



ACEC British Columbia

Newsbrief

February 2013



Message from the Chair

Steve Fleck, P.Eng, MBA

I am very pleased that Keith Sashaw has joined ACEC-British Columbia as the new President and Chief Executive Officer. Keith brings a wealth of experience and relationships from his 12 years with the Vancouver Regional Construction Association. Give him a call, introduce yourself and welcome him to ACEC-British Columbia.

Delivering the Goods, the 2013 Transportation Conference, just wrapped up on January 30th and was the most successful to date with more than 350 in attendance. Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and TransLink, the conference featured presentations and discussions around transportation infrastructure that supports and enhances the movement of goods across the Pacific Gateway.

There are many more events and activities coming up including additional seminars of the Young Professionals Group in Victoria and in the Okanagan. There is also a new series of Professional Development Seminars that will be of interest to consulting engineers of all levels of experience.

These events provide many opportunities for professional development, networking, business development, building relationships and strengthening our sense of community. They are important on another level, as they serve to further some of the organization's strategic goals including government relations, advocacy, image and public awareness.

Finally, don't forget that the 2013 Awards Gala will be held at the Vancouver Conference Centre, on April 6th. The premier annual event for the consulting engineering community in British Columbia, this is a great opportunity to network with your colleagues, industry partners and policy makers.

I look forward to meeting you at an ACEC British Columbia event in the near future.

Sincerely,

Steve Fleck, P.Eng, MBA
Chair, ACEC British Columbia

Upcoming Events

February 6

TransLink Mixer

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel

February 7

**YPG Okanagan Breakfast Seminar
Effective Communications Through
Technical Writing.**

Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna

February 13

**Building Client Relationships
Through Effective Agreements**

The Metropolitan Hotel, Vancouver

March 7

BC Hydro Mixer

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel

April 6

ACEC British Columbia Awards Gala

Vancouver Convention Centre

BCMOTI Deputy Minister's Consulting Engineers Awards

The BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure presented the Deputy Minister's Consulting Engineer Awards at a gala dinner on January 30th at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, as part of the *Delivering the Goods* Transportation Conference. Kudos to the award winners! For more information, see:

 [www.th.gov.bc.ca/
celebratingexcellence/engineers.htm](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/celebratingexcellence/engineers.htm)




The Awards Gala celebrates 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.

The gala takes place on Saturday **April 6, 2013** at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Registration opens soon – members will be notified by email. For the latest information and updates on the gala, see

 www.acec-bc.ca/awards.aspx

Vancouver Sun Awards Advertising Opportunities

ACEC-BC will once again team up with the Vancouver Sun to create a special editorial section highlighting the 2013 Awards for Engineering Excellence. As in past years, each advertisement purchased in the section will earn ACEC-BC additional editorial space. Your company gets exposure to clients in an engineering specific section and the industry as a whole gets more exposure to the public and decision makers. This special section will appear in the Vancouver Sun during the week of April 8th. If you would like more information please contact the Sun's Bill Mullaly at:


 604-605-2665

 bmullaly@sunprovince.com

Something You'd Like to See in Newsbrief?

As a member of ACEC British Columbia, Newsbrief belongs to *you*. If you have any ideas for content you'd like to see in this newsletter, please let us know by contacting the ACEC British Columbia office...

 info@acec-bc.ca

 (604) 687-2811

Your feedback is appreciated!

City of Vancouver Engineering Roundtable - Call for Participants

Deadline extended to February 8, 2013

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies BC is inviting its membership to consider submitting a proposal to participate in a roundtable discussion with the City of Vancouver Engineering Staff. The theme of the discussion will focus on municipal sustainability initiatives, the City's Greenest City 2020 Action Plan and the recently adopted 2040 Transportation Plan. The purpose of the discussion is for member firms to inform the City about innovative projects, products, techniques, services and benefits. Participants submitting proposals may also be selected to participate in other ACEC-BC Municipal Mixer events held throughout 2013/14.

The following are a sampling of topic areas the City wishes to consider for the event:

- Sustainable Streets and Neighbourhood Greenways
- Sustainable Concrete and Pavement Options
- Green Infrastructure Design
- Energy Conservation through Street Light Design
- Sustainable Financing and Funding for Green Initiatives
- Neighbourhood Energy Utilities
- Waste to Energy Recovery Options

Take advantage of this opportunity to share the industry's best practices, highlight projects and network with colleagues and City of Vancouver engineering staff. The roundtable will be held in the spring of 2013. The deadline for proposals has been extended to **February 8th, 2013 at 3pm**.

