



YPG Quarterly Newsletter

Fall - Winter 2014

In this quarterly newsletter I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - British Columbia (ACEC-BC) Young Professionals' Group to some of our newest members. As most of you know ACEC-BC is British Columbia's provincial association of engineering consulting firms. ACEC-BC represents 84 of BC's consulting engineering companies that provide engineering and other technology-based intellectual services to the public and private sectors. ACEC-BC firms employ over 10,000 people in BC comprised of a workforce of engineers, geoscientists, technicians, technologists and other support staff.



In early 2006, the Young Professionals' Group (YPG) was established to promote and empower the development of Young Professionals' (YP) careers in the Consulting Engineering Business. The YPG is a mainline committee of the ACEC-BC and the Provincial Chair represents YPs at the ACEC-BC Board of Directors as an ex-officio director.

Directed towards individuals in member firms with less than 10 years of experience in their field, the YPG hosts a series of breakfast seminars, socials, and outreach events to develop and teach the networking and business skills necessary to succeed in the consulting industry. The YPG consists of a Provincial committee and four regional committees across the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Okanagan, and the newly established Thompson-Nicola.

Another ACEC-BC YPG year has started and the provincial and regional volunteers have been working intensely over the past few months to deliver a successful and empowering year for YPs within ACEC-BC organizations. You may have already enjoyed one of our breakfast seminars for this year or attended a social event to network and discuss current trends in the industry.

This quarterly newsletter is our opportunity to share our plans and upcoming activities with you. Read about the breakfast seminars, social events and outreach activities planned for this year in each region.

The ACEC-BC YPG is also connected to the other provincial and territorial YP groups across the nation through the ACEC-Canada Young Professional Network. An introduction to the Young Professional Network is included in this newsletter.

ACEC-Canada is part of FIDIC, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers representing the consulting engineering industry globally. In this newsletter you can read about the FIDIC conference held this year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please feel free to contact 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.

Tijana Smiljanic, ACEC-BC YPG Provincial Chair

Also in this edition:

- ACEC-BC Regional Updates
- FIDIC Conference
- ACEC YPN
- Committee Updates
- Notice of YP Award
- 2014-2015 Breakfast Seminars

ACEC-BC YPG Regional Group Updates

Lower Mainland Group

The 2014-2015 Lower Mainland Committee features many new faces this year. The team is comprised of seven active and outgoing YPs who understand the importance of developing a strong network. This year the committee aims to increase YP participation across all ACEC-BC member firms at breakfast seminars, social events and networking activities. This year's Lower Mainland Group steering committee members are:

- Chair Siobhan Robinson (Kerr Wood Leidal Associates)
- Vice Chair Zahra Pirani (WorleyParsons)
- Professional Development Imran Gehlen (SNC-Lavalin Inc.)
- Volunteer Management Joey Chiu (McElhanney)
- Networking & Student Outreach David Marchand (R.F. Binnie & Associates Ltd)
- Community Involvement & Student Outreach Katherine Dennert (Hatch Mott MacDonald)
- Communications Sahar Kosari (Associated Engineering)

Even though ACEC-BC represents 84 consulting engineering companies, attendance at ACEC-BC YPG events is dominated by employees of a small group of member firms. This year, the Lower Mainland committee is focused on reaching out to YPs at all locally represented member firms to increase participation at events. To build a strong network of YPs across members firms, the group will contact each firm to find a `company champion` who will be the committee's go-to person responsible for informing YPs in each of their firms about upcoming events.

Recognizing that attendance will be governed not only by awareness of the event, but also by event quality, the group is focused on developing high quality events that will provide value to attendees and their employers. The breakfast seminar series focuses on soft skills development and provides YPs with tools and lessons that they will be able to apply to actively advance in their career. The seminar series started with a presentation by the current chair of ACEC-BC, Catherine Fritter, who explained how ACEC-BC fits in the industry and provided her perspective on consulting engineering. The second seminar, presented by Margaret Paige, focused on expanding your influence by connecting and engaging with others.

Building on the soft skills development from the breakfast seminars, the committee aims to provide a variety of networking opportunities that will appeal to a large and diverse audience. This year's social events have already included a pub night and a BC Lions game, and the next event will be a laser tag game. The committee will also inform YPs of networking opportunities organized by other groups with the goal of providing YPs with a broader networking base.

