

YPG Quarterly Newsletter - Summer 2016



In this edition:

- Year-end Report
- Leading from Where You are...
- ACEC-BC YPG Regional Group Updates
- ACEC-BC Committee Updates
- YP of the Quarter
- ACEC Canada – Young Professional Network Update

This newsletter is the fourth and last which will be circulated by the 2015/2016 ACEC-BC Young Professionals Group (YPG) steering committee. In this newsletter we will celebrate this year's accomplishments and introduce next year's committee members. This year I was inspired by all of the amazing volunteers on our committee who are all leaders in their own right. To wrap up the year I'd like to take this opportunity to challenge all of you to realize your own leadership potential. I truly believe that we are a strong community of young professionals and at our social events, breakfast seminars, and community/student outreach events I am consistently blown away by the YPs that I meet. I see amazing intelligence, dedication and desire to connect and I am excited to see what we will make of the consulting engineering business in BC in the years to come. To help you realize your own potential, we have included an inspirational feature from Brian Conlin, Executive Coach and past CEO of Golder which provides practical advice which will help you act as a leader in your company/community right now.

In this newsletter we will also give you an update about recent activities from each committee; shine a spotlight on Kevin Legget from McElhanney, a YP who is deserving of recognition; and identify opportunities for you to get involved with our committee or with ACEC-BC in general.

Year-End Report

2015/2016 has been an incredible year for the YPG. Building on strong foundations, we delivered programs and services that allowed us to connect with and impact an estimated 300 young professionals, 350 post-secondary students, and 400 members of the public. This impact was possible because of careful planning, the commitment of volunteers, and the support of ACEC-BC staff.

This year the group effectively delivered the following across the province:

- 13 breakfast seminars,
- 9 social events, and
- 8 student outreach events.

Before the end of the summer we also plan to deliver another:

- 2 breakfast seminars,
- 8 social events, and
- 1 student outreach event.

Offering high quality breakfast seminars which provide YPs with tools and lessons that they can apply to actively advance their careers remains a top priority for the YPG. These seminars focus on soft skills development in the areas of communication, legal competency, leadership, and project delivery. This year's breakfast seminar topics ranged from "Contractor/Consultant Relationships from a Contractor's Perspective" through "The Power of Influence: Speaking to Make Things Happen" to

“Junior Engineers implementing Social Responsibility Successfully”. There were a total of 363 tickets and passes sold for these breakfasts this year.

Our group understands the value of a strong network and works hard to give the YPs we serve ample opportunities to connect in a social environment. This year’s social events included the annual Curling event, an Investors Group “Dinner and Learn”, a Big White ski trip and an escape room event - “The Great Escape”. We also seized opportunities to connect with other young professionals by hosting joint events with the Canadian Bar Association - Young Lawyers Group and the Planning Institute of BC’s newly formed young professionals group. We are looking to connect with the Chartered Professional Accountants of BC - Young Professionals Forum, the BC Construction Roundtable Under 40 group, and the IEEE young professionals before the end of the summer. We will also be hosting a YPG municipal mixer to meet and mingle with YPs from municipalities across the Lower Mainland. Altogether, we have sold more than 200 tickets for these social events this year.

We have worked hard this year to provide additional volunteering opportunities for members that have identified that they want to volunteer without the commitment of being a committee member. We developed an ACEC-BC Ambassador position and on May 26th hosted a webinar to identify volunteer opportunities within the association and educate attendees about the association with the goal of giving them the information and confidence they need to represent the association at outreach events. We are also looking to connect with UBC’s tri-mentorship program to make it easy for YPs to become mentors and provide guidance and support to those who will be following in our footsteps. We see this as the best way for us to have a lasting positive impact on the next generation of engineers. We will also continue to organize student outreach events to connect with UBC, UBCO, BCIT, UVIC, and Camosun College to share information about consulting and open students’ eyes to career possibilities in this exciting field.

