

ACEC British Columbia

Newsbrief

September 2013



Message from the President Keith Sashaw

There are many reasons for companies to belong to organizations such as the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC, all of which are quite important. One of the key reasons for associations to exist, however, is to represent the interests of their members and the broader community in addressing legislative issues.

ACEC-BC is pleased to be the recipient of the 2013 Association Cornerstone of Excellence (ACE) Award for Government Affairs presented annually by the Canadian Society of Association Executives – BC Chapter, for its work on effecting significant amendments to the Limitation Act. Recipients of ACE Awards – Government Affairs category are recognized for undertaking a key initiative on a single government affairs issue where highly focused activities have resulted in a positive outcome.

The work done by ACEC-BC on this issue is a great example of the value of Associations advocating on behalf of their members. Work on amending provisions of the Limitations Act started in 1995, ramped up significantly in 2005 and resulted in legislative changes in 2013. Although many people contributed to the cause, two people really stand out for their passion and commitment to effecting this change. Neil Cumming, Past Chair of ACEC-BC, played an integral role in developing the strategy and keeping the ball rolling over many years. Ralph Sultan, MLA, also made a significant contribution by providing advice and the impetus in the Legislature when it was needed.

Countless volunteer hours and significant resources were contributed by members of ACEC-BC – far more than any one company would make on behalf of our industry on such a piece of administrative legislation. As a result of these contributions, and bolstered by the fact that these changes were championed by an Association such as ACEC-BC with support from other organizations such as APEGBC, AIBC, ASTTBC and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC, the Limitation Act has now established, in relation to most claims, a basic limitation period of 2 years from the date of discovery of the claim and an ultimate limitation period of 15 years after the event giving rise to the claim.

The new limitation periods will help to provide certainty for our profession, as they allow more capacity for long-term planning

and provide increased opportunities for B.C. businesses to remain competitive.

While the campaign to improve the operating circumstances for consulting engineers and other professionals was long and tedious, it was a campaign worth waging, and is a testament to the tenacity of the ACEC-BC in moving this issue forward on behalf of their membership and others in the industry.

Keith Sashaw
President & CEO, ACEC British Columbia



Corinne Atwood, CAE, President of CSAE-BC presents the ACE Award for Government Relations to Neil Cumming, P.Eng., Past Chair of CEBC, and Keith Sashaw, ACEC-BC President.



Facing the Future is a transportation conference hosted jointly by ACEC-BC, the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and TransLink. The conference takes place on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at the Hyatt Hotel in Vancouver.

Facing the Future will focus on *Trends and Topics in BC's Transportation Industry*, offering presentations and panel discussions in two main streams,

Future Trends

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Electric Vehicles – Charging Stations and Infrastructure
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – Lessons and Opportunities
- Freight Tracking – GPS Tracking

LNG

- LNG Infrastructure – Roads and Ports
- Shipping of LNG – Safety, Environmental Protection and TERMPOL Review Process
- Public Transit – Transition to LNG
- Environmental Aspects of LNG

A morning bus tour, led by Port Metro Vancouver staff, will visit the North Shore and South Shore Trade Areas.

Invited luncheon keynote speaker is Steve Carr, Deputy Minister of Natural Gas Development. The plenary session will also feature presentations on the Evergreen Line, and TransLink's Regional Transportation Strategy.

Following the technical presentations and panel discussions in the afternoon, the conference wraps up with a networking reception, and the **Deputy Minister's Awards Dinner**.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Suppliers, contractors, engineers, geoscientists, agencies and service providers will gain valuable recognition as conference sponsors. For detailed information, please visit the [conference web page](#).

Registration for the conference will be opening soon – ACEC-BC members will be notified by email.

YPG Update

Lower Mainland YPG

Event Report

On September 19th, the Lower Mainland YPG hosted a breakfast seminar on two topics:

- **ACEC-BC 101**, presented by **Cameron Gatey**, Chairman of ACEC-BC.
- **Current Trends and Strategies for Consultants Working in the Construction Industry**, presented by **Keith Sashaw**, President of ACEC-BC.

The number of attendees was 60, including the two speakers and 5 YPG steering committee members.

Cameron's presentation was an overview of the ACEC-British Columbia organization and its structures, purpose, mandate, services, various committees, etc.

Keith's presentation discussed the historical trends in the construction industry in different sectors in BC and future projections of the market related to building permits, capital projects and employment. It also included important trends to watch for such as local skills shortage, sustainable practices, new technologies/processes and global competition.

Social Event

On September 25th, the YPG hosted a social event at the Irish Heather pub, in Gastown. This has become a favorite venue for the YPG socials and, while we haven't yet heard the details, we assume a good time was had by all!

