

ANNUAL REPORT 24

THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES BC





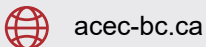
Table of Contents

About ACEC-BC.....	1
Charter of Membership.....	2
Directors	3
Chair's Report	5
President's Report	7
Treasurer's Report.....	11
Committee Reports.....	14
ACEC-Canada Year in Review	15
BC Hydro Liaison Committee	18
Building Engineering Committee.....	20
Business Practice Committee	22
Deputy Ministers and Industry Infrastructure Forum.....	23
Engineers and Geoscientists BC Consulting Practice Advisory Group	25
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee	26
Health & Safety Roundtable	28
Master Municipal Construction Documents Association.....	29
Membership Affairs Committee.....	30
Metro Vancouver Liaison Committee.....	31
Municipal Engineering Committee	35
Regulation Working Group.....	37
Small Firms Council.....	38
Sustainability and Climate Change	40
Transportation Committee.....	42
Transportation Conference Organizing Committee.....	44
TransLink Liaison Committee	46
TRAN Liaison Committee	47
Young Professionals Group.....	50
Events	53
Sponsors	54
Organization Chart.....	55
Members.....	56



Consulting
Engineering
firms are
partners,
experts, and
innovators
working for
**British
Columbians.**

Lets Connect!



acec-bc.ca



[/acec-bc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/acec-bc)



[@ACECBC](https://twitter.com/ACECBC)

Suite 1258 - 409 Granville St.
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 1T2
Tel: 604.687.2811
Email: info@acec-bc.ca

About ACEC-BC

Since 1976, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies British Columbia (ACEC-BC) has been the voice of consulting engineering companies in BC. Our mandate is to advance the business interests of consulting engineering firms in BC by advocating for fair business practices and building awareness of the industry's contributions to society and innovative technical expertise.

On behalf of our member organizations, our board of directors endorse our strategic direction and ensure our operations are guided by these principles.

Our purpose is to serve the interests of members through advocacy, creating opportunity for collaboration and building profile of members and the industry. Our member's wisdom, societal contribution, and geographic reach lend credibility and gravity to this purpose.

Advocacy is our primary mission.

We are a consolidated voice for fair procurement practices, balanced contract language including proportional allocation of risk, and removal of barriers to efficient operation of our businesses in BC.

Values unite our members.

Our members and our governance act collaboratively to promote innovative thinking and investment in our community. Our words and actions ensure an inclusive environment: celebrating our diversity and striving for equity in all that we do.

90+

Member
firms in BC

40+

Municipalities
across BC

12k

Employed British
Columbians

\$5b

Locally to British
Columbia

Charter of Membership



Since 1976, the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies British Columbia (ACEC-BC) has been the voice of consulting engineering companies in BC. Our purpose is to advance the business interests of consulting engineering companies in BC by advocating for fair business practices and building awareness of the industry's contributions to society and innovative technical expertise.

ACEC-BC serves the interests of members through advocacy, creating opportunities for collaboration, and building profiles for members. As an industry, consulting engineering companies are catalysts for the application of technology, innovation, sustainability, and economic growth.

Our members play a critical role in developing solutions for complex challenges facing society. ACEC-BC members have a direct influence over almost every aspect of our quality of life in BC, acting as trusted advisors to clients, governments, regulators, researchers, and the general public to balance social, economic, and environmental factors with societal needs and infrastructure requirements.

In order to create a strong engineering industry and a positive business environment, ACEC-BC member companies must be a consolidated voice that speak for fair procurement practices and balanced contract language including proportional allocation of risk in the industry and promote innovative thinking and investment in our communities.

As a member firm of ACEC-BC, and by affixing our signature and adhering to this Charter, our company commits to advancing the profession of consulting engineering and supporting ACEC-BC's purpose and the following principles.

We will:

- 1) Support ACEC-BC through participation in its activities and adherence to ACEC-BC's principles and policies (as expressed by its Board of Directors), including the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- 2) Maintain the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and ethics in all aspects of our work.
- 3) Recognize and support reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples to ensure traditional knowledge, values, and beliefs are respected and considered in our approach to assessing and understanding the impacts of our work.
- 4) In carrying out our work, address the reduction of emissions related to our own operations, the reduction of embedded and operational carbon emissions in the projects on which we consult, design, and deliver, and support climate change adaptation through mitigation and design of resilient infrastructure.
- 5) Actively encourage qualification-based selection procurement for the selection of consultants.
- 6) Foster collaboration with other professionals in the industry to share knowledge, ideas, and best practices, and not impugn the reputation or business of others.
- 7) When partnering for projects, endeavour to select from other qualified firms and follow the principles of qualification-based selection and value-based fees.
- 8) Commit to ongoing professional development and staying up to date with the latest advances and best practices in our fields.
- 9) Invest in the next generation of consulting engineering professionals by mentoring, sharing knowledge and expertise with early career professionals, and encouraging their growth and development.

By upholding these principles, ACEC-BC member companies will advance a strong consulting engineering industry better able to serve the needs of our clients and make a positive impact on the people and communities in which we work and live.



2023-2024 Directors

Role	Name	Company
Chair	Suzanne Powell	Thurber Engineering
Vice-Chair/Treasurer	Brian Yates	Stantec
Secretary/Designated Director	Tanya Sadlo	McElhanney
Past Chair	Richard Bush	Binnie
Director	Christopher Scollard	Kiewit Engineering Group Canada
Director	Erin Martin-Serrano	PBX Engineering
Director	Hannelie Stockenstrom	AtkinsRéalis
Director	Ian Steele	PBX Engineering
Director	Imran Gehlen	AECOM
Director	Jay Rao	EXP
Director	Joe DiPlacito	Ram Consulting
Director	Kathryn Ekman	McElhanney
Director	Matt Gellis	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Director	William Johnston	WSP

2023-2024 Appointed Directors

Name	Company
Genevieve Brown	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Lillian Siu	Associated Engineering
Jeff McLellan	BFL Canada
Tim Stanley	Stratice Consulting

2023-2024 Executive Committee

Role	Name	Company
Chair	Suzanne Powell	Thurber Engineering
Vice-Chair/Treasurer	Brian Yates	Stantec
Secretary/Designated Director	Tanya Sadlo	McElhanney
Past Chair	Richard Bush	Binnie
President and CEO	Caroline Andrewes	ACEC-BC



Chair's Report



Suzanne Powell

Chair

Thurber Engineering

It has been another successful and productive year for The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – British Columbia. From hosting impactful events and providing thought leadership content to advocating for our members, ACEC-BC remains committed to addressing the issues our industry is facing such as labour shortages, climate change, integration of AI, and cost escalations.

This year, our focus has been on increasing member support by enhancing operational resilience and data collection while remaining committed to advancing our strategic objectives related to government relations and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. We continue to support member engagement across the province through events, content development, and all other ACEC-BC initiatives.

The strength of our Association lies not only in our diverse membership and dedicated volunteers, but

also in the exceptional ACEC-BC Team that supports us. Our team maybe small, but their ability to consistently deliver a volume and caliber of content is unmatched by our counterparts across the country. With the recent addition of two new team members, we have further enhanced our operational resilience, ensuring that ACEC-BC will continue to deliver high-quality, relevant content to members.

We continue to build and strengthen our position as a “trusted advisor” within provincial government through deliberate and intentional outreach opportunities. This spring, we highlighted to provincial MLAs the important role our members play in solving the housing crisis. From innovative solutions to support design and construction, to developing the infrastructure required to support new development ACEC-BC members and their achievements were at forefront of this discussion.

ACEC-BC continues to be a leader in our commitment to EDI and Reconciliation. Our intentional and thoughtful approach not only provides members with practical tools and content to support their journey but is a testament to the positive change that can be achieved within an organization. I am extremely proud of ACEC-BC's embedment of EDI and Reconciliation initiatives across our operations, from fostering diversity at Board level to enhancing the way we deliver content and communicate with our members.