Fueled by a desire to have an impact not only within our industry, we have also connected with our communities to increase public awareness of engineering. We ran a consultants’ contraption event at Guildford Town Centre on April 24th in support of Geering Up! (a science and engineering program out of UBC). We also volunteered with Science World’s Scientists and Innovators in the Schools program connecting with over 100 elementary school aged children and we plan to reinforce our connection with Science World by again engaging volunteers to run an engineering event during Science World’s six-week summer camp program.

To meet objectives from our three year plan, we have started to plan a YPG conference for next year. This conference will aim to bring together YPs from across the province and provide high quality professional development and networking opportunities. We also see this as a potential forum for connecting YPs with more seasoned professionals through informal social events associated with the conference. We have already connected with the YP group from Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA) who ran their third annual conference this year. Leveraging their experience and lessons learned we have started to organize our first conference for April or May of 2017.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve as the Chair of the YPG this year. Our committee was a strong and diverse team that achieved much this year and I hope that they feel proud of what has been accomplished. On behalf of the YPG, I would also like to acknowledge and thank Lia Spidlen, ACEC-BC’s Marketing Coordinator, who tirelessly supported our group taking care of all of the logistics, allowing us to focus on content. Her organizational skills and positive attitude made her an invaluable asset to our team.

At this point I would like to acknowledge all of the 2015/2016 Provincial and Regional Committee members and YP representative on the ACEC-BC mainline committees for all of their hard work and dedication and welcome next year’s ACEC-BC steering committee and YP reps:

Provincial Committee

Position	2015/2016 Outgoing Committee	2016/2017 Incoming Committee
Chair	Siobhan Robinson	Zahra Pirani
Vice Chair	Graeme McAllister	Joey Chiu
Past Chair	Tijana Smiljanic	Siobhan Robinson
Communications	Joey Chiu	Gabriene Kaechele
Professional Development & Education	Imran Gehlen	Dani Delaloye
Lower Mainland Chair	Zahra Pirani	David Marchand
Vancouver Island Chair	Caroline Silins	Caroline Silins
Okanagan Chair	Tia Haunts	Jason Foster, Yolanda Moser ¹
ACEC Canada YPN representative	Tijana Smiljanic	Siobhan Robinson

1. Jason and Yolanda are Co-Chairing the Okanagan Group in 2016/2017

Regional Committees

Lower Mainland

Position	2015/2016 Outgoing Committee	2016/2017 Incoming Committee
Chair	Zahra Pirani	David Marchand
Vice Chair	David Marchand	Joey Chiu
Past Chair	Siobhan Robinson	Zahra Pirani
Communications	Gabriene Kaechele	Leila Ang
Professional Development & Education	Dani Delaloye	David Ellis
Networking	David Ellis	Pia Abercromby
Volunteer Management	Katherine Miller	Katherine Miller
Student Outreach	David Walker	Graham Lovely
Community Involvement	Bridget Lane	Bridget Lane

Vancouver Island

Position	2015/2016 Outgoing Committee	2016/2017 Incoming Committee
Chair	Caroline Silins	Caroline Silins
Past Chair	Mark Byram	N/A
Vice Chair	Craig Appelman	Max Scruton
Communications	David Palmer	David Palmer
Networking	David Palmer	David Walking
Student Outreach	Max Scruton	Max Scruton

Okanagan

Position	2015/2016 Outgoing Committee	2016/2017 Incoming Committee
Chair	Tia Haunts	Yolanda Moser Jason Foster
Vice Chair	Jason Foster	N/A
Past Chair	Natasha Orlitzky	N/A
Communications	Jade Jordan	Robyn Sherstobitoff
Professional Development & Education	N/A	Justin VannPashak
Networking	Steve Tobler	Steven Tobler
Volunteer Management	Steven Cheek	Steven Cheek
Community/ Student Outreach	N/A	Vacant

Young Professional Committee Representatives

Committee	2015/2016 Outgoing Committee Representatives	2016/2017 Incoming Committee Representatives
Municipal Engineering	David Ellis	Zahra Pirani
Business Practice	Graeme McAllister	Graeme McAllister
Transportation	Joey Chiu	David Ellis
Building Engineering	Graham Lovely	Graham Lovely
Resource and Energy	Zahra Pirani	Dani Delaloye
Membership Affairs	Suki Gill	Suki Gill
Professional Development	Mark Byram	Daniel Tillie

Respectfully Submitted,
Siobhan Robinson, Chair, ACEC-BC YPG Provincial Steering Committee

Leading From Where You Are...