Upcoming Event

Mark your calendar – the next Lower Mainland YPG event is scheduled for November 14, at the Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver. More details will be posted soon.

Okanagan YPG

Event Report

On September 12th **Keith Sashaw**, President of ACEC-BC spoke to a group of 23 young professionals at the Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna.

An important topic of discussion was the problem of proposal submissions with price being the deciding factor, and what ACEC-BC is doing to help. Someone commented that the message is not getting across that selecting on qualifications is a preferred option.

One of the key take aways from this event was that the YPs in attendance would like to get to know each other. There were a few requests for YP presenters, and this will be addressed at the next steering committee meeting. The steering committee may also plan a social event for YPs in the region.

Upcoming Event

Mark your calendar – the next Okanagan YPG event is scheduled for February 13. More details to follow in the new year.

Vancouver Island YPG

Breakfast Seminar

On September 27th **Keith Sashaw**, President of ACEC-BC spoke to a group of young professionals at the Union Club, Victoria.

Upcoming Event

Mark your calendar – the next Vancouver Island YPG event is scheduled for November 21, at the Union Club, Victoria.

Upcoming Legal Conference

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

Delay Claims in Western Canada
November 8, 2013

The 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 conference is also being made available for online viewing.

ACEC British Columbia members receive a 15% discount on this event by using the preferred pricing code **AI22013** when registering for Delay claims online at...

 www.affinityinstitute.ca

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

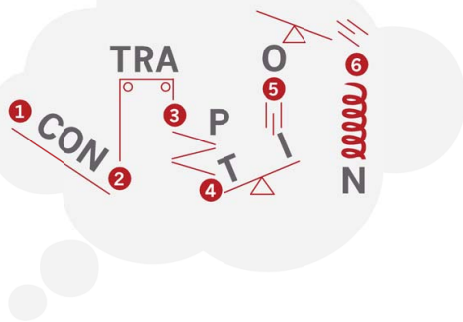
3000 Guildford Way, Coquitlam

Be sure to check out the project display boards, and the results of the 2013 Peoples' Choice Award online poll at ...

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx



CONSULTANTS'



The Young Professionals Group of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of British Columbia (ACEC-BC YPG) will once again be hosting a charity event to raise funds in support of GEERing Up! by building a Rube Goldberg Machine called the **Consultants' Contraption** at Guildford Town Centre in Surrey, B.C. The YPG would like to invite YOU to construct a part of this machine!

Here's what you need to know:

Who: ACEC-BC is helping to raise funds for GEERing Up!. GEERing Up! is an engineering and science focused summer program that puts on workshops and camps for youth in the Vancouver, Prince George and Kelowna areas. This program provides an opportunity for students in grades 2-10 to learn engineering problem solving and design techniques through a variety of fun experiments and projects.

What: A Rube Goldberg machine is an elaborate, deliberately over-engineered and unnecessarily complex device designed to complete a specific simple task by use of a chain reaction of events. Our machine will feature a series of individually designed Rube Goldberg "modules" linked together to form the "Consultants' Contraption". The "Consultants' Contraption" will be displayed and operated in public to benefit GEERing Up! and increase awareness of consulting engineering in BC.

When: April 19, 2014 at Guildford Town Centre, Surrey, B.C.

How: There is an entry fee of \$500 (all proceeds going to GEERing Up!) for ACEC-BC member firms. Additional donations for GEERing Up! will be graciously accepted with the entry fee.

Your corporate team of young professionals will design and build your Rube Goldberg Machine module in the months leading up to the event and display the module at the day-long event. Your firm will benefit by having your corporate logo on event advertising materials and your corporate presence at this public event.

This year we plan to recruit students from UBC engineering programs to volunteer their time assisting with the design and construction of modules. We hope this will ease the burden on each team and will be a fun networking opportunity for these engineering students. We will work with each participating company to arrange volunteers for their team.

If your firm cannot participate but would still like to support the event, donations greater than \$250 will get your corporate logo on our advertising material.

If you are interested in participating or donating, please reply to ConsultantsContraption@acec-bc.ca. We will get in touch with your designated representative with the guidelines for your Rube Goldberg Machine module if you choose to participate in the event. The deadline for submitting your intent to participate is October 4, 2013. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis and there are limited spots available.