This year marked significant progress in standardizing consulting agreements for our members. Notably, several milestones were achieved: standard contracts for architectural and engineering design assignments with the provincial government, the release of BCDC 2-2024 – “Project Specific Amendments and Supplementary Conditions to CCDC-2”, and an update to the MMCD Client-Consultant Agreement template. These achievements were made possible through the dedicated efforts of ACEC-BC members Tim Stanley, Neil Cumming, and Mike Currie. Their tireless contributions positioned ACEC-BC as a proactive participant in the development of these updates, aimed at promoting fairness, transparency, and efficiency for our members.

It has been an honour serving as Chair of the Board. I want to thank the Board for your support and hard work throughout the year. Thank you to our all our dedicated volunteers who generously contribute their time to foster growth and continuous improvement in our industry. Lastly, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the ACEC-BC team: Caroline, Ben, Marcie, Michael and Carolynne. Your commitment and ongoing efforts to support the association and its members are truly invaluable. None of what we have accomplished would have been possible without each of you.



Suzanne Powell, ACEC-BC Board Chair, 2023/24





President’s Report



Caroline Andrewes
President & CEO
**Association of Consulting Engineering
Companies British Columbia**

Back in 2019 our Board described our values as behaviours that energize and sustain our commitment to the work we do. These values – collaboration, innovation, invested in community, inclusive, diverse, and equitable – both describe and unite us. They form the foundation for our purpose and are embedded in each action we take on behalf of the industry.

With more than \$330 Billion in construction projects active and planned in BC, ACEC-BC member firms continue to be in high demand. Today, more than 26,000 amazing people work in our industry across BC. To meet the needs of our province, we continue to work with you to ensure our industry is one where anyone with the skills and experience is welcome, included, and valued.

We respond to unfair conditions, seek efficiencies that benefit your business, create opportunity to learn and grow, and ensure your impact on our province is understood and valued.

Our Primary Mission: Advocacy



Through collaboration with members, clients, and partners, we seek to advance the business of consulting engineering in BC. Each year we make incremental gains toward our purpose. Over our 48-year history, occasionally we can point to more significant change, and this is one of those years.

Province of BC Standard Agreements:

After nearly 6 years of collaboration, the Province of BC adopted a standard form of agreement for consulting assignments in February 2024. The agreement was the first in Canada to be based on CCDC-31 2020, the successor to ACEC-31 and the benchmark for a fair and balanced agreement in Canada. While we did not get everything we asked for, the agreement is expected to support efficiency, balance, and fairness in contract negotiation between all provincial agencies and consulting engineering companies. We are grateful for the support of Past Chairs Neil Cumming and Tim Stanley in seeing this work through from start to finish.

Contract renewal – MMCD CCA:

While CCDC-31 continues to be the national benchmark, consultants providing services to municipalities look to the Master Municipal Construction Documents Association (MMCD) Client-Consultant Agreement (CCA) as their benchmark for fairness and balance between partners. The CCA was originally released in the late 1990s; after several years of work, the 2024 CCA will be released over the summer. Thank you to Past Chair Mike Currie for representing member interests on the document subcommittee.

Onerous Clauses:

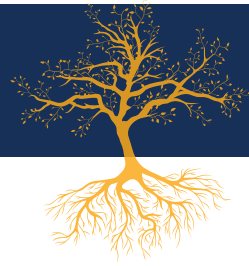
Partnership is at the foundation of effective consultant and client relationships. When the relationship starts with unfair conditions, we are there to respond. Together, we responded to eight public agencies regarding conditions that were unfair, onerous, unclear, or contravened professional obligations.

Thought Leadership:

ACEC-BC continues to be a leader in producing relevant, timely content to support our members and to advocate for the industry. Our team worked with member committees to generate guidance on business practices, procurement, technical practice, and to support ACEC-BC and members on our reconciliation journey.

In September, we recognized National Truth and Reconciliation Day by releasing our Get Started Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment. To support member health and safety, the EDI Committee developed a Mental Health Resource that was released in December. We also released technical resources including a bulletin on GUL Cement, BIM and Bridges, and updated our legacy Position Paper on Indemnities.

Better Together



Each member brings different strengths and perspective to our association. Large or small, members know that working together serves all our interests. This is the foundation of *better together* and how our Association can achieve our goals.

Under the leadership of our Chair, the Board engage in open, consultative, and challenging conversations to understand the scope of member interests and how we can best deliver value to members. The team and I are grateful for their engagement, commitment, and openness to new ideas and ways of operating.

The intentional inclusion of diverse voices and perspectives supported us to welcome seven new Corporate members who each lend their voice, energy, and resources to the Association. Joining our community over the past year are Alpine Civil Engineering, Carollo Engineers Canada Ltd., Ecora, Edge Consulting, Faction Projects, Inc., Maven Consulting Ltd., and MPE, A Division of Englobe. We also welcomed EDI Environmental, Lafarge Canada, Ledcor, Thomson Tech Power Systems, Thriveworks, and Wilson M. Beck Insurance Services, as Associate Members, and the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure as a Client Member.

Creating opportunity for collaboration



In the following pages you will read reports from our member committees, external appointees, working groups, and Young Professionals, all of whom serve members by supporting advocacy, creating opportunity for members and partners to collaborate, and helping to build profile for members and the industry.

Events:

We continue to focus on major events including the Transportation Conference, Awards for Engineering Excellence, and the Young Professionals Conference. These events provide high value to members and create opportunity for member learning, recognition, and forming and fostering important relationships.

We were overwhelmed by the positive response to the second edition of the hybrid Transportation Conference, which supported nearly 600 people from across the province to virtually connect and learn with our partners from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure and TransLink. The conference was expanded this year with additional tours and an in-person workshop on Day 2, which was followed by dinner with about 500 people who gathered to celebrate the Ministry Awards for consulting engineering services.

In May we hosted the Awards for Engineering Excellence at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a second time, supporting guests to spend time together celebrating over drinks and food. Although we were next door to a high-stakes NHL playoff game, we welcomed nearly 500 guests including members, clients, and partner organizations.

We are always looking for opportunity to support members across the province to access professional development easily and at a low cost. Over the course of the year, we hosted four, virtual PD sessions on topics ranging from technology and regulation through to employee engagement.

Altogether, more than 2,500 people from 240 companies participated in ACEC-BC events in-person and through virtual connection.

Association Governance:

At the 2023 AGM, members adopted new Association Bylaws and a Charter of Membership. In the fall we shared our Climate Change Position, which was posted along with an explanatory video and FAQs.

Each year we look for opportunities to share content, attend and speak at events, and engage with media to build profile for the industry. Members benefit from these efforts through awareness and understanding of the industry, which supports us to deliver on our purpose of advocacy.

Building profile for our industry



MLA Event:

In April, the Board and select members joined us in Victoria to host members of the legislature. Over meals with the Official Opposition caucus and the Government caucus, we shared an overview of the breadth and depth of our industry's impact on the everyday lives of British Columbians and how ACEC-BC members support delivery of government's mandate. This year we focused on how our industry delivers housing for BC, from planning through to construction and maintenance of buildings.

The MLA event is central to our government relations strategy, to build lasting relationships and communicate relevant information. The positive response, engagement with MLAs, and recognition in the legislature by both the Government and Official Opposition demonstrates familiarity and understanding of our industry's relevance to the province.

Website and Social Media:

ACEC-BC maintains four separate websites, three of which are standalone sites associated with our conferences and the Awards program. The separation has significantly improved spontaneous engagement and awareness of ACEC-BC and our programs. Last year, more than 25,000 individuals accessed acec-bc.ca to connect with our content and membership. While our top resource is the annual Fee Guideline, last year we noted high engagement with our release on the Province of BC standard form of agreement for consulting assignments and with the Get Started Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment.

There was a high degree of activity on our other platforms with more than 35,000 views of our Awards for Engineering Excellence website, 10,000 individual views of the Transportation Conference and Young Professionals Conference websites. In addition to this engagement, our Marketing & Communications team posted to our LinkedIn channel an average of once every 1.8-days, generating 300,000 views of our content and more than 5,000 comments, shares, and reactions.

Engagement with other organizations:

Over the past year, ACEC-BC's content and market profile led to regular opportunities to speak and represent members with other organizations including clients and other Associations.

In the fall, the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure invited me to join their annual engineering and geoscience meeting to share ACEC-BC's equity, diversity, and inclusion strategy and practices with their professionally licensed team members.