Have you ever heard the following comment by a frustrated manager of a professional consulting firm when things were not going well: *“if we only had more leaders we would achieve great things in our business”*? In fact, I’ve used it myself when I felt that members of the group I was asked to lead were not performing to what I felt was their potential. Over the subsequent decades I learned that engaging others was a powerful tool that could create advances for both the business itself and for their individual career.

This article is addressed to those engineers and scientists who aspire to be one of those leaders who achieve great things in their business. My comments and recommendations are based only on my personal experiences, and the research and career insights on leadership that I have gained thus far in my career. I say, ‘thus far’ because I firmly believe that leadership is a journey and not a destination. Indeed, the best leaders are committed to continuous improvement and learning. You don’t have to be recognized with a title, years of experience or gray hair to lead others. You can lead from your current position, wherever it may be.

What is Leadership?

Throughout my career as a consultant, and now as an Executive Coach, one frequent question I was asked is: *“what is leadership all about and how can I lead when I’m not the boss?”*

The volume of published literature on leadership is immense. There are thousands of books written each year on this subject. Many provide valuable insights and recommendations about leadership. I encourage you to search around and find those books that will help you. Consider this as part of your journey of discovery.

Over the past 35 years I have reviewed many books and publications. I have attended numerous training sessions and have had my leadership style and personality traits analyzed and picked apart by at least six surveys. That was an experience! One thing I learned from that part of my career journey is that to be a better leader you must seek out feedback and aspire to invest in your leadership, through observational skills development and knowledge. It will take time. There is no shortcut.

There are dozens of definitions of leadership and each provides a different viewpoint. I recommend you find the one that resonates most for you. I have always liked the following definition of leadership

that [Peter Senge](#) offered: *Leadership is the capacity of a human community to shape its future.*

Creating capacity in a human community is achieved by anyone who is willing to help others learn by sharing their knowledge. There is great satisfaction felt in the growth and achievement of everyone in the community, regardless of size. It's about the collective, not about the power and authority of individual heroes. It is thinking about others and recognizing that when the community in your workplace (i.e., your group, office or project team) grows together, great things can happen.

Peter Senge's definition of leadership expresses selfless sharing of your talents in service to others so that the community you have joined can shape its future. Self-determination has always been a powerful driver of human motivation. Similarly, [Jim Collins](#), another highly referenced business writer, refers to this style of leadership as being 'Level 5 Leadership', the blend of professional will and personal humility.

The capacity of your community to shape its future is all about helping your community to move towards their individual and collective dreams, using creativity to accomplish things that matter. Each of you can inspire others to action by being willing to ask for help, by being generous with praise for others, and by being honest about your failures.

Let me share a few suggestions about how you can lead regardless of your position or organizational seniority. My intent is that these suggestions are both practical and actionable by young professionals.

Shaping the Future - Leading from Wherever You Are

Create an environment of trust. The foundation of leadership and strong teams is mutual trust and respect. Trust requires a level of openness and honesty that is often missing in business. When was the last time you wandered into your team leader's office and expressed your lack of understanding of a task you were asked to perform?

You might remember the film or TV program *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* Contestants were given three choices:

- You can answer yourself (but you may not know the answer),
- You can phone a friend (that's the person beside you in the office, your buddy from school, or even Google), or
- You can ask the crowd (that is your work group, team, or technical community).

Recall that the best answers on that program were always when the person 'asked the crowd'. I believe this also applies to our own work environments. So, trust that your colleagues know a little more than you do, and don't be shy to talk to those in your group, technical community or others and thereby 'ask the crowd'.

You can't lead others unless you are very clear about what you are being asked to do. Clarity is key! Here's a typical scenario: you are briefed about a project which you are not sure about. You don't speak up because you don't want anyone to think you are not capable or that you haven't been listening. Here, you have hit that proverbial fork in the road. You need to go back and ask more questions until you completely understand. In my experience, those individuals who took the initiative to ask the right questions until they could articulate the task always impressed me as a developing leader and one to watch and nurture. In retrospect, many of those same people ended up running companies or became world class technical gurus later in their careers.