For more information on GEERing Up!, as well as descriptions of Rube Goldberg Machine ideas and media from our 2012 event, please visit our Facebook page at:

 [facebook.com/ConsultantsContraption](https://www.facebook.com/ConsultantsContraption)

Sincerely,

ACEC-BC YPG Consultants' Contraption Steering Committee

Upcoming Events

October 2

Richmond-Delta Mixer

Delta Airport Hotel, Richmond

October 3

Professional Development Seminar

Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver

October 10

Asset Management Workshop

The Hotel at River Rock, Richmond

October 16

Burnaby-New Westminster Mixer

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby

October 23

Business Development for Engineers

Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver

October 24 – 26

APEGBC AGM & Conference

Whistler Convention Centre

November 8

Delay Claims in Western Canada

SFU Segal School of Business

Presented by Affinity Institute

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

Major Project Capital Costs in B.C. Hit Record High in Q2 2013

Proposed LNG projects in the North Coast region spur growth while residential and public projects drop

VANCOUVER, September 19, 2013 – Total capital cost of major projects in B.C. hit a record high in the second quarter of 2013 on a surge in proposed LNG projects, according to the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – British Columbia (ACEC-BC)'s BC MPI Review, released today. The BC MPI Review is a quarterly report that provides analysis on the Province of British Columbia's Major Projects Inventory.

Total capital cost of major projects in BC reached \$299.4 billion in the second quarter of 2013, representing an 8.8 per cent jump over the previous quarter and 26.5 per cent higher than one year earlier. Total capital cost represents the combined value of projects identified as proposed, construction started, completed and on hold.

"The data shows that the resource sectors, and oil and gas in particular, are not only a major driver for growth in B.C., but their influence continues to strengthen rather than wane," said Keith Sashaw, President and CEO, ACEC-BC. "The investment community's appetite continues to grow for the North Coast region where the resources are largely based."

The North Coast region reported a large 45.7 per cent jump in proposed projects to \$99.3 billion in the second quarter from the previous quarter and propelled the year-to-year gain to 137.5 per cent. The key drivers of this gain were the Pacific Northwest LNG and the Prince Rupert LNG projects. Combined with the manufacturing sectors' proposed Kitimat oil refinery and related project investments, resource-related projects account for more than \$50 billion.

"Moving the projects represented in the mining and oil and gas category from the proposed to the construction started phase will have a profound and formative impact on our province's economy," said Sashaw.

The North Coast region continued to have the highest proposed and total capital cost dollar amount of any region in the province. Of note this quarter is the 50 per cent jump

in proposed projects in the mining and oil and gas industrial category, rising from \$44.4 billion in the first quarter to \$66.6 billion in the second quarter of 2013.

New proposed natural resource and related projects pushed total project costs to new highs with a 39.3 per cent jump in the second quarter compared to the first quarter. The mining and oil and gas sector became the largest at \$80.9 billion in the second quarter by a wide margin. The manufacturing sector saw a large 45.4 per cent increase to \$28.8 billion in the second quarter almost exclusively on the proposed Kitimat oil refinery and related project investments.

Total project costs for residential and commercial projects held second place at \$58.8 billion, a growth of only 2.4 per cent over the quarter, with proposed projects down slightly (0.7%). The slow growth may be attributed to real estate market slowdown and cautions of mortgage rate increases.

Q2 2013 Major Project Inventory Highlights:

Project total capital costs by project status, Q2 2013 vs Q1 2013:

- **Proposed:** 18.9 per cent increase to \$194.8 billion
- **Construction Started:** 2.5 per cent drop to \$83.6 billion
- **Completed:** 41 per cent drop to \$1.1 billion
- **On Hold:** 16.4 per cent drop to \$19.9 billion

Project total capital costs by industrial category, Q2 2013 vs Q1 2013:

- **Residential & Commercial sector:** 2.4 per cent increase to \$58.8 billion
- **Transportation & Warehousing sector:** 3.0 per cent drop to \$52.2 billion
- **Mining & Oil & Gas Extraction sector:** 39.3 per cent increase to \$80.9 billion
- **Utilities sector:** 11 per cent drop to \$47.8 billion
- **Manufacturing sector:** 45.4 per cent increase to \$28.8 billion
- **Public Services sector:** 12.1 per cent drop to \$7.5 billion
- **Other Services sector:** 0.5 per cent drop to \$23.3 billion

The BC MPI Review is a quarterly report prepared by ACEC-BC that provides insight and analysis on the Major Projects Inventory, published by the British Columbia Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Responsible for Labour. The Major Projects Inventory, which is published quarterly, lists all major projects that are proposed, planned or underway in British Columbia. These are projects with a capital cost of at least \$20 million each within the Lower Mainland and projects valued at \$15 million or more apiece in the rest of B.C.

ACEC British Columbia members who wish a full analysis of the MPI can **request a copy** from the ACEC-BC office.