The theme of EDI is one where ACEC-BC is broadly recognized. In June, I was delighted to share the stage with other women leaders at a Women in Consulting Engineering event and an International Women in Engineering Day event at Metro Vancouver's office. In May, Marcie and I presented at the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology conference in Victoria where we shared our Equity in Procurement paper and hosted a member and client panel session on worksite safety.

Our fee guideline remains the most accessed resource on the ACEC-BC website, so it came as no surprise that the Contaminated Sites Approved Professionals Society invited me to speak on the topic to their members present for their AGM. This was an excellent opportunity to build familiarity and understanding of the guideline as the audience included many ACEC-BC members, member clients, and member competitors.

Building foundations for the future



Together with the Board we adopted a practice of annual operations review, using the lens of our purpose and values for guidance. Our framework for prioritising projects and programs considers alignment between our actions and purpose, and a sense of purpose that comes from understanding each other's roles and shared objectives. Within the planning practice framework, we seek to balance our commitments with our capacity to deliver and to utilise data to understand response to our work.

This approach supported us to reconsider our roles and responsibilities, resulting in changes to our team and processes. As of May, we have a full-time team of four, and are delighted to continue to work with exceptional consultants who support core operations and special programs.

It remains an honour to represent our community, and a great pleasure to work with the Board, our committees, working groups, young professionals, and the ACEC-BC team: Ben Abbasipour, Carolynne Gibbons, Marcie Cochrane, and Michael Iskander, and our valued partners Alla Samusevich and Jessie Wang (finance and accounting).





Treasurer's Report



Brian Yates
Vice-Chair/Treasurer
Stantec

The Treasurer's Report provides comment on the financial operations of the Association for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, as well as a look ahead at the 2024-25 budget approved by the Board in February.

Financial Performance:

Building on strong financial performance of the last few years, the Association sought to respond to changing member needs and a high demand for quality, in-person engagement opportunities. The Board continued to encourage use of the Event Framework to help identify the best fit medium for delivery of content to members.

Each year the Board look to balance income generated through member dues with core operation of the Association. This objective was achieved, with member dues covering 95% of fixed operating expense. With this approach, any surplus generated through non-dues revenue like events is utilised to fund special projects, initiatives, and to subsidize some member events.

To support continued growth and delivery of member programs, the Board supported significant investment in the ACEC-BC team over the past year. The growth of salary expense is expected to continue in the coming year with new, full-time team members joining at the beginning of the new fiscal year in April.

The Board took a different view of program expense over the past year and in planning for the coming year. In the past, all events were expected to produce a surplus over direct expenses. However, changing expectations and significant venue cost increases caused us to reconsider and pursue a surplus for the total event portfolio rather than for each individual program, which we achieved.

The Board review the Association's financial performance at each meeting and remain very satisfied with the financial controls, transparency, and overall performance. The Board had prepared for a deficit this year due to several planned project investments. As the timeline for those projects extended, the Board were made aware and accepted that the Association would produce a surplus again this year.

Item	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	\$1,348,020	\$1,115,000	\$233,020
Expenses	\$1,122,675	\$1,213,000	(\$90,325)
Net	\$225,345	(\$98,000)	\$323,345

Revenue:

ACEC-BC has three primary sources of revenue: member dues, member programs (events), and other income primarily generated through return on invested reserve funds. Typically, the annual operating plan does not consider other income as it tends not to be a significant portion of total revenue.

Dues revenue was higher than plan due to the addition of 7 new corporate members and higher than expected growth in n-number for continuing members. This strong growth in membership combined with major events to deliver a 30% increase in revenue over prior year. The Association also benefited from general market conditions, with investment growth and income contributing just under 5% of total Association income.

Event revenue grew significantly relative to 2023 results. The overall increase in event revenue was primarily attributable to the major events. For example, the Awards event returned to a fully in-person program, which attracted additional participation and sponsorship.

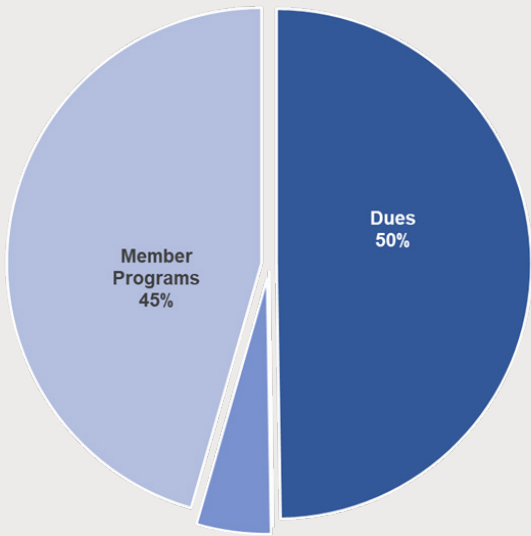


Figure 1: Association Revenue (Dues, Events, Other)

Expense:

Association operating expense is principally driven by people and facilities, with salaries, rent, and consulting fees accounting for 80% of the total cost of operations. Relative to 2023, operating expense was up 8%, which was almost entirely attributed with salary expense and outsourcing finance and accounting support. These

expenses were offset by savings on consulting fees and a delay to the government relations event which was hosted after the close of the fiscal year.

With a target of 100% coverage, 2023-24 Association operations were funded approximately 95% through member dues, up from 88% in the prior year. The difference was largely due to dues revenue performance.

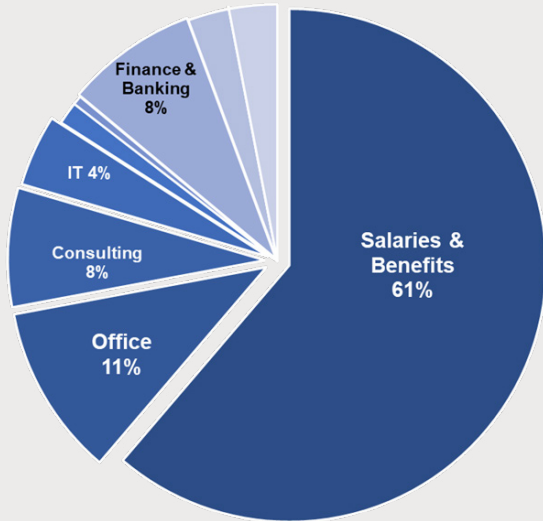


Figure 2: Operating Expense (Fixed)

Reserves:

The Board review Reserves annually and make recommendations regarding funding to manage risk when cash flow varies and to support investment in people and facilities as needed.

Association Reserves include long-term investments managed by Bay Wealth Management as well as shorter-term investments (i.e., GICs) and cash held in Association accounts.

In February the Board requested a review of the Association Reserves policy set in 2015. At that time Reserves were funded in excess of the policy as a result of allocation of surplus to Reserves over the past few years.

The review considered the three items included in the 2015 review and whether an update was necessary given current costs and performance. The items included in the Reserve target are fixed operations (6-months, essentially wind-down expense), a Special Project fund, and an assumed maximum cash deficiency (funding cashflow). The Board agreed that the fixed operations and cash

deficiency targets should be updated to reflect current cost of operation, which is higher than in 2015.

The review also identified two items not contemplated in 2015: capital renewal and succession. The Board agreed that periodic renewal of capital including office fixtures and furnishings as well as IT equipment was prudent and included a target intended to be utilised and rebuilt to align with typical wear-out of items. The Board also considered operations over the past five years and added capacity for succession planning.

The Board were satisfied that the target should be updated from \$480,000 (2015 Board resolution) to \$830,000 and passed a resolution to formalise the change.

At the close of the fiscal year the Reserves were fully funded to the new target.

Assurance:

Following a review of the Association's audit relationship and processes initiated by Members at the 2022 AGM, the Board appointed Campbell, Saunders & Co. to support preparation of 2023 financial statements. In making the appointment, the Board reaffirmed their position that a Review Engagement provided a sufficient level of assurance for the Association. Should their position change in the coming years, the appointed accountant is appropriate to perform an Audit as needed.

Campbell, Saunders & Co. were reappointed by Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting and retain the confidence of the Board. Following the 2023 AGM, Campbell, Saunders & Co. provided a recommendation to the Board that the AGM be held later in the calendar year to allow more time to complete the 2024 review and statement preparation. The Board agreed and the 2024 AGM date reflects that recommendation.