Want to get involved? Have ideas for a breakfast seminar or social event?
Contact SRobinson@kwl.ca

Siobhan Robinson, ACEC-BC YPG Lower Mainland Chair

Vancouver Island Group

This year the Vancouver Island Group steering committee is thrilled to welcome David Palmer and Max Scruton to the committee. We would also like to give a big thank you to outgoing committee members Irvin Naidu and Lianne Naeth for their efforts in their previous roles. This year's Vancouver Island YPG Group steering committee members are:

- Chair Caroline Silins (Thurber Engineering Ltd.)
- Vice Chair / Student Outreach Craig Appelman (GOAL Engineering)
- Networking / Social Coordinator / Communications David Palmer (Levelton Consultants Ltd.)
- Student Outreach Max Scruton (Kerr Wood Leidal)
- Past Chair Mark Byram (Levelton Consultants Ltd.)

The Vancouver Island group has held two breakfast seminars since September. The first featured the current ACEC -BC Chair, Ms. Catherine Fritter. She provided an excellent perspective on the business of consulting engineering and on ACEC-BC's role in the industry. Most recently, Mr. Justin Webb of IBM spoke in Victoria about leadership in multi-disciplinary settings. He provided his perspectives on key behaviours of "true leaders", as well as the subtle but ever-important difference between management and leadership. Four more seminars are planned; three in Victoria, February 5th, 2015, May 15th, 2015 and June 11th, 2015 and one in Nanaimo March 12th, 2015 (dates are subject to change).

Increase student outreach

Our participation in the University of Victoria's industry Night has been successful in the past but this year we intend to expand our student outreach to Camosun College. In addition to excellent college-level technology programs, Camosun offers a Bridge Program allowing students with qualifying diplomas direct access to third year engineering studies at UBC. We hope to share our experiences and knowledge of BC's consulting industry with even more prospective engineers.

Increase member engagement

In line with our mission, we must always strive to increase engagement amongst our members. We have experienced relatively strong turnouts at our breakfast seminars, but participation in social events has lagged considerably. Recently, five people attended our "Pub Night." Although we would like to thank those of you who attended, it is clear that there is significant room for improvement. To do this, we will leverage our company champions to foster a stronger community and encourage dialogue amongst members. In doing so, we will be able to better advertise events while also soliciting more meaningful feedback about them. An engaged member is one which is informed and sees value in an organization's services. In the future, we expect our efforts to help refine communication and run more useful events. Our Curling Social and Annual Ping Pong Tournament are upcoming so keep an eye out for details! In the meantime, if you are interested in becoming a company champion or have any feedback or comments please contact Caroline Silins csilins@thurber.ca. We are always open to new ideas.

Caroline Silins, ACEC-BC YPG Vancouver Island Chair

Okanagan Group

The Okanagan Group steering committee has designated roles to each of the committee members. To allow for their success to continue growing, each member becomes more accountable and improves on time management and leadership. This year's Okanagan Group steering committee members are:

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|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Chair | Natasha Orlitzky (Focus Corporation) |
| • Vice Chair | Stephen Horsman (AECOM) |
| • Communications | Jade Jordan (Focus Corporation) |
| • Networking | Cory Sivell (Urban Systems Ltd.) |
| • Volunteer Management | Nathan Rosin (Focus Corporation) |
| • Student Outreach | Jonathan Lowe (Urban Systems Ltd.) |

Event Report

The Okanagan ACEC-BC YPG has already hosted one breakfast seminar event and has two more breakfast seminars planned for the upcoming year. The first event was on November 27th, 2014 which hosted Mike Jacobs, President and CEO of Emil Anderson Construction and Dilworth Quality Homes Inc. Mike has a very diverse career in major road building, heavy civil construction, highway road maintenance, land development and housing. Mike presented “Career Development Tips and How Design becomes Infrastructure.”

Okanagan breakfast seminars to look forward to in 2015:

Feb 12 - Andrew Ambrosy: New Trends in Solid and Liquid Waste Management

May 21 - Darren Enevoldson & Marcia Browne: Kelowna Landfill's Gas Production & Ogo Grow

Stay tuned for more details: Okanagan's ACEC-BC Young Professionals Steering Committee is in the midst of planning collaborative social event with the Okanagan YP Collective & Investors Group.

Stay tuned for Big White Trips and Holiday Cheer!

Hey YP! If you think your job is interesting - tell us about it! The Okanagan is looking for YP's to present what they have been up to. Or, if you have topics in mind for future seminars/events, please contact ACEC-BC or the Okanagan Chair Natasha Orlitzky at natasha.orlitzky@wspgroup.ca

Natasha Orlitzky, ACEC-BC YPG Okanagan Chair

Thompson-Nicola Group

The 2014-2015 season marks the first year for the ACEC-BC YPG Thompson-Nicola Committee. This year we will be offering two breakfast seminars in February and April that will focus on the development of soft skills. Make sure to check the ACEC-BC website for more information on these events! The committee is currently focused on reaching out to YPs and developing a participant base for the upcoming seminars. In addition, one of the main goals for this year is ensuring growth and sustainability of the committee.

