

ACEC-BC YPG QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER – FALL 2016

NEWSLETTER FOREWORD BY ZAHRA PIRANI, CHAIR, ACEC-BC YPG PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE

The 2016 / 2017 Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of British Columbia (ACEC-BC) Young Professionals Group (YPG) Steering Committee has already begun planning a variety of new events and initiatives for the year. These events and initiatives aim to support our committee mandate of promoting young professionals (YPs) within the consulting industry, advancing their knowledge of business practice, and contributing to their success and integration within the consulting engineering business in BC.

The YPG Steering Committee generally publishes several newsletters per year in order to keep YPs up to speed on recent events and activities. As this is our first newsletter of the year, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you the 2016 / 2017 YPG Steering Committee:

2016 / 2017 Provincial Committee

Chair	Zahra Pirani
Past Chair	Siobhan Robinson
Vice Chair	Joey Chiu
Communications	Gabriene Kaechele
Professional Development and Education	Dani Delaloye
Lower Mainland Chair	David Marchand
Vancouver Island Chair	Caroline Silins
Okanagan Co-Chair	Jason Foster
Okanagan Co-Chair	Yolanda Moser
Thompson-Nicola Chair	Position Available
ACEC Canada YPN representative	Position Available



ZAHRA PIRANI
Chair, ACEC-BC YPG Provincial Committee

2016 / 2017 Regional Committees

	Lower Mainland	Vancouver Island	Okanagan
Chair	David Marchand	Caroline Silins	Jason Foster / Yolanda Moser
Past Chair	Zahra Pirani	Caroline Silins	Natasha Orlitzky
Vice Chair	Joey Chiu	Max Scruton	Position Available
Communications	Leila Ang	David Palmer	Robyn Sherstobitoff
Professional Development and Education	David Ellis	David Walking	Justin VannPashak
Networking	Pia Abercromby	Position Available	Steven Cheek
Volunteer Management	Katherine Miller	Position Available	Position Available
Student Outreach	Graham Lovely	Max Scruton	Position Available
Community Involvement	Bridget Lane	Position Available	Position Available

SUMMARY OF PLANNED EVENTS AND INITIATIVES

The YPG Steering Committee plans to continue hosting professional development breakfast seminars, networking events, and student and community outreach events in each region (i.e. Lower Mainland, Okanagan, and Vancouver Island). If you live and work outside one of these regions and would like to get involved with the YPG, please get in touch! There are still many ways to get involved.

For those that live within the Lower Mainland, Okanagan, or Vancouver Island, the breakfast seminars offer an opportunity to engage and learn from respected speakers on the soft skills topics such as business development, communications and project management. In addition, the networking events are a great way to mix and mingle with like-minded YPs from other consulting companies. We plan to continue the tradition of hosting a couple of networking events where we collaborate with other YP organizations, such as Young Lawyers, to diversify networking for all participating groups.

The YPG Steering Committee aims to maintain and strengthen the relationships with our local colleges and universities by attending career fairs, mixers, and networking events. In addition, the committee has been working on getting involved with the UBC Mentoring Program. Although the Consultants' Contraption will not be held this year, the Steering Committee is excited to announce that planning is underway for the first ever ACEC-BC YPG Conference, to be held in May 2017, so stay tuned!

We are looking forward to a fantastic year! If you have any ideas, questions, or comments, or you would like to get more involved with the ACEC-BC YPG, please don't hesitate to contact us at info@acec-bc.ca

Zahra Pirani, Chair, ACEC-BC Provincial YPG Steering Committee

ACEC-BC YPG REGIONAL GROUP UPDATES

LOWER MAINLAND GROUP

The 2016 / 2017 Lower Mainland Committee features many new faces this year. The team is comprised of nine 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.

We continue to focus on delivering engaging professional development seminars and networking events, while also reaching out to the student population and our general community. We look forward to seeing you at a future event!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

On Friday, September 30, Tim Stanley, P.Eng., Chair of ACEC-BC and President of Stratic Consulting, delivered our first YPG breakfast seminar of the year. Tim's presentation, entitled "*The Accidental Engineer*" took us through his career highlighting how relationships, mentors and flexibility provided a foundation for his career path to date.