Looking Ahead:

The Board approved a budget in February 2024 that aligns with expectations of industry growth and reflects the excellent financial performance presented in each of the past 4 years. This included the decision not to increase member dues for the coming year, which was a departure from a policy adopted by the Board in 2020 (i.e., that dues would increase at least at the rate of inflation, and any additional increase would be based on the need to specifically fund a program or Reserves). The Board cited expected membership growth through industry capacity expansion and confidence in the cash position of the Association in their decision.

The 2024-25 Budget aligns with plans for the coming year including investment in member learning & development, rising costs to support member engagement, and continued investment in our relationship with the provincial government. Like last year, the plan seeks to better engage members across the province, supporting their access to important engagement and affordable learning opportunities.

As always, the Board seek to be flexible as operations and our industry culture evolve to align with permanent changes in the way we work, live, and allocate our discretionary time. The plan includes appropriate oversight of operations, meaningful engagement with key partners, and allows the organization to build on the success of the past.



Committee Reports



ACEC-Canada Year in Review
BC Hydro Liaison Committee
Building Engineering Committee
Business Practice Committee
Deputy Ministers and Industry Infrastructure Forum
EGBC Consulting Practice Advisory Group
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Health & Safety Roundtable
Master Municipal Construction Documents Association
Membership Affairs Committee
Metro Vancouver Liaison Committee
Municipal Engineering Committee
Regulation Working Group
Small Firms Council
Sustainability and Climate Change
Transportation Committee
Transportation Conference Organizing Committee
TransLink Liaison Committee
TRAN Liaison Committee
Young Professionals Group





ACEC-Canada Year in Review



Tim Stanley
Stratice Consulting



Selena Wilson
Mott MacDonald

ACEC, with the leadership of its board and the support of its members and partners, had a successful year – both in terms of its advocacy and its financial position. ACEC remains committed to its mission of creating a business climate that will allow our members to be successful and offer a high level of quality and value to their clients. Our profession and industry is fundamental to our social, economic and environmental quality of life. With the challenges of climate change and increasing global uncertainties, our voice is more important than ever.

Key activities included:

Federal Government Language Requirements

Policy Notification 481R (PN-481R) requiring all federal procurement documents – including design documents prepared by consultants – must be provided in both official languages, continues to dominate ACEC's advocacy.

PSPC has advised ACEC that it has drafted a policy update and that a public consultation was expected to take place in May/June. This review will also include the engineering regulators across the country.

In anticipation of the often-promised consultation, ACEC has developed new materials to educate civil servants and politicians about the impacts (PN-481R). These materials draw upon the third-party research conducted by Nik Nanos.

Pre-Budget Submission

The Minister of Finance tabled the federal budget on April 16th. ACEC submitted its recommendations which were updated from its earlier recommendations made in August 2023 to reflect the current fiscal and political situation, including implementing the National Infrastructure Assessment to create a long-term strategy for addressing infrastructure needs in communities across Canada, and renewing funding for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) or unveiling a successor program.

As usual, ACEC issued its analysis of the budget to the membership and stakeholders shortly after the budget was tabled.

Infrastructure to Support Housing

ACEC and its federal partners recognized early and voiced that the government was potentially creating a major problem by advancing major housing investments, without making corresponding investments in public infrastructure. On April 2, 2024, the Prime Minister announced a \$6 billion fund for new housing-related infrastructure investments, including \$1 billion to directly support water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste infrastructure. A further \$400 million was also identified to support the housing accelerator fund.

National Infrastructure Assessment Progress

ACEC recently met with the Director and Director General of the National Infrastructure Assessment Secretariat within Infrastructure Canada to receive a progress update on the initiative. The team shared that the department and the Minister's office has had a strong focus on housing since the affordability crisis set in and the cabinet shuffle took place. Now, the department is being asked to renew its focus on infrastructure initiatives. ACEC will continue advocacy work with Minister Fraser and his team to demonstrate the political value of implementing the NIA before the next election.

FIDIC

At the FIDIC Annual General Meeting during the Global Infrastructure Conference in September 2023, Catherine Karakatsanis, a Canadian and COO of Morrison Hershfield, was elected President of FIDIC for a two-year term; she is the first woman in FIDIC's 110 years to be elected to this role.

Engagement with Leaders of Member Firms

The 2024 ACEC Executive Forum was held outside Montreal in June and was fully enrolled.

ACEC is now proceeding with a Small Firm forum, providing a venue in which smaller firms

can discuss front of mind issues among their peer group. A steering committee has been recruited and is actively planning this even for the Fall of 2024.

The 2023 CCE Awards of Excellence Gala was held at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa on the evening of October 19 and was very well attended.

Future Leader Forum

ACEC's first Future Leader Management Program and Forum, was fully subscribed with 40 participants. The program consisted of monthly, on-demand learning modules and live, virtual sessions from September 2023 through January 2024. On January 30 and 31, participants met in Toronto to complete the program in-person where they prepared and delivered a presentation to the ACEC-Canada Board of Directors.

2024 Conference Update

The board approved a member event to be held in October 2024. In 2023, ACEC paused the annual member event to evaluate past events and plan future events. The board directed staff to plan a day-long event focused on interfacing with our member organizations (ACEC-BC, etc.), followed by a day-long "industry event," followed by Parliament Hill Day. These events will be held in Ottawa along with the October Board Meeting.

Corporate Reporting of Sustainability Measures

Some of our members have raised concerns that the accounting/management consulting industry seems to be taking charge of tracking corporate sustainability measures, such as GHG emissions, calling it "assurance" work to bring it into their realm. For publicly traded firms, reporting of these measures is now becoming a requirement as part of their annual reporting.

We have concerns whether accountants and management consultants have the technical expertise to be able to track these measures effectively since their training mostly focuses on financials. Consequently, it is important that engineers (and/or scientists) should be more closely involved in the process. Many standards and guidance on sustainability measures are being created in this emerging area, so now is the opportunity for interest and possible action.

ACEC-Canada has raised this concern with Engineers Canada, and they have confirmed that they support our concerns and will be raising them with their counterparts in the accounting industry.

Economic Impact and Sentiment Studies

In February, ACEC received preliminary, high-level results of an economic impact study. The full study results were delivered in mid-May. An engineering business sentiment was distributed to 1250 leaders within the ACEC membership. The response rate was nearly 20%, with nearly 250 responses having been received at the time of this report. A draft of the business sentiment survey was presented at the Executive Forum in June, and the final survey results are expected to be shared with the membership. A second survey will be conducted at the end of the summer and presented at the ACEC Leadership Conference in October.

Looking Ahead:

In the year ahead, ACEC will continue our work of educating ministers, parliamentarians and senior bureaucrats on the important role infrastructure plays in driving the economy and improving the environmental and social quality of life for Canadians. ACEC looks forward to working with the federal government on following through on its commitments and to help ensure that its programs are efficient and effective.

The ACEC Team will continue to focus on effective interpretation and implementation of the new federal language requirements for procurement documents. This will involve active participation in the planned public consultation as well as advocacy with PSPC and other senior government bureaucrats.

In addition, ACEC will expand engagement with the members through the planned member events in October, Parliament Hill Day, and the new Small Firm Forum in November.





BC Hydro Liaison Committee



Bruno Bagnères

Committee Chair

Klohn Crippen Berger

Significant work in the past year:

1. The 2023 BC Hydro Client Engagement Breakfast was held on November 28.
2. January 31: Kick-off meeting held to define objectives for 2024 and topic of interest.
3. February 23: Follow-up meeting held with review of topics-of-interest survey results.
4. March 15: Follow-up meeting held on sub-groups.
5. Ongoing: Various internal sub-group meetings on topic-of-interest.
6. Before end of June: Reconvene on various sub-groups before reporting to members.

Key information for members: Our group is focused on technical information exchange. No procurement topics will be discussed.