Want to get involved? Contact Andrew Chand at achand@thurber.ca

Andrew Chand, ACEC-BC YPG Thompson-Nicola Chair

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee exists to promote the ongoing professional development of staff of ACEC-BC member firms.

So far this year the group has organized two professional development events:

- “How to Effectively Manage Risk”, and
- “Indicators for Business Success” (managerial techniques, focused on critical success factors & key performance indicators)”

These two events were very well received. Attendance at the events is generally limited between 15 to 25 attendees to promote collaboration and interaction.

The anticipated future topics for the 2014 and 2015 year include:

- Economic Review and 2015 Forecast
- Strategic Communications for Professional Success
- Business Development for Engineers
- Writing Winning Proposals
- Standard Forms & Contracting Best Practices (ACEC-Canada)

Please visit the events calendar to keep informed of the latest Professional Development Seminar offerings.

Mark Byram, P.Eng., Professional Development Committee Chair

ACEC-BC YP Attends FIDIC Conference in Brazil

Natasha Orlitzky is the chair for the ACEC-BC YP Okanagan Branch. She volunteers, along with a handful of YP's from across the province, to create professional development and networking opportunities for ACEC-BC members in the first 10 years of their career. This year she was selected to attend the FIDIC International Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on behalf of ACEC-BC Young Professionals. The theme of the conference was "Tackling the Global Infrastructure Challenges". The following is a write up she provided ACEC-BC of her experience:



"What is FIDIC?" you may ask. By definition FIDIC is "The International Federation of Consulting Engineers" (French acronym). This association publishes global guidelines for consultants, owners, and contractors similar to the MMCD, but on a grander scale. The use of these guidelines no doubt saves time, money and reduces the chance of errors by having a common playing field. The standard contracts and agreements provided in these publications "represent(s) a continuous QA chain, from Basic Project Considerations through Programming, Procurement, Construction, Completion to Operations and Maintenance" (Kaj Moller, FIDIC). This international body is beyond publications alone, but this is the gist of what I came to understand during my time at the conference, and I see great value in what they offer to the world.

This year's conference focus was centered on global infrastructure challenges. In attendance were some of the world's leading experts presenting knowledge, predictions, solutions and advice on how to plan and prepare for our future. FIDIC's conference allowed me to engage in forward-thinking discussions and look into the future with a wider perspective. Infrastructure has a gifted way of connecting a city, stimulating the economy and improving quality of life. As engineers, it is especially important we stay up to date on the latest technologies so we have the tools to address the challenges we will face, and manage our assets efficiently. We are headed towards an age of smart grids, smart buildings and smart users. Problem solving and the way business is done is changing, and conferences such as FIDIC enable us to start a dialogue of what's next, how to get there and where to start on a global scale.



***2014 FIDIC International Conference Gala Dinner and FIDIC Award Ceremony
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil***

ACEC Canada - Young Professional Network

Members of ACEC-BC are also members of the national organization, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) representing members' interests at the federal level. In addition, in an effort to connect the Young Professional Groups across the country, the ACEC Young Professional Network (YPN) was created three years ago by Provincial Young Professional (YP) group members.



The mission of YPN is to bring together representatives from provincial and territorial member organization YP groups, to facilitate communication and information sharing between provinces, and to provide guidance and recommendations to ACEC regarding issues affecting YPs. The group meets five times a year via teleconference, along with an in person meeting at the ACEC Annual Summit and National Convention, most recently held in Winnipeg, MB.

The group assists in development of the YP business program at the ACEC Summit, including organization of technical tour, networking events and round table discussion, as well as providing opportunity for provincial and territorial groups to present on the activities and goals of their respective groups. The YPN also maintains close relationship with FIDIC, the International Federation for Consulting Engineers - the global voice of consulting engineers.



2014 ACEC Summit and National Convention in Winnipeg, MB

ACEC-BC - Committee Updates

ACEC-BC committees help members deal with issues in procurement, contracts, proposals and legislation in four industry sectors: Transportation, Municipal, Building as well as Resource and Energy. ACEC-BC also regularly meets with specific liaison groups to reach the needs of individual clients.

ACEC-BC YPG is represented on most of the committees. YPG members are present at the meetings, report back important information, and voice any concerns that the Young Professionals in our industry may have concerns about. Below is an update on activities for several of the committees.

Municipal Engineering Committee

YP Representative: David Ellis (Associated Engineering)

The ACEC-BC Municipal Engineering committee is currently working on preparing a Municipal Toolkit (a procurement guideline promoting Qualifications-Based Selection [QBS]), setting up various mixer events with municipalities throughout the year, and keeping up to date with any procurement issues and / or concerns which may arise with municipalities. Going forward into the New Year, we aim to promote further involvement with Young Professionals through mixers aimed at bringing YPs together from the consulting engineering industry and the various municipalities.