Be willing to get involved. If you are asked to work on a challenging project, say 'yes' even if it feels like a stretch. It's about commitment. Be that dependable person that others refer to often. Better

yet, go and *find* exciting projects and opportunities that you feel will help you learn and provide opportunities to contribute. Commitment is more than hours in the office. It's about committing to the company and the team you work with to share your talents and to learn from each other. As your community grows, so will your leadership.

Be a community builder. For any community to exist there must be two conditions: the members must contribute and be connected. Be an active contributor to your community at work (and at home for that matter) by looking ahead and anticipating needs, by being there when others require support and by offering as much as you are capable of offering. These days it is common to think that everyone is connected using Facebook, email or text messages. While these tools have created some opportunities for people to interact, they are no replacement for human interaction. If you listen to those in your community, you will be amazed at what you learn.

And finally, it's about communication. Whether written or spoken, communication is perhaps one of the most critical, yet overlooked skill of engineers and scientists. Invest in yourself to improve your communication skills. Help your colleagues to do the same. When you communicate with great clarity, others begin to ask for your input, seek out your view and ultimately share your passions.

Leadership is not something that you acquire later in life, it happens every day. I hope the simple steps I have outlined in this article will help you on your journey to becoming a more capable leader.

Brian H Conlin, MASC, P.Eng

About the Author: Brian spent most of the last 35 years at Golder Associates where he had performed virtually every job in the company, from a field engineer when the firm had about 200 people, to CEO of the global organization when it grew to over 9000 people a few years ago. He completed a successful CEO transition in 2015 and now operates his own business as an Executive Coach, Board member and business consultant to (mostly) professional services organizations across North America. His focus is on strengthening the leadership abilities of executives, their teams and boards. He can be reached at bhconlin@bhconlinconsulting.com.

ACEC-BC YPG Regional Group Updates

Lower Mainland Group

The Lower Mainland YPG has had a very successful year. We are welcoming some new committee members and are excited for the 2016/2017 season.

Professional Development

We had three fantastic breakfast seminars in April!

On April 8th Lianna Mah, Vice President of Business Development at Associated Engineering, delivered an interactive session where young professionals were challenged to develop their personal brand. She led YPs through a series of exercises where they worked to identify what differentiated them from colleagues and how they could use their unique value proposition to promote themselves.

Our second seminar in April was given by Pamela Rogalski, a professor at UBC and co-founder of the Engineering Leadership Council. Her presentation left us with many concrete ways to incorporate social justice and social responsibility into our engineering design work.

The 2015/2016 ACECBC Lower Mainland Breakfast Seminar Series finished on a high note last Friday, April 27th. Chris Mealing, Managing Director of Mott MacDonald Canada, spoke to the group about charting a career path as a consulting engineer. He shared some candid advice drawn from his years of experience and challenged the YP's in the room not to get too hung up on deciding today whether to become a project manager or a technical expert.

Planning for the 2016/2017 Breakfast Seminars is already underway. Information related to purchasing season passes will be distributed shortly. Stay tuned! For more details, please visit <https://www.acec-bc.ca/events/event-details/?Ev>

Networking Events

The ACEC-BC Young Professionals Group and the Young Lawyers Group co-hosted the annual whisky tasting night at the Shebeen Whisky House on May 12th. This was a great event with almost 40 attendees and an equal showing from the young lawyers and engineers. After an instruction on the varieties of whisky and how to properly taste the “water of life” we all enjoyed a flight of whiskies from across Scotland.

We have several events remaining in the year, including the upcoming YPG Municipal Mixer networking event in cooperation with the ACEC-BC Municipal Engineering Committee. The event will allow young professionals from the consulting industry an opportunity to network with our counterparts from the municipal community. The event will be held on July 26th at the Element Hotel near Metrotown in Burnaby.



