



ACEC British Columbia

# Newsbrief

November/December 2013



## Message from the President

Keith Sashaw

ACEC-BC member firms are front line service providers for infrastructure projects in BC. The consulting engineering industry plays a key role in the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of public infrastructure. The expertise of member firms allow projects to be completed in a manner that is safe, cost-effective, environmentally responsible and innovative. The contribution of the industry is critical in ensuring that infrastructure expenditures will be successful in achieving the intended economic and social goals.

So it should be no surprise that our upcoming **Transportation Conference** on January 28th will be tackling many of the biggest issues facing British Columbians today: climate change, future challenges in the transportation sector and the impact that LNG will have on our Province.

Between guided tours of some of the most interesting transportation projects in BC to hearing keynote speakers providing the latest on LNG and regional transportation initiatives to panel discussions on a range of topics that will impact our Province for many years to come, attendees will come away with a new understanding of many of these issues.

Registration is now open, so be sure to register today at

 [www.acec-bc.ca/events/transportation-conference.aspx](http://www.acec-bc.ca/events/transportation-conference.aspx)

...for what promises to be a most interesting day of lively discussion and insights.


Transportation and LNG are not the only issues which ACEC-BC is speaking out for on behalf of the consulting engineering community.

One of our goals is to promote a sustainable consulting engineering industry for our members within the province, so as a result we take keen interest in major plans for future capital development such as the Site C Clean Energy Project, currently going through the environmental review process.

ACEC-BC actively supports proceeding with the Site C Clean Energy Project for a number of reasons:

1. There are a number of major projects, including mines and other oil and gas projects that are in the implementation or planning stages that will rely on having access to stable and dependable sources of power;

2. Site C provides tremendous opportunities for job creation and regional economic development;
3. Site C will provide a diversity of energy production;
4. Site C presents an opportunity to build on BC's reputation for expertise in engineering and can contribute to creating a centre of excellence for engineering services.

ACEC-BC has submitted its written comments to the Joint Review Panel, and will be making a presentation at one of the many public hearings taking place across northern BC. To request a copy of the ACEC-BC submission please send us an email at  [info@acec-bc.ca](mailto:info@acec-bc.ca).

And of course, ACEC-BC is proud to recognize and celebrate the work done by our members in making these projects possible. Planning is well underway for what promises to be a great evening on April 12th, when we will be hosting the ACEC-BC Awards Gala. This event attracts the leaders in the industry to celebrate excellence, so be sure to mark your calendars. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, so contact ACEC-BC today if you wish to demonstrate your support for recognizing excellence in engineering.

Keith Sashaw  
President & CEO, ACEC British Columbia



## Mark Your Calendars!

**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* and *Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)*.

**Two morning bus tours** will visit the North Shore and South Shore Trade Areas. One of the tours includes a visit to Neptune Bulk Terminals (be sure to register early and indicate your preference if this is of interest, as seating is limited).

We are pleased to welcome **Steve Carr**, Deputy Minister of Natural Gas Development as our keynote speaker. The plenary session will also feature presentations on the Evergreen Line, and TransLink's Regional Transportation Strategy.

An exciting addition this year is participation by the **UBC Supermileage Team**, who will be displaying their *Urban Concept* car. Team members will be available during coffee breaks and the pre-dinner reception to chat with attendees.



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**.

Registration is now open! For more information, see

[www.acec-bc.ca/events/transportation-conference.aspx](http://www.acec-bc.ca/events/transportation-conference.aspx)

## 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.

## Succession Planning Seminar

Canada's population is aging – will your business be able to handle the retirement of boomers during the coming years?

Business succession planning prepares successors to take on vital leadership roles when the need arises. It is essential to the long term survival of a company and every company should have a form of succession planning in its portfolio. Attend this upcoming seminar to learn how to create the right plan for your firm.

## Avoiding Costly Talent Gaps – A Guide to Succession Planning

7:30 am – 12:00 pm, January 16 2014  
Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver

*Workshop objectives:*

- Define business succession planning and its role in your company
- Lay the groundwork to develop a succession plan
- The importance of mentorship
- Define and use a SWOT analysis to set goals
- Create a plan, assign roles, and execute the plan
- Communicate to develop support and manage change
- Anticipate obstacles, and evaluate and adapt goals and plans
- Characterize success

## 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](http://www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx)



## 2014 AWARDS FOR ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE

Swing into Spring at the 25th Annual Awards for Engineering Excellence Gala, Saturday **April 12, 2014** at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The Awards celebrate the technical excellence, creativity and innovation in the BC consulting engineering industry. This is your opportunity to participate in one of the most exciting events in the industry's calendar.