For submission guidelines and details related to this exciting opportunity please contact Mr. Brian McAskill, Communications and Policy Analyst of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – British Columbia

 (604) 687-2811 ext. 2

 brian@acec-bc.ca

Canada's Consulting Engineering Companies Applaud New Direction of Canada's Foreign Aid Approach

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada (ACEC) applauds recent remarks by the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) concerning the need to refocus our country's foreign aid priorities.

"The delivery of foreign aid is a major challenge in many parts of the world and we need the involvement of both NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and the private sector," said John Gamble, President of ACEC. "We support the creation of an environment where the private sector and NGOs can work side-by-side, leveraging their respective strengths and expertise."

Many of ACEC's 500 member firms have first-hand experience with the significant impact federal aid programs can have in both alleviating poverty and increasing self-reliance in developing countries. "Aid can take many forms, all of which can provide value. We are looking forward to an approach that puts more emphasis on community and economic infrastructure that helps create long-term self-reliance. This is an area where engineering companies can make a meaningful contribution," stated Mr. Gamble. "Infrastructure connects and strengthens communities, enables economic activity and protects the environment."

Another benefit, according to ACEC, is that these programs have the potential to showcase Canadian expertise and provide business opportunities for Canada's engineering sector. "We need not apologize if Canada's foreign aid also leads to greater opportunities for Canadian businesses," continued Gamble. Canada is the world's fifth largest exporter of engineering services and is well-regarded within the global engineering community.

ACEC and its member companies across Canada look forward to working closely with both government and NGOs as CIDA refocuses its foreign aid priorities.

For more information, please contact:

Michael Hatch,  mhatch@impactcanada.com

 613 233 8906

Investment in Infrastructure is Canada's Economic Health Care Program

Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B, President, MHCA

It is well established that sustained investment in public infrastructure brings results—enhanced economic productivity, higher competitiveness, and therefore, better rates of economic growth. And, it is this economic growth that generates revenue for governments with which to fund Canada's globally-envied health care, education, and social safety nets. Hence, our quality of life in this country. In short, investment in infrastructure is Canada's economic healthcare program.

In a set of cross-Canada roundtable meetings held this summer, the federal government explored how best to create and implement a Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP) that extends beyond the expiry of the Building Canada Plan in 2014.

It would appear that the Harper government's LTIP focus will be on investments in infrastructure which support long-term economic growth and prosperity, leveraging in the process both private sector partnership opportunities and funding from all levels of government to ensure national affordability and sustainability over the long term.

An Informetrica report on infrastructure and its impacts on productivity found that for every \$10 billion invested in local infrastructure, 115,000 new jobs are created and nominal GDP grows by 1.3%. The study also found that investments funded from growth taxes—specifically sales and income taxes—deliver a bigger boost to a slowing national economy than investments funded from municipal property taxes. And for \$1 invested in municipal infrastructure, roughly 35¢ is returned to the provincial and federal governments in direct financial benefits, mainly through increased sales and income tax revenue.

A 2010 Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario report underscored the economic importance of infrastructure by concluding that continued under-investment in infrastructure over the next 50 years will slow economic growth, reduce business profitability by up to 20%, and could cost the average Canadian enter-

ing the work force today up to \$51,000 in reduced wages over the course of a career.

Congestion on Canada's transportation system—railways, U.S. border crossings, airports, marine facilities and roadways—has devastating consequences on our nation's trade-dependent economy and our jobs. These assets must not only be well maintained, but they must be adequate to meet the current and future needs of the economy for Canada to remain internationally competitive.

Unfortunately, according to Statistics Canada, most of the core public infrastructure upon which Canadians depend upon was built in the 1950s and is rapidly approaching the end of its useful service life. Much of it will need to be rehabilitated or replaced within the next 10-15 years.

At the same time, Canada's population has not only increased from 16 million to approximately 34 million, it has become more urban, increasing from approximately 70% urban back then to over 80% today. The problem Canada faces is not only that our infrastructure is old, but in many cases, current daily demands on this infrastructure far exceed its intended design capacity.

The tragedy that occurred in Québec with the bridge collapse (shortly after a similar disaster in Minneapolis), or the bridge closure on Highway #1 east of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, will become all too common without a concerted effort on the part of Canadian governments at all levels to accelerate and sustain the pace of infrastructure re-investment.