ACEC-BC Welcomes new Corporate Members

ACEC-British Columbia is pleased to welcome three new Corporate Members:

J.M. Bean & Co. Ltd.

 www.jmbean.com

6468 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V5W 2V4


 (604) 736-6724


 info@jmbean.com

Bunt & Associates Engineering (B.C.) Ltd.


 www.bunteng.com


Suite 1550 - 1050 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 3S7

 (604) 685-6427

 vancouver@bunteng.com

Suite 535 - 645 Fort Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1G2

 (250) 592-6122


 victoria@bunteng.com

MPC Consulting Ltd.

 mpcconsulting.net

2075 Henry Avenue West, Unit 23
Sidney, BC V8L 1T2

 (250) 655-8959

 pbulmer@mpcconsulting.net

Stewart Weir & Opus merger boosts Canadian capability

Opus International Consultants (Opus) has completed the purchase of Canadian land surveying, engineering and environmental consultancy Stewart Weir. The acquisition, including all legal entities, will add some 550 staff and six offices in Canada, bringing the Opus Canadian team to around 700 staff in 16 offices, and the Opus global team to more than 3,000 staff and 91 offices worldwide.

Opus is an international multidisciplinary engineering, architecture and infrastructure consultancy previously with 85 offices and some 2,500 staff in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Opus established in Canada in 2002 and in 2010 completed the purchase of Dayton and Knight (now Opus DaytonKnight), a water, wastewater and environmental engineering consultancy based in British Columbia.

"Stewart Weir's market status for pipeline, infrastructure and energy related projects make them a market leader in Alberta – Canada's highest growth market," says Opus Managing Director and Chief Executive, Dr David Prentice.

"Our strategic plan calls for both diversification in existing markets and expansion into new markets. This acquisition fulfils both those objectives. Oil & Gas is a vital global industry, and Canada is well positioned for growth.

"In recent years, Stewart Weir has expanded its service offering from surveying and engineering to include industrial engineering, geographical information systems, and environmental services. The merger gives us a broader range of complementary services, and added strength to our diverse capabilities.

"In addition to our entry into the Oil & Gas sector, the Canadian federal government has highlighted infrastructure as one of its top priorities for the future," says Dr Prentice. "Acquiring Stewart Weir is strategically important given their market strength and growth prospects both in Canada generally and in the Oil & Gas sector."

Stewart Weir's CEO, Brian Pearse, who will stay with the company as President,

says he welcomes becoming part of the global Opus team, and that he sees this as a further development opportunity for their business.

"I am delighted that our two companies have come together, and I believe that combined, we will form a greater presence in the market place," says Mr Pearse. "Stewart Weir has established a reputation for service excellence and for providing value to clients. Opus enjoys a similar reputation, so our combined synergies will provide us with significant collective strength. The merger will also offer greater access to a wider range of skills and specialist knowledge, with the potential to add greater value for our clients."

Stewart Weir is an employee-owned company that recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, and has its head office in Sherwood Park with local offices in Calgary, Grande Prairie, Bonnyville and Lethbridge, and an office in Fort St. John, BC.

Stewart Weir will work alongside the existing Opus offices in Abbotsford, Calgary, Detroit (USA), Halifax, Kelowna, Fredericton, Whitehorse, Prince George, Smithers, Vancouver and Victoria. The Canadian operation will continue to be led in Canada by Opus' President, Sean Brophy, who is based in Vancouver.

For further information please contact:

Sean Brophy, P.Eng.

President

Opus International Consultants (Canada) Limited

Tel: 604 990 4800

Cell: 604 788 3126



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 – watch for more information on the 2014 Awards for Engineering Excellence, coming soon...

Peoples' Choice Poll

We asked our website viewers to vote for their favorite from among the 32 projects entered in the 2013 ACEC-BC Awards competition.

The results have been tallied, and we are pleased to announce the winner of the 2013 Peoples' Choice Poll:

Cleveland Dam Elevator Installation Project – Engineering Environmental Solutions

Owner/Client: Metro Vancouver

Consultant: CWA Engineers (463 votes!)



CWA Engineers with the assistance of EBA, RWDI, Gunn Consultants, and R.F. Binnie & Associates successfully designed and installed a new service building with an elevator down a 60m underground airshaft for Metro Vancouver. Multi-discipline engineering services were provided and innovative solutions were implemented to ensure a safe, flexible, and robust design. Urban Solutions Architecture provided architectural services while Graham Construction was the general contractor.

Honourable Mention

Rounding out the top 3 vote-getters are:

Gibraltar Development Plan 3

Owner/Client: Gibraltar Mines Limited
Consultant: Ausenco (98 votes!)

Port Mann/Highway 1 Improvement Project – Detours

Owner: Transportation Investment Corp.
Client: Kiewit Flatiron General Partnership
Consultant: McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd. (58 votes!)

For information about these, and all of the great projects entered in the 2013 Awards, visit the online **Awards Road Show**.