Last year ended with our BC Hydro Client Engagement Breakfast held on November 28, 2023. Please see the list of topics and speakers below:

- Frank Lin, Director, Interconnections and Shared Assets. Frank provided an update on the BC Hydro Power call.
- Hansi Liu-Atkinson, Team Lead, Conservation and Energy Management. Hansi provided an update on BC Hydro's electrification plan.
- James Anderson, Team Lead, Asset Portfolios and Performance within Hydro Asset Planning, BC Hydro. James provided an overview of BC Hydro's 10-year capital plan.
- Andrew Watson, P. Eng., Director, Site C Design Engineering. Andrew provided an update on the Site C project.

Following our January 2024 kick-off meeting and review of objectives, the members and BC Hydro decided to focus this year's activities on technical topics. The following topics were put forward:

- Improving P.Eng. processing delays for foreign-trained engineers.
- Project delivery models for design and construction (e.g., traditional, DB, ECI, etc.).
- Design software. Specialty design software, non-standard, best practices for better service.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Cyber security, including MRS/NERC, IT, OT, cloud storage, confidentiality, attacks, etc.
- Professional Governance Act (PGA) Regulations.

It was decided to select 3 topics, and following a survey amongst our members, these were selected with their volunteered champions:

1. Sub-Group 1: Improving P.Eng. processing delays for foreign-trained engineers. (Dave Sydor)
2. Sub-Group 2: Project delivery models for design and construction. (Eugene Cheung)
3. Sub-Group 3: Design software and AI. (Eric Young/Marcell Iseli)

There have been meetings within the 3 sub-groups in March, April, and May in which BC Hydro was involved. A reporting meeting amongst current ACEC-BC members and BC Hydro is scheduled for the end of June 2024.

An "open house" will also be scheduled for the end of the year. Still to be scheduled.

This year's meeting notes are attached together with PowerPoint topic presentations from our February 23 and March 15 committee meetings.

Committee Members

Adam Solheim, Wood
Alex Cosovanu, PBX Engineering Ltd.
Barry Chilibeck, Northwest Hydraulic
Bruno Bagnères, Klohn Crippen Berger
Christa Groves, BC Hydro
Christophe Desage, BBA
Dave Sydor, BC Hydro
David Daw, WSP
Don Soriano, CIMA+
Eric Young, BC Hydro
Eugene Cheung, Klohn Crippen Berger
Ian Steele, PBX
Marcell Iseli, McElhanney
Mariam Addulameer, RAM
Matt Gellis, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Michael Florendo, McElhanney
Mitchell Young, Moffatt & Nichol
Murray Kroeker, BC Hydro
Neill Massey, BBA
Patrick Korner, Tetra Tech
Soheil Razavi-Darbar, BC Hydro
Stefano Vitucci, WSP
Tilman Thrum, Stantec
Tobi Allen, Ausenco
Trevor St Germain, Maven Consulting
Vijay Kallur, Arcadis
William Johnston, WSP
Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies



Building Engineering Committee



Graeme McAllister

Chair

Thurber Engineering

Significant work in the past year:

1. The Building Engineering Committee engaged with local government and developed a framework for a position paper on the digitization of municipal permits.
2. The committee reviewed practice considerations of the new BC Building Code and the implications of the new Architects Regulation on engineering practice.
3. Practice and policy consultations were also held with municipal and provincial government.
4. Advocacy continues with respect to the impact of permitting backlog advanced with the City of Vancouver and the Province, as well as issues related to codes and standards.

Key information for members: The Building Engineering Committee is a practice-focused committee, assisting with the development of documents to support building professionals and advising the board and secretariat on issues impacting the sector.

Members work together to represent the broad range of technical practices engaged in vertical construction. Leaders in engineering from various disciplines, including structural, geotechnical, electrical, mechanical, civil, and building systems, collaborate to generate member resources, advocate for changes to processes, and respond to requests for feedback on programs, policies, and regulation.

The committee worked over the last year to support member advocacy through engagement with different organizations seeking input on changing regulation, processes, and education. The committee met with local municipalities and provided feedback on permitting processes, including the City of Vancouver's development permit review, and established a framework for a position paper on the digitization of municipal permit applications. The committee also provided review and feedback on the recent adoption of the 2024 BC Building

Code and its delayed incorporation of new seismic provisions. Finally, the committee supported member firms advocating in response to AIBC Bulletin 34 being repealed and the effect of this on engineering firms providing building envelope services.

The committee is currently developing their workplan for the coming year and hopes to release a paper on the digitization of municipal permits, host an industry night, and tackle issues relevant to the sector, including regulation and permitting.

Committee Members

Andrew Tashiro, WSP

Clint Low, Bush Bohlman & Partners

Darren Gervais-Harrison, PBX Engineering

Fadi Ghorayeb, DIALOG

Graeme McAllister, Thurber Engineering

Graeme Terris, Pinchin Ltd.

Greg Ciura, WSP

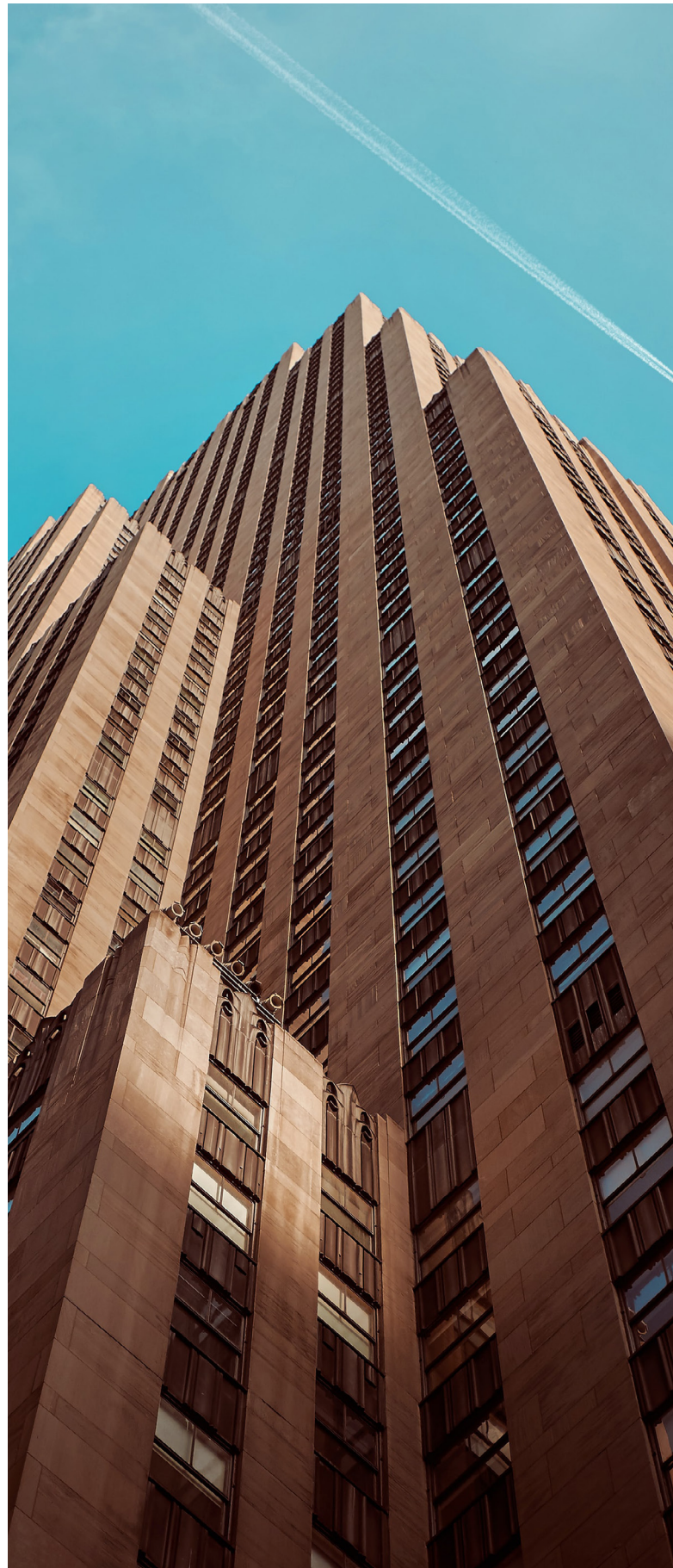
Justin Chu, AECOM

Lillian Siu, Associated Engineering

Mohammad Fakoor, RJC Engineers

Sara Mighan, MCW Consultants

Simpson Hong, Urban Systems Ltd.