The investments of the past three years—as large as they have been—have made only a small dent in our national infrastructure deficit. In its recent report card on Canada's infrastructure, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) found municipal infrastructure ranks between "fair" and "very poor." Replacing key assets such as drinking-water systems, wastewater and storm water networks, and municipal roads will cost \$171.8 billion, nationally.

How Canada renews and invests in its aging infrastructure over the next 10 years will determine our nation's economic, fiscal, and social health. Delaying today will place an impossible financial burden on present

and future generations, and will without question lower our standard of living.

Canada stands on a precipice. While the need to return to fiscal balance is important, it must be implemented in such a way as not to neglect important investments in our economic health. Canadians need to recognize and support the principle that investment in public infrastructure is Canada's economic health care program.

This article recently appeared in Canada West Foundation's Let's TOC blog that features submissions from industry leaders in infrastructure.

Kelowna Canstruction® 2013

Canstruction is a unique event designed to help end hunger "one can" at a time. This amazing design/build competition using canned food as building blocks brings together multi-disciplinary teams of designers, architects, and builders to create extraordinary structures, which will be displayed at **Orchard Park Mall, Kelowna** from **February 4 -11, 2013** for the public, and then de-canstructioned. The canned food will then be donated to the Kelowna Community Food Bank and Salvation Army. This event has raised more than 60,000 cans of food – last year 18,000 cans were raised, and this year's goal is 35,000 cans.

Canstruction is a truly unique community service project that began in New York City and has spread throughout 167 cities across North America. Kelowna was the third Canadian city to host a Canstruction event.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Mike Wilding
Chair
Canstruction, Kelowna

 (250) 454.9053

 fomiko1@yahoo.com

For complete event information, see

 kelownacanstruction.com



YPG Update

Happy New Year everyone! Please see the following updates for each ACEC-BC YPG region below, and we look forward to seeing you at our Socials and Breakfast Seminars in 2013!

Lower Mainland YPG

Socials

Our first Social of the New Year was held at the Irish Heather on January 24. Jeff Thorsteinson of Investors Group was also on hand to give a short presentation on investing.

Upcoming Breakfast Seminar

On March 1, the Lower Mainland YPG will be hosting a Breakfast Seminar at a downtown hotel (location to be confirmed) in Vancouver. The topic will be on mentorship, and specifically on APEG BC's Mentorship Program. Please see our events page for more details in the near future. This one will fill up fast, so sign-up early!

Previous Breakfast Seminar

Are you a fiery red, sunshine yellow, cool blue, or an earthy green? What about your co-workers, supervisors, and clients? The Young Professionals of Vancouver were recently engaged by Russell Collingworth, of EQAdvantage, to ponder these questions. The goal: to improve our understanding of communication styles and promote self and social awareness.

Russell spoke about "A Culture of Excellence in Consulting", with the favourable acronym ACEC. Excellence in consulting begins with an individual culture of excellence by knowing your communication preferences, and when it is appropriate to switch gears to cater to the preferred styles of others. Russell described the tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses of each four personality colours, and offered tips for recognizing character preferences through verbal style and body language. He also encouraged us to try to develop positive traits of our non-dominant personality colour.

Every time you meet someone new, you have the opportunity to practice your skill of recognizing and adapting to their colour energies. Seek to understand his or her

fit within culture, and be aware of your tendencies and how you approach others because each interaction with a new person creates a unique dynamic. By applying this knowledge you can improve your connection with co-workers, supervisors, and clients.



Okanagan YPG

Upcoming Breakfast Seminar

On February 7, the Okanagan YPG will be hosting a Breakfast Seminar at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna. The topic will be Empowering Young Professionals Through Communications: Effective Communications Through Technical Writing, presented by Leonard Firkus of Bellrock Benchmarking Inc.

Attendees will come away with practical, immediately implementable actions to make their written communication more impactful and effective. If you write proposals, memos, résumés, or emails, this seminar is for you.

Vancouver Island YPG

Socials

The Vancouver Island YPG will be organizing a Social for February 21 at 5:30 pm. The location and activity are yet to be decided, so be on the look-out for more information in the near future.

Previous Breakfast Seminar

On January 17, the Vancouver Island YPG hosted a Breakfast Seminar at the Union Club in Victoria. The topic was *Conflict in the Workplace*, presented by **Ann Ovstaas** who is an Organization Development Consultant.

Ann addressed the sources of conflict in organizations, describing the five modes of conflict, and sharing some tips for resolving issues.

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 2013 Awards for Engineering Excellence are:

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