Community Involvement

The 2016 Consultant's Contraption took place at Guildford Town Centre on April 24th. It was a great success, raising \$3000 for UBC's GeeringUp! Engineering and Science for Kids. The event saw young and old come out to view the Rube Goldberg machine assembled by teams from R.F. Binnie and Associates Ltd., SNC-Lavalin Inc, AECOM and Associated Engineering. Members of the community voted on their favorite and the proud winners were the team from Binnie!

As Fan Favorite, the Binnie module was invited to display at the ACEC Annual Golf Tournament where it became part of fundraising efforts for Science World's youth



program, Scientist and Innovators in the School.

The SNC-Lavalin module will be on display soon at the UPGyrse Let's Clean Up the Oceans Concert June 25th. More info on this even can be found at www.upgyres.org/events.

We would like to thank all our participating teams and our in-kind donors for making this year's event a success.

In-kind donors included: McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., CH2M HILL Canada Limited and Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Okanagan Group

The Okanagan YPG welcomed a few new faces to the steering committee this year - Tia Haunts, Steven Cheek, Yolanda Moser and Steve Tobler. The Okanagan YPs have had a busy season hosting a number of engaging professional development seminars, networking and social events.

Professional Development

The Okanagan YPG hosted 3 breakfast seminars in the winter/spring season. Influential Okanagan based author and speaker, Rae Stonehouse, presented in January on the topic of “The Power of Influence: Speaking to Make Things Happen.” The presentation was very engaging and had many interested in Toastmasters International.

Angus English, the Lower Mainland regional manager for MMM/WSP presented on Career Path Planning in March. Angus led the YP group through an informed discussion on choosing between a technical and management focused career.

To finish off the year, Dr. Carolyn Labun from UBCO spoke to the YPG in April on tips for consulting engineers to develop their technical writing abilities for clarity and conciseness. The seminar received positive feedback and the YPs were receptive to the tangible advice that Carolyn provided. The breakfast seminars are a great way for the entire Okanagan YPG to expand our professional network. We were thrilled to learn more from Rae, Angus and Carolyn.

Social/Networking Events

The Okanagan YPG hosted young professionals from the Lower Mainland for a night ski trip up at Big White in March. This was a fun social event and a great opportunity for the Okanagan YPG to meet other young professionals from around the province.

In conjunction with the young lawyers and the young accountants group in Kelowna, the Okanagan YPG is planning a boat cruise in June. Stay tuned for more details.

The Okanagan YPG hopes to wrap up this year with one final social event in Kelowna - most likely an after work happy hour. This will be a great opportunity for YPs to connect with the Okanagan committee and learn more about who we are.

Plans for Next Year

The Okanagan YPG is planning a leisurely bike trip for YPs at the historic Kettle Valley Railway trestles. The bike trip is being planned for a Saturday in mid-September. Stay tuned for more details. We are also planning 3 breakfast seminars for next year - one of which will likely have a sustainability focus.

Vancouver Island Group

On April 28th the Vancouver Island group hosted a breakfast seminar about the BC River Forecast Centre which monitors the province for both floods and droughts to better protect the public and prepare for these events. Tobi Gardner from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations highlighted the drought of 2015 that swept the province and the role the River Forecast Centre played.

A few upcoming breakfast seminars and social events include:

- June 24th, 2016: Business Etiquette seminar in Victoria by Regina Gershman, Mediator, Etiquette Coach and Author
- May 26th, 2016: Ping Pong Tournament at the GOAL Engineering office
- May 25th, 2016: UVic Civil Engineering Industry and Student Mixer

Keep an eye on the website for additional details and to sign up! If you are interested in becoming a company champion or have any feedback or comments please contact Caroline Silins (csilins@thurber.ca)

ACEC-BC Committee Updates

Municipal Engineering Committee

The ACEC-BC Municipal Engineering Committee (MEC) had a busy spring hosting a number of successful events, including the Surrey Mixer on May 17th and the Metro Vancouver Mixer on May 25th. These two events represent the end to a year filled with successful mixer events! We look forward to an even busier year next year with eight mixer events planned over the Fall 2016 / Spring 2017.