Business Practice Committee



Kip Skabar

Committee Chair

Stantec

Significant work in the past year: The position paper on fee guidelines and indemnities was a key deliverable in the past year, as well as some committee review on Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) and onerous clauses (prompt payment, field reviews, reliance, prime contractor), and the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) endorsement.

Key information for members: The majority of owners and public agencies continue to practice fee-based selection of professional engineering consulting services across the BC region. Additionally, onerous clauses continue to be included in consulting contracts that member firms are being asked to sign. These clauses may impact insurance and regulatory compliance, and so, ACEC-BC has recommended following the Master Municipal Construction Documents Standard Client-Consultant Agreement (MMCD CCA) as an example contract.

The Business Practice Committee (BPC) has been focused on providing advice and developing resources for business practice issues. These activities have included preparing position statements and member bulletins, promoting quality-based consultant selection across the industry with the ACEC-BC Municipality Committee, and updating budget guidelines with the ACEC-BC Transportation Committee. We also worked with other ACEC-BC mainline committees to address further challenges faced by member firms in the industry.

The key task faced by the BPC in 2023–24 was to perform an annual review and update to the ACEC-BC consulting fee guidelines and present the findings to the board for approval. An increase in rates, higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was recommended and approved. This recommendation was largely due to market conditions in BC as well as research conducted by the BPC in which member firms identified a ‘catching up’ period in a post-pandemic, high-inflation economic climate.

The BPC also monitored emerging industry-specific issues that affect the business interests of member firms. Fee-based selection across the majority of engineering consultant clients in the BC region continues to be an issue, as well as onerous clauses that are being identified and discussed in detail to support member firms in building partnerships with clients.

Committee Members

Alyse Wilkinson, WSP

Amanda Rust, Binnie

Anita Le, Jacobs

Brian Chatwin, Chatwin Eng.

David Lu, Aplin Martin

Emily Schwede, Atkins Realis

Frank Liu, Hatch

Jay Rao, EXP

Kathryn Ekman, McElhanney

Kip Skabar, Stantec

Matt Gellis, NHC

Rob McLeod, Axis Insurance

Robert Lew, Aplin Martin

Sheldon North, BGC



Deputy Ministers and Industry Infrastructure Forum



Gurjit Sangha

ACEC-BC Representative
WSP



Tim Stanley

ACEC-BC Representative
Stratice Consulting



Caroline Andrewes

Special Advisor & Steering Committee
ACEC-BC

The Deputy Ministers and Industry Infrastructure Forum (DMIIF) supports collaboration between the provincial infrastructure ministries and the design, engineering, and construction sectors. Members of the forum meet two to four times annually, with the DMIIF Steering Committee managing on-going work between meetings.

Each meeting of the forum includes updates from the deputy ministers on information relevant for industry including budgets, new project or policy announcements, organizational insight, and feedback on new programs. The CEOs of Infrastructure BC and TI Corporation are also members of the forum and are asked to share information on major projects and policies impacting procurement and project delivery.

The forum met four times over the past year, pushing forward projects including standard agreements, BIM implementation for the province, and receiving updates on the provincial and Crown corporation capital plans and policy implementation.

Standard Consultant Agreements:

Neil Cumming, Tim Stanley (Caroline Andrewes, advisor)

From the perspective of ACEC-BC members, the most significant action was the completion and release of Standard Consultant Agreements for Architects and Engineers. Announced in January and implemented across all ministries and Crown agencies (excluding BC Hydro), the new agreements are intended for use for all engineering or architectural assignments. The agreements are supplementary conditions to standard contracts for consulting architects (RAIC Doc 6) and consulting engineers (CCDC-31). With release of the documents the subcommittee was disbanded.

Capital Investment and the ESG Framework:

Much discussion over the past year focused on housing, implementation of the Treasury Board ESG Framework for capital, and market conditions affecting capital delivery (labour availability, cost escalation).

The ESG Framework was introduced in late 2022 and is applied by the Treasury Board in assessing capital projects for their ability to deliver on key policies: CleanBC, use of mass timber, integrated childcare spaces, and labour objectives for trades. The Treasury Board sought feedback from ACEC-BC members on the efficacy of the approach. Members shared concerns regarding the ability to implement CleanBC's electrification objectives under certain regional and use conditions like healthcare facilities.

BC Hydro took on a more prominent role on the DMIIF ensuring that their capital plan is visible alongside other major capital investments like education and housing.

The DMIIF continues to be a space where ACEC-BC builds understanding of our industry, to advance initiatives that benefit our members, and to build important relationships within the professional public service. The forum received several ACEC-BC reports over the past year including Equity in Procurement, BIM and Bridges, and a recent letter regarding the impact of professional regulation on building engineering practitioners.



Engineers and Geoscientists BC Consulting Practice Advisory Group



Nick Bevilacqua

ACEC-BC Representative

Fast + Epp

- Risk Assessments and Independent Reviews
- Professional Practice Advice, Guidelines, and Practice Advisories

The primary functions of the EGBC Professional Practice Advisory Group (PPAG) include the following:

- Provide advice regarding issues that influence the practice of professional engineering and professional geoscience in BC.
- Advise on continuous improvement of the Continuing Education Program.
- Advise on the content, frequency, scope, and delivery of methods of continuing education offerings offered and facilitated by EGBC.

As of 2024, the PPAG has extended this scope to also provide oversight to the following practice-related advisory groups within EGBC:

- Built Environment Advisory Group
- Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Group
- High Technology Advisory Group
- Manufacturing and Equipment Advisory Group
- Natural Resources and Natural Hazards Advisory Group

Given this mandate, the PPAG provides advice, guidance, and recommendations on matters related to engineering and geoscience professional practice. ACEC-BC's involvement in this group ensures that the input provided to EGBC across these various focus areas is consistent with the needs and expectations of the consulting engineering community.

Over the past year, the EGBC PPAG has met on a quarterly basis to discuss the following topics:

- Regulation of Firms
- Continuing Education Program and Annual Information Reporting
- Audit and Practice Reviews

With EGBC's recent shift in strategy regarding firm regulation and continuing education requirements, the PPAG placed strong emphasis on drawing lessons learned from the initial implementation of this strategy, its impact on the engineering community, and potential opportunities for improvement in the year ahead. Our feedback and involvement assisted in steering EGBC's approach on these fronts towards directions more favourable to consulting firms – for example, improved awareness, communication, and online interfaces related to EGBC's Continuing Education Program.





Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee



Victoria Kilpatrick
Committee Co-chair
Associated Engineering



Adam Hoag
Committee Co-chair
COWI

Significant work in the past year:

- 1. Updated Committee Terms of Reference
- 2. Land Acknowledgement Guide
- 3. ERG Panel Discussion
- 4. Mental Health Resource Guide

Key information for members:

The EDI Committee provides a forum for the exchange of information about diversity initiatives and challenges within the consulting engineering sector.

Updated Committee Terms of Reference

The committee Terms of Reference (TOR) were updated to reflect the current state of the committee. No changes were made to the purpose or intent of the committee, but changes included logistical and practical updates such as allowing for two co-chairs to equally lead the committee.

Land Acknowledgement Guide

A brief “Get Started Guide” was published on the topic of Indigenous land acknowledgments. The guide included context about the importance of territorial acknowledgement, a list of considerations when developing an acknowledgement, a sample acknowledgement that has been used by ACEC-BC, along with context to explain the elements of the sample acknowledgement, and links to relevant resources. The guide was well received and based on the stats on website view, the resource had very high engagement.

ERG Panel Discussion

The committee arranged a panel discussion on November 22, 2023, on the topic of employee resource groups (ERGs). The discussion included panelists from each of the organizational EDI award winners from 2020-2022. The panelists shared relevant information about ERGs and how different firms are implementing and supporting

ERGs in their workplaces. Following the panel discussion, the EDI Committee recognized the opportunity to develop a resource based on the information shared in the discussion (see Work in Progress).