Registration for the gala will open in the new year. If you have any questions about the Awards program, please contact the ACEC-British Columbia secretariat at...

✉ [info@acec-bc.ca](mailto:info@acec-bc.ca) ☎ (604) 687-2811

or visit [www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx](http://www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx)

## Upcoming Events

January 15

**Economic Review and 2014 Outlook**  
*Terminal City Club, Vancouver*

January 16

**Avoid Costly Talent Gaps – A Guide to Succession Planning for Engineering Companies**  
*Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver*

January 21

**YPG Breakfast Seminar – The Owner's Perspective in Consulting Engineering**  
*Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver*

January 28

**Facing the Future Transportation Conference 2014**  
*Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver*

February 6

**YPG Victoria Breakfast Seminar – How to Reduce Stress and Improve Effectiveness**  
*The Union Club, Victoria*

April 12

**ACEC-BC Awards Gala**  
*Vancouver Convention Centre West*

YPG Update

Lower Mainland YPG

The ACEC BC Young Professionals Group (YPG) held their second breakfast seminar of the season on November 14th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Vancouver. The seminar was well attended with 72 young professionals from various consulting firms to enjoy a hot breakfast and listen to a captivating presentation on *Effective Communication and Public Speaking* by **Joanna Piros**, a senior consultant at Counterpoint Communications.

Joanna definitely practices what she preaches as the presentation was interactive and engaging. She captured every person in the room with her confident manner and discussed the importance of effective communication and presentation within the context of the various clients she has worked with, ranging from politicians to professional hockey players. Items such as recognizing one’s audience and catering communications to a particular group while being aware that people are naturally inclined to emotional connectedness were discussed. Needless to say, the hour long slot was not nearly long enough with many of the attendees expressing a desire for a more detailed presentation. The feedback from attendees was very positive and an indication of the event success.

Upcoming events include the next YPG breakfast seminar on January 21 discussing the owner’s perspective on consulting engineering presented by Mark Ferguson, Manager of Project Delivery at Metro Vancouver’s liquid waste services. The next YPG social will be scheduled early in the New Year as well. Look for further updates in the coming weeks. Hope to see you there!

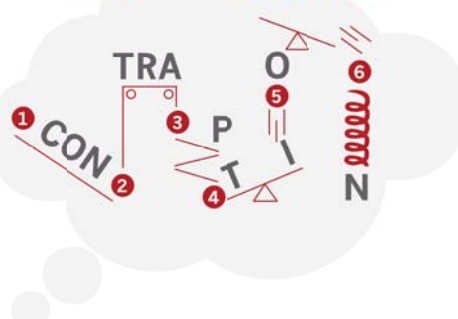
Vancouver Island YPG

On November 21 Pierre Gallant of Morrison Hershfield presented a breakfast seminar to the Vancouver Island group on the topic of *CCDC Contract: An Overview and the Role of the Consultant*.

Pierre’s presentation outlined the variety of CCDC standard contracts available and how these standard contracts can be applied. The philosophy and benefits of CCDC contracts was also discussed. Pierre highlighted the consultants’ role in administering contracts as well as dispute resolution. Anecdotes provided examples of common contractual issues and how to best avoid these potential pitfalls. Pierre highlighted that the best contracts are the ones that are fair to all parties involved. He also discussed the contractual relationship between opportunity and risk.



CONSULTANTS’



The YPG will once again host a charity event to raise funds in support of *GEERing Up!* by building a Rube Goldberg Machine called the **Consultants’ Contraption** – April 19 at the Guildford Town Centre Mall in Surrey.

*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.