Transportation Committee

YP Representative: Joey Chiu (McElhanney)

The Transportation committee monitors transportation services and infrastructure activities, identifies common issues of concern and develops solutions. It also maintains liaisons with public agencies and presents issues of concern, problem solves, and builds/improves relations with public and private sectors. The committee is broken down into many subcommittees to accomplish its different objectives, examples include a TransLink, Standard Specifications, Quality Assurance, Bridge, and Highways subcommittee. Some of the key goals for the committee include encouraging municipalities to adopt a QBS system of procurement, reviewing the effectiveness of As & When contracts, monitoring the eRISP and BC BID systems, supporting the Ministry in transitioning to Civil3D, and creating a design-build standard specification.

Building Engineering Committee

YP Representative: Graham Lovely (MCW Consultants)

The ACEC-BC Building committee has been working on a number of issues throughout 2014 with an emphasis on engineer's requirements for APEG's Organizational Quality Management (OQM) program, BIM modeling and greater clarity in RFP submissions and monitoring new versions of them. Other topics include the Net-Zero Buildings for BC, further coordination with AIBC (Architectural Institute of BC) and the P.Tech Issue.

Resources and Energy Committee

YP Representative: Zahra Pirani (WorleyParsons)

The Resource and Energy Committee objectives are as follows:

- Build a strong relationship based on learning and information exchange.
- Proactively keep each other informed of interests and issues.
- Promote the interests of ACEC member firms to Resource and Energy firms and government that use or can influence the use of our services.
- Focus the committee effort on BC Hydro and the Provincial Government; committee will become involved with private firms only if the need arises from our member firms.
- Engage the Provincial Government in a proactive discussion to better utilize consulting engineers on projects.

Last year saw a series of mixers with clients (e.g. Kinder Morgan, Shell LNG, BC Hydro), as well as the creation of a mining sub-committee. The mining sub-committee objectives are as follows:

- Promote the interests of ACEC-BC member firms to mining firms and government that use or can influence the use of our services.

- Identify, promote and enhance active cooperation between ACEC-BC member firms and the mining industry at large on issues of concern.
- Engage with existing organizations that work to develop policy and definitions for mining studies including AMEBC, CIM, MABC, APEGBC and Geoscience BC.

To build on last year's efforts, additional focus will be placed on mining, as well as LNG and the pipeline industries this year.

Young Professional Award

There are lots of young professionals in our industry who are making a difference, contributing to the industry and their firms. This is now an opportunity to both recognize and celebrate one individual!



Nominations are being accepted for the **2015 YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD**, to recognize an individual in the first ten years of their career who has contributed to the consulting engineering industry, shown leadership within their company and the industry, demonstrated excellence in consulting business practices, demonstrated commitment to the delivery of quality projects or results, accomplished outstanding achievements in their applicable fields, and shown leadership in the community.

You'll find all the submission requirements in the Call for Nominations distributed to ACEC-BC members. Don't forget to have your submission in **NO LATER THAN JANUARY 22, 2015**.

ACEC Engineering in BC Supplement

The first "Engineering in BC" supplement was published in the Business in Vancouver magazine on October 7, 2014. Check out the electronic version of the supplement [here](#).



BC On the Move

The Government of BC has invited British Columbians to share their ideas regarding the future transportation network. Take part in a short survey from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure before **December 12, 2014** to submit your feedback. The survey can be found [here](#).

2014-2015 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

- January 21, 2015 Project Management (specific topic to be determined) presented by Roger Woodhead, SNC-Lavalin
- Breakfast seminars also on March 4, April 29 and June 3, 2015 - speakers and topics TBA

Vancouver Island Group - Victoria

- Breakfast seminars on February 5, May 15, and June 11, 2015 - speakers and topics TBA

Vancouver Island Group - Nanaimo

- Breakfast seminars March 12, 2015 - speaker and topic TBA

Okanagan Group - Kelowna

- February 12, 2015 New Trends in Solid and Liquid Waste Management presented by Andrew Ambrosy of Maple Reinders
- May 21, 2015 Kelowna Landfill's Gas Production and Ogo Grow presented by Darren Enevoldson & Marcia Browne of the City of Kelowna

Thompson-Nicola Group - Kamloops

- February 2015 Speaker and topics TBA



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 Company Champions

Want to keep your company and yourself informed about ACEC-BC YPG events and updates? Become a Young Professional (YP) Company Champion! The YP Company Champion is the go-to person for whenever the ACEC-BC YPG steering committee needs to establish communication with a member firm's YPs.

We are looking for one representative from each member firm to act as a liaison between their company and the ACEC-BC Young Professionals' Group. Please email us at ypp@acec-bc.ca to become your firm's ACEC-BC YPG Company Champion.