Mental Health Resource

Prior to the beginning of the pandemic, employers were beginning to understand and respond to the prevalence of mental health challenges in the workplace. Over the last few years, in response to the pandemic and the resulting changes in the workplace, there has been an increased emphasis on the need to support employee mental health. The committee developed a mental health resource which provides an overview from the perspectives of employers, managers, peers, and self-care.

Work in progress:

Equity Reporting: Over the past few years, members have observed increased requirements in procurement related to equity reporting. These requirements are varied in both what is being asked, how they are evaluated, and how they are tracked or assessed during project delivery. An initial report was released in June 2023. The committee has since been working on a second report to explore the topic in more detail, gathering feedback and examples from members, clients, and other organizations. The follow-up report will be released later in 2024.

Guide to Indigenous Engagement: ACEC-BC released a position paper in 2015 on the topic of Indigenous engagement, which contained some useful information and guidance that was relevant at the time. The EDI Committee reviewed the resource and identified that the content needs to be updated based on the evolving landscape of reconciliation along with the availability of more recent and relevant complementary resources. The committee is developing an engagement guide that provides a brief summary along with links to current references.

Gender Equity Event: Our Gender Equity Sub-Committee is committed to translating awareness into actionable intelligence, utilizing an intersectional lens to identify and address systemic barriers. We advocate for driving tangible change in policies and practices to achieve equitable outcomes for individuals of all gender identities. An event is being planned for November/December 2024 on this topic.

ERG Resource Guide: As a follow-up to the event held in 2023, the committee is preparing a resource guide to outline the objectives, benefits, participation, and steps to initiate Employee Resource Groups. Items that were discussed in the November 2023 panel discussion will be used as the basis for this document and additional resources will be included.

Revise the EDI Award TOR: The committee is working to revise the Terms of Reference for the ACEC-BC EDI award. The revisions aim to focus on the following changes:

- Ensure the focus is on impacts within BC.
- Focus on specific initiatives or projects.
- Address some of the observed differences in scale of nominations between large and small companies.

Committee Members

Aileen Maynard, Hedgehog Technologies
Chelsea Seaby, Klohn Crippen Berger
Chunpreet Sahota, WSP
Jay Rao, EXP Services
Katie Au, BBA
Leanne Johnson, BGC Engineering
Michelle Ng, Moffat & Nickol
Raya Smertina, Hatch
Rita Gareb-Ouko, RAM
Robyn Affleck, BGC Engineering
Roxana Mousavi, Stantec
Sharon Choi, RAM
Stacey Kons, Binnie
Suzanne Powell, Thurber
Vicki Kilpatrick, McElhanney



Heath & Safety Roundtable



Rob Dhillon

Committee Chair

McElhanney

Significant work in the past year: Focused on topics related to technology, safety through an EDI lens, and risks related to climate change and natural and human-caused disasters.

The Health & Safety Leaders Roundtable had another successful year of continued collaboration, sharing, and learnings. We experienced slight growth in membership by welcoming Parsons to the roundtable.

Over the past year there were 4 key themes of discussion:

- Psychosocial and psychological safety, including but not limited to inclusive workplaces, harassment in the workplace, and mental health injuries.
- Human-caused and natural disaster preparation and response.
- Working in high-risk environments safely such as working roadside and in and around swift water.
- Technology being used to power and accelerate health and safety efforts.

To better anticipate and respond to impacts of a rapidly changing world, the roundtable made two enhancements to our collaboration and support model:

- Augmenting monthly meetings with an on-going collaboration forum on Microsoft Teams.

- Informal emergency meetings (as required) to provide a more timely and collaborative response for significant emergency events in our communities.

Members also seized opportunities to contribute to the industry at large and beyond by:

Presenting Site Safety for All: Actions from Engineering and Construction to Support More Inclusive Site Environments at the Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades, and Technology (CCWESTT) conference.

Contributing to the ConstructConnect publication on the topic of ergonomics.

Committee Members

Allison Loughheed Mumo, Associated Engineering

Angelica Lopez, Kohn Crippen Berger

Derek Ray, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants

Mike Harroun, Mott MacDonald Canada

Joe Pelliccia, Parsons

Michelle Cooke, McElhanney

Nicolas Chan, Thurber Engineering

Rob Dhillon, McElhanney

Samantha Shill, RAM Consulting

Sarah Kimball, BGC Engineering

Sharon Blount, BGC Engineering



Master Municipal Construction Documents Association



Dieter Diedericks

ACEC-BC Representative

Associated Engineering



Joel McAllister

ACEC-BC Representative

Onsite Engineering

The Master Municipal Construction Documents Association (MMCDA) was created in 1989 by the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association, the Consulting Engineers of BC, and the Municipal Engineers Division of Engineers and Geoscientists BC to create fair and equitable documents and practices for the municipal sector. Now, the association operates from the collective perspectives of government, consultants, contractors, and owners. ACEC-BC continues to work together with MMCDA on shared concerns, with two members sitting on the MMCD Board of Directors.

The MMCDA Tender Documents, Standard Specifications and Drawings are widely accepted and used throughout BC, with over 117 members (2 associated members, 57 sponsoring members, and 58 consultants). A range of design software-compatible templates and software tools for municipal asset management, data transfer, and asset registration are widely accepted as well. The MMCDA also provides training programs for contract administration, referees, construction superintendents, inspectors and foremen on an annual basis. There are 260 certified contract administrators listed on the MMCDA website.

At the beginning of 2024 Glen Barker was appointed as the new executive director, following Neil Nyberg's retirement.

ACEC-BC appoints two members to represent the industry on the MMCDA Board of Directors. Over the

past year, ACEC BC member firms have been presented by Dieter Diedericks (Associated Engineering) and Joel McAllister (Onsite Engineering Ltd.).

Several volunteer committees manage the products and priorities for the MMDCA, including the Documents Committee (Civil and Electrical), the Marketing Committee and Education Committee, the Asset Management Committee, and the Referee Committee. Most committees have volunteer representation from the consulting, contracting and local government sectors.

A new Client/Consultant Agreement will be released during the summer of 2024. The 2009 edition of the MMCD construction document will be phased out by the end of 2024.

The following training courses were completed in 2023:

- Superintendent Course attendees: 18
- Contract Administrator Course attendees: 178

Two MMCD Referees were certified in 2023, bringing the total referees to five.

When registered as supporting members of MMCDA, consultants with ACEC-BC qualify for discounts on MMCDA products and training. ACEC-BC members are among the most active sources of advice and suggestions for changes. This positive contribution is well recognized by the other MMCDA partners in municipalities, government and the consulting industry.



Membership Affairs Committee



Graham Lovely
Committee Chair
MCW Consultants

The ACEC-BC Membership Affairs Committee represents member firms involved in consulting in both public and private sectors. The committee has strong links to the ACEC-BC administration due to our direct impact on new and existing members.

The objectives of the Membership Affairs Committee are to:

- Engage with and encourage new members to join ACEC.
- Review and recommend membership for potential member firms and associate memberships (non-consulting engineering specific firms).
- Promote ACEC-BC’s core values and advocate for member firms’ business interests to both public and private sector clients.
- Encourage positive contributions to volunteering and activities within the broader membership of ACEC-BC.
- Serve as the liaison between the administration and the membership on issues related to membership.

The committee’s work during this past year is broken into three categories:

Executive Interface Group and Daily membership Affairs Duties:

- Review of member applications and the application process.

- Develop criteria for review and approvals of new members.
- Membership reviews and retention policy.
- Review of member benefits.
- Events and associated member occasions.
- Updating of general application online and processes for secondary applications.

Production output management group:

- Creation of membership welcome package.
- Review of marketing and communications for new membership.
- Development of event materials and promotion of attendance/member engagement.

Ambassadors Group:

- Creation of an ambassadors group.
- Outline and structure of the ambassadors group.

Committee Members

Jeff McLellan, BFL Canada
Jessica Opeka, Mott MacDonald
Joel Sawatzky, Stantec
John Wardrop, Thurber Engineering
Kurtis Spence, WOOD
Lianna Mah, Associated Engineering
Marc Winer, Dillon Consulting
Matt Beck, WSP
Tijana Smiljanic, McElhanney



Metro Vancouver Liaison Committee



Anthony Fuller

Committee Chair

WSP

Significant work in the past year:

- Supporting Metro Vancouver in finding ways to improve the procurement process related efficiency and transparency.
- Supporting Metro Vancouver to better define project milestone submissions and risk, permitting and design stage road-mapping.
- Working to improve clarity in project management expectations around level of effort and defined consultants.
- Engaging Metro Vancouver on contract terms and conditions.

