



## FOREWORD

*Caroline Andrewes, President and CEO, ACEC-BC*



After more than 5 years with the association, Keith Sashaw retired at the end of December. With so much activity this time of year there was no time to pause, and on January 7, I was delighted to take the reigns as your new President & CEO.

By way of introduction, I am both a professional engineer and chartered professional accountant with work experience primarily in the tech sector. Over my career this 'dual citizenship' allowed me to dip my toe in both worlds, although the last 10 years of practice has become more focused on corporate administration. If my name seems vaguely familiar it could be as a result of my service with Engineers & Geoscientists BC, most recently as Council President and currently as Past President.

Over the next few months much of my time is committed to supporting the ACEC-BC team – Alla, Brian and Maddy – as we prepare for and host several of our signature events including the Transportation Conference, mixers and the annual Awards Gala on April 6. Operationally we will focus on preparing the 2019 budget, membership renewal and updating our communications materials.

Over the same period, I will work with the Board to provide ACEC-BCs response to the provincial government's Professional Reliance Review Intentions Paper, which discusses models for regulations associated with the new Professional Governance Act, and with the Business Practice Committee to update the Budget Guidelines for Consulting Engineering Services. I look forward also to spending time with many of our other committees.

Looking ahead I hope to meet many of you at the YP conference in May, where I am keen to start the conversation on how the YPG can support renewal of our vision. I look forward to being challenged by the YPG, and to understand the changes you see coming to the way consulting engineering companies operate in the future. These conversations are imperative to ensure ACEC-BC is resilient and continues to evolve in support of our members.

### **THANK YOU KEITH!**

***“On behalf of the Board and association members I wish to extend to Keith our heartfelt appreciation for his vision and leadership and thank him for his years of faithful service to our association.” – Caroline Andrewes, President and CEO of ACEC-BC***



## ACEC NATIONAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2018 ACEC national leadership conference was hosted in Ottawa, ON from October 21-23, 2018. The conference kicked off for YPs on Sunday afternoon with a networking and skills development session. YPs from across Canada came together and we were randomly placed in groups and asked to create a “Rapid Fire Presentation”. It was a challenging assignment to work together to prepare a presentation about issues critical to YPs in the consulting engineering sector using only images, and then present to the ACEC Board members! The discussion sparked by the presentations was stimulating and focused largely on mentorship and supporting YPs through their development.

The workshop culminated with a Roundtable discussion on the YP activities ACEC members are hosting across the country.

The first day the business program featured trend forecasts from business experts, discussions on the state of consulting engineering in Canada, panels on the challenges facing the industry and the opportunities available to address them. The Honourable Perrin Beatty, President & CEO, of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce provided the opening keynote by addressing the Canadian economy and the implications of international market forces and what service industry firms need to know to remain competitive. Followed by a day of engaging presentations and panel discussions the day ended with a closing keynote by the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities on the state of infrastructure investments in Canada and how engineers are an essential component for turning these investments into infrastructure that can improve the quality of life of all Canadians.

ACEC’s Parliament Hill Day was in full swing on the second day. The morning kicked off with a morning address by the Honourable Lisa Raitt, Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition, on the importance of connecting the environment with infrastructure followed by

informative panel discussions. Throughout the day, delegates made their way to the offices of Members of Parliament to discuss opportunities for the consulting engineering sector. Conference delegates were also treated to a private tour of West Block which will serve as the interim House of Commons during the renovation of Centre Block. The tour included a presentation by one of the project’s lead architects and other senior members of the team.

The conference closed with a celebration of engineering excellence at the 2018 Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards gala. Over the course of the evening, 20 Awards of Excellence and 5 Special Achievement awards were presented, as well as the Beaubien Award and the [2019 Allen D. Williams Scholarship](#) (won by BC’s very own **Graham Lovely** – congrats Graham!).

### SAVE THE DATE!

## Upcoming Young Professionals Conference - May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendars for the **third annual ACEC-BC Young Professionals Conference!** This year we will be looking at ways Young Professionals can be **“Adding Value to Career, Company, Client and Industry”**.

Sessions will include a kick-off social networking event on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and panel discussions, presentations and interactive sessions on Friday, concluding with a dinner after the main event. Sponsorship and tickets will be on sale soon – get in early as this event sold out last year!

