subcommittees - for example, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Liaison Committee is a subcommittee of the Transportation Committee, and it is one of our most active groups.

A number of committees are currently seeking new members. If you would like to participate as a member of an ACEC-British Columbia committee, or if you would like to know more about a particular committee, please contact our office at...

 info@acec-bc.ca

 (604) 687-2811



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Consulting Engineers Compensation Survey

The 15th annual Consulting Engineers Compensation Survey, covering over 80 positions is now open for participation.

The survey gives consulting engineering companies from across Canada access to information on current salaries, bonuses, group insurance, retirement benefits and compensation best practices.

Participate between now and August 31st and receive a 50% discount, plus ACEC-BC members, receive an additional 15% savings.

For more details & ordering information, visit:

 www.wcbc.ca/surveys/consultingengineers



Upcoming Legal Conferences


ACEC British Columbia is pleased to be a sponsoring association for two upcoming conferences presented by the Affinity Institute:

**Construction Contracting &
Project Delivery Models**
September 19, 2013

Delay Claims in Western Canada
November 8, 2013

Doug Sanders of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP will chair the Construction Contracting seminar, while the Delay Claims seminar will be co-chaired by John Logan of Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP and Chris O'Connor of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. If you aren't able to make it down to Vancouver the conferences are also being made available for online viewing.

ACEC British Columbia members receive a 15% discount on these events by using the preferred pricing code AI12013 when registering for Construction Contracting or AI22013 when registering for Delay claims online at...

 www.affinityinstitute.ca


Western Canada Construction Job Expo

We're off to Dublin and Belfast this fall – will you join us?

Our dates are set:

October 31, 2013 – Belfast

November 2, 2013 – Dublin

Register now at  www.wccjobexpo.ca to meet highly-skilled, specialized, and experienced tradespeople, technicians, and construction professionals.

- List your top 3 required trades – we'll pre-screen individuals to suit your needs.
- Set up in-person follow-up interviews to expedite the hiring and immigration process.

ACEC-BC members are invited to attend the two fairs in Belfast and Dublin, followed by a day for interviews on November 3 ... all for the very low association member price of \$2000. The fee also includes immigration support if needed and access to the database of resumes after the fairs ... hotel and travel info as well as an exhibitor manual will be emailed to all companies once they have registered.



British
Columbia
Construction
Association



2013 TAC Conference

Transportation: Better – Faster – Safer

Hosted by Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and the City of Winnipeg at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, the 2013 Conference & Exhibition will offer delegates the opportunity to broaden their horizons in the roads and transportation sectors.

The 2013 TAC Conference features a wide variety of technical, social, professional and networking events over three and a half days.

 www.tac-atc.ca/english/annualconference