In cooperation with the ACEC-BC Young Professionals Group, the MEC will be co-hosting a YPG Municipal Mixer event which will allow young professionals from the consulting industry an opportunity to network with their counterparts from the municipal community. The event will be held on July 19th at the Element Hotel near Metrotown in Burnaby.

Business Practice Committee

The Business Practice Committee acts to monitor the issues that affect the business interests of ACEC-BC member firms. The committee had another successful year, with key accomplishments including updating the *ACEC-BC Engineering Fee Guidelines*, updating the *Budgeting Engineering Services Guidelines for Infrastructure and Transportation*, and issuing a document for the ACEC-BC newsletter on Administering Bidding Irregularities. The key focus of the group moving forward will include a review of issues arising from a Consultant being named as Prime Contractor and continued review around Contractual issues effecting engineering consultants.

Transportation Committee

The ACEC-BC Transportation Committee represents member firms in the transportation industry committed to planning, building, and maintaining the infrastructure of BC and improving the relationship between private and public organizations. Liaison committees with the BCMoTI and TransLink as well as various Sub-Committees help the industry focus on specific issues, including

climate change, technological improvements, and procurement procedures.

This year, the Committee continued to develop guidelines to address the shifting climate and its impacts on infrastructure. BC is leading the way for setting the standard and is expecting to create a guidebook by summer 2016. Currently, a “Quality Professional” is required to evaluate climate impacts, however, this term may benefit from having a more rigid definition.

BCMoTI has also been planning to transition from CaiCE to Civil3D and is expecting to have standards and templates ready by this year. During rollout, a sample project and videos will be provided to consultants for training. BCMoTI has also proposed to simplify e-RISP categories by eliminating unused categories and grouping together sub-divided categories. The TransLink Committee included talks on indemnity clauses, supplier code of conduct, and project updates, including plans to replace the Pattullo Bridge and procurement of a Broadway RTS. The Quality Assurance Sub-Committee reported that ACEC-BC has successfully negotiated with Partnership BC to implement improved field reviews and quality assurance review in PPP.

Building Engineering

The ACEC-BC Buildings Committee is currently discussing many topics across the building design engineering industry and how they relate to ACEC-BC.

Current topics of discussion include:

- AIBC/MOH meetings;
- The issue of recognizing P TECHs with ASTTBC, which is now with APEGBC;
- Use of electronic seals with Municipalities;
- Organizing mixers with BC Housing (Complete) and others to come;
- Continued discussion on the use of BIM;
- Health and Safety Seminar for consulting firms;
- Carbon Neutral & Net Zero Residential Retrofits in BC; and
- BC Hydro service planning issues.

Resource and Energy Committee

The Resource and Energy Committee objectives are:

- 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.

Presentations relevant to the committee included policy breakfast with Karina Brino of the Mining Association of BC and David Keane of the BC LNG Alliance. There was a successful mixer in March featuring LNG Canada with Andy Calitz of Shell providing updates of their project. The focus of the committee for the remainder of the year will remain on BC Hydro, LNG, and mining, and promoting economic development projects such as pipelines.

Membership Affairs

The Membership Affairs committee has met three times since the beginning of 2016 and has been working diligently to reach out to potential corporate member firms, associate member firms and affiliate member firms. ACEC-BC welcomes AC Eagle Enterprises as a new member, and Aviva Canada as a new affinity partner.

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development committee promoted the ACEC-BC Transportation Conference in which 350 delegates were in attendance; it was a sold out event (including the tours!). Also this season the committee hosted an Aboriginal Engagement Panel Discussion, a Business Development seminar, a Langley-White Rock Mixer, and a TransLink Mixer. In addition, the Awards Gala was held on April 9th and showcased key projects across British Columbia.

Featured YP of the Quarter

Kevin Leggett

Kevin Leggett, PEng, completed a Diploma of Technology in Civil Engineering in 2006 and graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from BCIT in 2009. Prior to completing his Bachelor's Degree, Kevin joined McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd. (McElhanney) in 2006 as a Civil Engineering Technologist, and in 2009, he was made a Transportation Engineer with the ever-growing Transportation Division. In January 2015, Kevin was further promoted to Project Manager.