For more information check out <http://www.acec-bc.ca/events/yp-conference/>



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS GROUP ACTIVITIES

### Interested in volunteering with a YPG Committee?

The Young Professionals Group is always looking for fresh ideas and energetic people to get involved, below are several volunteer opportunities:

- ❖ **YPG Company Champions:** This role focuses on keeping YPs from our member firms in the loop on the upcoming activities and events.
- ❖ **YPG Ambassador (Ongoing):** Represent ACEC-BC at events and help educate people on consulting engineering.
- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity (Winter 2019):** Help build a house for a family in need.
- ❖ **Science Work Sci-Tech Camp (Summer 2019):** Develop engineering activities for kids and help them understand what engineers do throughout the entire summer.

If you want to be kept informed of upcoming opportunities, please ask to be added to the mailing list by emailing [info@acec-bc.ca](mailto:info@acec-bc.ca). This is the best way to stay updated and keep in touch! For opportunities specific to the lower mainland, please reach out to Shara Viaje, the YP Volunteer Manager, at [Shara.Viaje@mottmac.com](mailto:Shara.Viaje@mottmac.com)

### Lower Mainland

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we had Keith Sashaw reflect on his 30+ year career that included having over 30 bosses. From his experiences he shared what has changed (technology, globalization and attitudes) as well as traits of successful leaders. He ended by giving some great advice to YPs about staying on top of trends and changes, looking for opportunities and being sure to take responsibility.

In December, Pamela O'Hara spoke on the importance of building professional relationships and the importance of networking to build a rewarding career.

Look out for the upcoming breakfast seminars that will include a panel discussion on how senior industry leaders have maneuvered through technical and/or management career tracks.

We have also had plenty of opportunities to network with students. We have had a few representatives attend industry nights at UBC and BCIT to talk to students about consulting engineering. There are many more upcoming industry nights and look forward to connecting with more students. If you are planning to attend any of the upcoming industry nights and are interested in helping represent ACEC-BC and becoming a YP Ambassador, please let us know.

In addition to connecting with students, we connected with the Structural Engineers Association of BC (SEABC) YPG during a fun-filled Pub Trivia and Mixer on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. There were over 60 people in attendance during one of our most successful networking events.



In the coming months we look forward to our annual Curling Evening in March, networking with Young Planners from the Planning Institute of BC (PIBC), and connecting with the Young Lawyers while whiskey tasting.

### Northern Region

A seminar was held in December on First Nations Consultations. Angela Smith-Rockwell from Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources was the

presenter and provided an overview of First Nations Consultation with focus on the Omineca Region. Further considerations for breakfast seminars in 2019 are climate change in the Omineca Region and a soft skill seminar on knowing and writing to your audience.

Planning for a Municipal Mixer with the City of Prince George is underway and will be held on February 28, with a presentation on the City's unforeseen project of the Winnipeg Street sinkhole. The group is also working on getting more involved with the local College and University as new technology and engineering programs start in the fall of 2019.

## Vancouver Island

The Vancouver Island group wrapped up 2018 with a fun and successful billiards night at Peacock Billiards. The event was well attended and included many first-time participants. It was great to meet some new faces!



We are looking to keep the momentum going in 2019. A networking / social event will be held at the Phillips Tasting Room in early February. Come out and continue to make connections with fellow young engineers and technologist in Victoria.

## Okanagan

The Okanagan Committee has been busy so far this year. A lunch seminar was held in December and featured Keith Sashaw, past President & CEO of ACEC-BC. Keith's presentation on Adventures in Association Management gave YP's a look into working for an

elected board and different styles of leaders. Attendees left with good knowledge on what makes a good leader, different management styles and how ACEC operates behind the scenes.

A second breakfast seminar has been scheduled in early February, titled *SMARTer Growth Partnership: Hydrail consulting opportunities*. Gord Lovegrove, Associated Professor at UBCO, will provide some background information on hydrogen technology, as well as discuss ways it may be implemented in the Okanagan. For more information and to register, see the event [here](#).

Social events are also being planned as opportunities for YPs to meet others in the area and start building a professional network. This year we will be continuing our annual Big White Night on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Attendees carpool up to the mountain for night skiing and cheap rentals, then meet for appetizers and some socializing.

We would love to hear your ideas about breakfast seminars, socials events and all things ACEC-BC! If you would like to be added to our mailing list for upcoming events, please email us at [info@acec-bc.ca](mailto:info@acec-bc.ca) and mention that you are in the Interior.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### New YPG formed in Kamloops!

ACECBC is excited to announce its initiative to form a YPG group in the Kamloops area! The goal of the group is to host local networking and professional development events, as well as provide local professionals a link to ACECBC events in other areas of the province. The group is currently establishing a point of contact at each member firm in town, with the goal of hosting an introductory social event in the spring. For those interested in participating as either a contact for their company, or as a volunteer on the local committee, please contact David Gerein, P.Eng, at [David.gerein@stantec.com](mailto:David.gerein@stantec.com)