Our next YPG breakfast seminar is scheduled for Friday, November 4, which will feature Jeff McLellan, BFL CANADA Insurance Services Ltd. Jeff is a recognized leader in his field; His presentation titled "*What is the No in your Go / No-Go?*", will focus on key issues that all consulting firms encounter when negotiating contracts. Jeff will provide specific examples of problematic contract terms that are regularly included in Request for Proposals (RFPs) and contract agreements. He will share claim examples and offer a better understanding on how professional liability insurance responds to these matters to protect the consultant.

We have an exciting line-up this year, please visit <https://www.acec-bc.ca/events/> for upcoming sessions.

NETWORKING

Our first event of the year was a success (and fun!) pub social at the Elephant and Castle, in collaboration with the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. It was an excellent way to meet some fellow engineers and make contacts for the future while enjoying a relaxing night out.

The next event had us 'ROARING' at the BC Lions Game on Friday, October 14, with some great company from the BCIT and UBC chapters of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineers.

Coming up: we're hosting a Trivia Night and preparing for the annual Curling Tournament in the New Year. Keep watching the ACEC-BC website for the current listing of social activities.

STUDENT OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

We plan to spend some time visiting BCIT, UBC, and SFU, mingling with our future consulting engineers. And while we are at it, we intend to continue our relationship with schools and organizations with programs that focus on developing the budding scientist and engineer in students.

We also hope to engage the community through smaller, but equally important, events throughout the year.

VOLUNTEERING

If you live in the Lower Mainland and you're interested in volunteering, we have many opportunities available including serving as a Company Champion and/or Ambassador for your company, or spending a couple hours every so often volunteering for our events. Please feel free to email info@acec-bc.ca if you would like to share your time with us – we would love to have you on board!

VANCOUVER ISLAND GROUP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

Our next YPG breakfast seminar is scheduled for Friday, December 2, featuring Jeff McLellan of BFL CANADA Insurance Services Ltd. He'll be taking on the road with him the very well received presentation "What is the No in your Go / No-Go?". Jeff will provide a candid perspective on what consulting engineers should be looking out for when dealing with contracts.

Future breakfast seminars will include:

- A talk by Mike Cunningham, a Principal at Graphite Public Affairs, providing government relations and corporate communication services; and
- A seminar on how to manage your professional presence on social media and social media marketing for smaller businesses with expert Juhli Selby.

NETWORKING EVENT

The Vancouver Island committee would like to thank Craig Appelman for his exceptional work on the committee. Craig brought pivotal contacts from local committees into our network. His organizational skills were a great asset when planning our socials. The Escape Room event last year could not have been a success without him and we hope to see him at the next event!

This year, we are excited to have Dave Walkling join the committee as the networking contact for the Vancouver Island committee!

STUDENT OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

One of our objectives for the year is to build on the success of past years participation in the University of Victoria's Industry Night and the Camosun College industry events. This year we are keen to get more Young Professional members involved with our outreach initiatives. In doing so, we hope to share more diverse experiences and knowledge of BC's consulting industry with even more prospective engineers.

Another goal this year is to organize a visit to a local public school to stimulate interest and inspire curiosity in the area of engineering.

VOLUNTEERING

If you are interested in becoming a company champion or have any feedback or comments please contact Caroline Silins at Csilins@thurber.ca.

OKANAGAN

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS AND NETWORKING EVENTS

The Okanagan group has been busy planning an exciting year for YPs in the Interior! We are kicking off the year with both professional development seminars (technical and soft skills), and social events. Details on a breakfast seminar in late November/early December and a social event before Christmas will be released soon. These events will be a great opportunity for YPs to meet others in the area and start building a professional network, which is so important in our industry.

We are currently working on updating and expanding our Okanagan company champions and mailing lists. If you would like to be added to this list, please email us at info@acec-bc.ca and mention that you are in the Interior. This is the best way to stay updated on events and interesting tidbits!

VOLUNTEERING

The Okanagan Committee is still looking for members. It's a great opportunity to get involved and expand your network. If you're interested but not ready to commit to a full position, consider sharing it with a friend or co-worker. Okanagan chairing duties are currently being shared by two people, Yolanda Moser and Jason Foster, and they find the arrangement to be very beneficial. If there's anything else you'd like to share, please send us an email. We'd love to hear your ideas about breakfast seminars, socials events and all things ACEC-BC!