At McElhanney, Kevin has been able to focus on aspects of transportation design that are of particular interest to him, including highway geometric design, interchange planning and design, and future trends including roundabout design, and optimizing right-of-ways for efficient use of space. With a few bigger projects under his belt now, including the Departure Bay Ferry Terminal Improvements, the Highway 1 Eastbound Truck Climbing Lane, and the Highway No. 97A / Main Street Roundabout, Kevin hopes to continue to develop his skills in project management relating to large infrastructure projects.



“When I started as an Engineering Technologist, I worked on the Departure Bay Ferry Terminal Improvements project as a Civil Designer - the first project of my career,” he says. **“I felt lucky to see its development through all stages of design and into construction.”** Kevin says his team’s ability to deliver innovative design solutions to clients has kept them winning these interesting projects. **“By leveraging the experience of some of my colleagues and collaborating with them, I am able to become more innovative in my role.”**

That innovation has paid off. In the last two years, Kevin has been presented with two awards: McElhanney’s internal C.F. Newcomb Award, in recognition of his hard work, dedication, and significant contribution towards helping McElhanney achieve its vision, and he was part of the project team that won the Deputy Minister’s Consulting Engineer Award, in recognition of Excellence in Design and Contract Preparation for Highway 1, Malahat Safety Improvement Project (Shawnigan Lake Road to

Summit Weather Station), for which he was the Lead Highway Designer.

Kevin isn't quick to take all the credit for his achievements though. He attributes a good deal of his recent successes to the supportive environment in which he's worked and to the mentorship opportunities he's had. "I've been fortunate to work with professionals who have provided me with a lot of mentorship, and perhaps the greatest advice I have received is that the best way to grow your career is by developing someone else's," he says. "They can be someone more senior or junior than you, a client or a colleague."

Taking that advice to heart, Kevin likes to participate in mentoring relationships himself, and volunteers his time as an industry sponsor for BCIT students during term projects. This way, he says, he is able to give back to his school as an alumnus, but also learn a little from engineers-to-be. Recruiting events, career fairs, and professional nights are also an opportunity for him to talk with students about careers in the consulting industry.

Kevin shares this advice with other YPs in the industry: There's no shortage of value in attending industry and networking events, and participating in external groups such as ACEC's YPG, to gain as much knowledge from as many sources as possible. "There are things I've picked up from attending these events that I just wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn in-office," he says. "I have been fortunate to attend a number of ACEC events as a YP, including conferences, breakfast seminars, golf tournaments, and other social events. Additionally, I participated in the FIDIC Young Professional Management Training program and attended the Centenary Conference in 2013 in Barcelona, which allowed me to further develop my management skills and network with professionals from all around the world."

Young Professional Network

In an effort to connect the Young Professional Groups across the country, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies - Canada (ACEC) Young Professional Network (YPN) was created few years ago by Provincial Young Professional (YP) group members. The mission of the 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 YPN had a very successful year thus far. The group met three times and representatives from each member organization YP groups were able to provide an update on their group's activities as well as share information and ideas. The group also updated its Terms of Reference document to reflect current practices.

In addition, the YPN is assisting in development of the YP business program at the ACEC Annual Summit and National Convention, with the YPN Chair sitting on the conference advisory board. This year the format of the conference is changing and it will be combined with the annual ACEC Awards Gala. The conference will be held in Ottawa in October and will allow delegates to participate in ACEC's "Parliament Hill Day". The YPN is currently working on developing a YP only activity for the Sunday afternoon/night prior to the conference start. To help YPs across Canada attend the conference, YPN updated the "Attendance Justification Kit" and distributed the document to all member organization YP groups for use.

The YPN also maintains close relationship with the International Federation for Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) Young Professionals Forum (YPF) - the global voice of consulting engineers. Two Canadian FIDIC

YPF representatives regularly attend YPN meetings and share global initiatives with the group. This year, several members of the YPN provided content for the FIDIC YPF Newsletter showcasing activities of the Canadian YP groups.

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>.