Participating firms, each one building a part of the Contraption, are:

- Levelton Consultants
- Urban Systems
- Klohn Crippen Berger
- Hatch Mott MacDonald
- McElhanney Consulting Services
- Opus DaytonKnight
- Knight Piésold

Trans Mountain Mixer



More than 70 attended the ACEC-BC Trans Mountain Mixer on November 19. Our thanks to guest speaker **Greg Toth**, Project Director, who gave an excellent overview of the project, its economic impacts, engineering opportunities, challenges ahead and the next steps. A copy of the presentation is available to ACEC-BC members on request. Please send your request to [info@acec-bc.ca](mailto:info@acec-bc.ca)

For those of you who are interested in being considered for vendor and supplier opportunities on the Trans Mountain Expansion project, be sure to visit the Trans Mountain procurement registry:

[www.transmountain.com/procurement](http://www.transmountain.com/procurement)

Steve Nash Fitness Clubs – Discounts for ACEC-BC Members

ACEC-BC has teamed up with Steve Nash Fitness World & Sports Clubs to offer our members’ employees discounted fitness memberships from as low as \$34.00 per month. The program provides both month-to-month and annual membership options that could save participants as much as \$200 on their yearly fitness costs. These rates are available online only to employees and their family members. To take advantage:

1. Go to: <https://corporate.snclubs.com/?q=acecbc>
2. Enter the password: **acecbc0359**
3. Select your offer
4. Enter your information
5. Get fit!

If you have any questions please contact [dave@acec-bc.ca](mailto:dave@acec-bc.ca)



## Awards Gala – Advertising Opportunity in BIV Magazine

ACEC-BC is partnering with Business in Vancouver to produce a special feature that will highlight the winners and nominees of our 25th Annual Awards for Engineering Excellence. The feature will appear on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, which is the week following our Awards Gala.

Our goal in producing this special feature is to promote positive public awareness of the profession and to highlight outstanding projects and professionals throughout the province. We have chosen to partner with BIV this year in an attempt to get our members' work in front of more client groups and key decision makers.

We would like to encourage your organization to consider advertising in this targeted publication. Due to strong corporate advertising support in features like this over the years, ACEC-BC has been able to effectively communicate the vital roles that Consulting Engineers play in this province, and around the world.

In addition to the general public, this special feature will also reach key business leaders and decision makers who purchase engineering services. This special content feature in Business in Vancouver will be sent to all ACEC British Columbia members and BIV's 12,500 subscribers.

In the near future, many of you can expect to hear from a representative with Business in Vancouver who will contact you to provide details and ask for your support. In the meantime, should you wish to take advantage of this special advertising opportunity in Business in Vancouver, please contact Blair Johnston at (604) 608-5148 or [bjohnston@biv.com](mailto:bjohnston@biv.com).

## Stay connected to your industry

ACEC-British Columbia posts important engineering industry news and interesting articles to its Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn pages daily. This is a great way to stay up to date on future projects, learn more about soft skills and read about fascinating engineering projects from around the world. Start following us now!



[twitter.com/acecbc](https://twitter.com/acecbc)



[facebook.com/acecbc](https://facebook.com/acecbc)



[www.linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

(on LinkedIn, search for Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – British Columbia)

## ACEC-BC Develops Workplace Bullying and Harassment Policy

Effective November 1, 2013 WorkSafeBC has approved policies defining bullying and harassment, and explaining the duties of employers, workers and supervisors to prevent and address workplace bullying and harassment.

ACEC-BC has developed its own policy on workplace bullying and harassment, along with procedures for reporting and investigation. If you wish to review the ACEC-BC policy, and associated procedures, they can be found [here](#).

Companies in the process of developing their own policies will find a variety of valuable resources and templates on the WorkSafeBC web site at:

[www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/BullyingAndHarassment/home.asp](http://www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/BullyingAndHarassment/home.asp)

## Awards Road Show

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](http://www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx)

## Thank You Awards Sponsors!

The ACEC-BC Awards Gala owes much of its success to the participation of our Sponsors. To date, confirmed Sponsors of the 2014 Awards for Engineering Excellence are:

### Patron Sponsor



### Platinum Sponsors



### Gold Sponsors



### Silver Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors

B&B Heavy Civil Construction Ltd.  
BC Road Builders  
Houle Electric  
McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd.  
MMM Group

For information about participating as a sponsor of the ACEC-BC Awards for Engineering Excellence, please see

[www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx](http://www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx)

Wishing you Happy Holidays  
and a Prosperous New Year!



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING  
ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
BRITISH COLUMBIA