2016 ACEC CANADA SUMMIT AND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Members of ACEC-BC are also members of the national organization, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) that represents members' interests at the federal level. One of the key strategies of ACEC is to engage and empower members through communication and opportunities for participation as well as to deliver and demonstrate value to members.

One way that ACEC achieves these goals is by organizing the Annual Summit and National Convention where members across Canada can participate in an industry conference that offers business and social programs as well as many networking opportunities. Four ACEC-BC YPG representatives attended the ACEC-Canada Leadership Conference from October 23rd to 25th in Ottawa, Ontario. The conference focused on driving business for future success and shaping policy to create a positive environment for the sector. Our representatives:

- Connected with YPs and industry leaders from other provinces and territories to share experiences and strengthen relationships;
- Participated in a special YP workshop “MBA 101 – Management Fundamentals for Engineers” which provided fundamentals and gave YPs a chance to apply lessons learned in a case study;
- Explored sector challenges and opportunities with national decision makers and industry trailblazers during the conference sessions;
- Joined in our industry's efforts to shape policy by meeting with Members of Parliament; and
- Celebrated excellence at the Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards Gala.



2016 ACEC Summit and National Convention

Siobhan Robinson, ACEC-BC YPG Past Chair

2016 ACEC-BC BOARD RETREAT

The 2016 ACEC-BC Board of Directors Annual Planning Retreat was held in Whistler from the evening of Thursday September 9 to mid-day Saturday, September 10. The Retreat was a great way to kick-off the 2016 / 2017 year and created an ideal time to complete a review of last year's goals, outstanding and upcoming issues related to the engineering consulting industry, ACEC-BC metrics, and business conditions, among other topics. The Board continues acting on this momentum by meeting once per month. The YPG is represented on the Board by the Provincial Chair of the YPG, who holds an Ex Officio role.

2016 CHANGES TO MORTGAGE LENDING RULES WILL AFFECT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

ACEC-BC Associate Member, EMC Mortgages, gives an update on the changes to mortgage lending policies recently announced by the Canadian government that will affect first time home buyers. Here are the changes:

“Stress Test”: mortgage lending rates are expected to climb in 2017. As a result, home buyers will need to qualify for loans based on a *projected* benchmark rate of 5.49%, rather than securing loans based on current lending rates (about 2.99%). This means that in the summer of 2016, borrowers with a household income of about \$65,000 could have qualified for a mortgage loan needed to purchase a \$250,000 property. With the new changes in place, qualifying for such a property will require a household income north of \$85,000.

If lending rates increase as projected, homeowners who are up for renewal in 2017 may see a significant increase in their monthly interest payments.

Other changes to lending policy include a 10% minimum down payment on homes worth more than \$500,000, and a 15% transfer tax for foreign buyers.

For more information, EMC Mortgages will be presenting a “Clinic for First Time Home Buyers” in early 2017 to the Young Professionals Group. Be sure to attend, especially if you are planning a purchase in the near future. Questions about changing market conditions, or home finance in general, please contact EMC: 604-739-0320, www.emcmortgages.ca.

FEATURED YP OF THE QUARTER

TIJANA SMILJANIC, P.ENG

We are proud to shine light on Tijana Smiljanic who was awarded the Allen D. Williams Scholarship at the Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards Gala this past October in Ottawa.. Tijana acted as Chair of the ACEC-BC YPG in 2014 / 2015 and was our representative on the National YP Network last year. This scholarship is presented annually to a young professional, employed by an ACEC member firm, who demonstrates a commitment to the consulting engineering industry in their province or territory. Congratulations Tijana!

For more information on Tijana's accomplishments and on the Allen D. Williams Scholarship, please visit the online article:

<http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/allen-d-williams-scholarship-awarded-to-tijana-smiljanic-vancouver-consulting-engineer-598709001.html>

Do you know of a Young Professional who has contributed to the consulting engineering community? Or has completed some pretty cool projects, and their innovative style should not go unnoticed?

We would love to feature these individuals in an upcoming YP newsletter edition. Just send us their name, company name, and a short outline (250 words max) describing their studies, highlights of an interesting past project (or two), and what they are working on now, and email the info to jchiu@mcelhanney.com and Gabriene.Kaechele@parsons.com to consider for the next issue. Visit the ACEC website for a sample article, <http://www.acec-bc.ca/young-professionals/ypg-newsletter/>.



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 info@acec-bc.ca to become your firm's ACEC-BC YPG Company Champion.