Key information for members: The mission of the Metro Vancouver (MV) Liaison Committee is to provide a mutually beneficial relationship between ACEC-BC and MV that:

- Improves the delivery and technical quality of consulting engineering services to MV; and
- Supports MV's efforts to improve program management and procurement efficiency.

The MV Liaison Committee moves into the second half of 2024 as a group of 17 industry representatives. Anthony Fuller steps down as chair, in June and Jesse Unke as current vice-chair, will step in to the role. In addition to its bi-annual meetings with MV directors and general managers and organizing the very popular ACEC-BC-MV Client Engagement Event, the committee operates through three standing subcommittees set up to help organize the Liaison Committee's work with MV and address three key pillars of interaction and collaboration with MV. These include procurement, project delivery and technical services, as described below:

1. Procurement Subcommittee: Scope includes, but is not limited to, MV procurement processes, selection criteria, RFQ/RFP requirements, contract terms, and related issues.
2. Project Management Subcommittee: Scope includes, but is not limited to, project management and related cost / schedule / quality / scope / risk control issues, as well as working with MV to improve the management and delivery of their capital plan.
3. Engineering Subcommittee: Scope includes, but is not limited to, submission milestone expectations, design standards, stakeholder management, technical innovation, and related issues.

Over the past year, the subcommittees have been working with MV on the topics presented below.

Procurement

MV is aware of the high volume of work in their capital plan and the demands it places on them, the consulting community, and the construction industry. The consulting community is also aware of this issue and its impact on their own ability to resource and deliver MV projects effectively. Metro Vancouver has also expressed the desire to be regarded as the “Client of Choice”.

While question of the capacity of the consulting community to respond to Metro Vancouver’s planned work is vast and complex, and its entirety is well beyond the scope of the committee, the procurement subcommittee worked in collaboration with MV staff on a list of procurement items as part of our 2023-2024 Committee Plan. These items focused on (i) identifying key procurement concerns (such as limited responses to RFPs/RFPs); (ii) what procurement changes would be needed from Metro Vancouver; (iii) what would be the benefit for Metro Vancouver (in making such changes), and (iv) identifying specific examples.

Expanding the consulting pool

Metro Vancouver has expressed concern about the capacity of the local consulting community to respond to and deliver the volume of planned work. Ways expand the consulting pool by facilitating entry of new and/or smaller firms into the Metro Vancouver market are being explored with Metro Vancouver. Some of the initiatives discussed included changing procurement evaluation requirements, which make it hard for new companies to win new work with Metro Vancouver (such as previous MV experience and out of region project references etc.) to hosting a meet and greet forum for new companies were.

Increasing responses to RFPs / RFQs

Lack of responses could be a result of the market not expecting / prioritizing the opportunity and/or multiple requests for submission are issued close together. Ways to address these issues were explored including MV providing the industry with advance warning to proposal opportunities (e.g., through a Notification of Intent [NOI]); providing quarterly project forecasting (as a sub-set of the annual project forecast already provided to the ACEC-BC membership) and/or extend the RFP

response time for larger value proposals. Additionally, concerns were raised regarding repeated submission of qualifications, both corporate and key team members at both the RFQ and RFP stages. Ways to reduce and streamline the level of effort required by consulting companies in each bidding stage was discussed. MV Procurement is working on ensuring that RFQ’s are simple and easy to complete and only focus on the qualitative aspects of the organization, while the RFPs will be more detailed and require specifics for the project at hand.

Visibility of MV rosters

MV uses a number of tools MSAs, TESAs and SOAs (rosters) to foster procurement efficiencies. Companies already on these MV rosters know when they are up for renewal; however, those companies that are not on the rosters do not have the same visibility. MV Procurement is considering sharing a list of all our MSAs, TESAs and SOAs and their contract terms and may list this on their website. In addition, rather than continuing to extend expiring rosters, MV intends to open existing MSAs, TESAs and SOAs to the market.

Utilization of MV rosters

The procurement sub-committee shared examples of existing MV rosters that are not being utilized. MV Procurement plans to review the strategy for MSAs, TESAs and SOAs so they are structured properly for their intended purpose and have clear rules of engagement.

Metro Vancouver Design requirements

Metro Vancouver’s Design Guidelines / standards are complex. They are not available to new consultants until they have been awarded a project. This makes bidding a challenge for new entrants who are not familiar with MV’s guidelines and may not adequately scope and price a proposal without this information. It was requested to MV design requirements and specifications are made readily available to new companies that don’t have previous experience with MV. Publishing these on their website was suggested.

These efforts are ongoing and will continue into the 2024-2025 Committee Plan.

Requirements around economic opportunities for First Nations were identified by the committee overall

and discussed with MV. MV includes requirements for providing economic benefit to First Nations as part of their RFPs. These are presented conceptually as contracting opportunities, or other similar arrangements proposed by consultants. RFP language includes this as part of the evaluation of consultant proposals, with points assigned reflecting the level of FN involvement. In practice, this can be difficult to achieve due in part to the limited resources and means available to bands to contribute directly to a project in a contracting capacity. It can also present some challenges to companies around corporate ethical guidelines.

This issue has been discussed with the board and is not currently an active item for the committee.

Engineering

The engineering subcommittee continued to work in collaboration with MV staff on items aimed at improving delivery of technical services. A draft Design Review Process has been developed by MV, building on previous work by this subcommittee and incorporating some input. This includes checklists that can be tailored for RFPs / projects and improve clarity around deliverable expectations. As part of this, MV recognizes the need to ensure the right MV staff are reviewing deliverables at the right time to mitigate rework and resultant project delays.

A series of roadmaps related to design review, project risk assessment, and permitting were previously developed in draft form with input from the subcommittee. These are intended to facilitate these activities and make the effort of planning and scoping them more reliable. The intent is to hand these over to the Project Management Committee for further action / follow-up with their MV counterparts.

MV also shared that Firm Report Cards have been piloted by some groups, providing consolidated feedback on project portfolio performance. This subcommittee was previously asked for input on metrics that consultants would like feedback on.

Recent changes to MV's procurement policy have also been discussed by the subcommittee, noting potential implications related to technical services, such as considerations around continuity and innovation.

Project Management

A number of items were identified this year to discussion with Metro Vancouver, namely:

1. Project Management effort required from Consultants and how MV's requirements are higher than other consultants.
2. Sub-consultants directly assigned by MV to Consultant's teams, e.g., First Nations Archaeologists, and how that impacts responsibilities and work flow.
3. Qualified personnel hiring and retention
4. PMO changes notifications.
5. Drawings standards and Revit Models which would be better addressed in partnership with the Engineering Committee.

We met with MV in three separate occasions to discuss the first three items in the above list. The discussions were productive and some of the take home conclusions are listed below:

- MV recognizes the level of effort require from Consultants to deliver their jobs and appreciates upfront communication on the part their teams on project needs.
- It was encouraged to have Consultants meet with MV to share their experience with ongoing projects on a regular basis such that MV understands our challenges and shares their own with the Consultant.
- MV agrees that if Sub-Consultant are assigned the working framework between all teams must be understood from the project start. Moreover, the assigned Sub-Consultant should be mostly managed by MV in case their standards differ from MV's understanding. It is not for the Consultant to get involved in disputes between project deliver expectations between MV and their assigned Sub-Consultants.
- MV suggested we organize a workshop between various ACEC members and MV PM to facilitate understanding, communication, and a sharing of experiences between the different teams. This is particular important as MV recognizes some of their Project Managers are early in their careers and would benefit from building relationships and further understanding of the challenges facing the Consulting community.

We will carry on working with MV on the additional identified items in the new year.

ACEC-MV Client Engagement Event

This year’s MV Client Engagement Event occurred on May 29, 2024 at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, and was a hybrid in-person and live streamed event. The committee selected the keynote speaker this year. John Gamble, President and CEO of ACEC Canada, presented on ACEC-Canada’s work supporting consulting engineering and the industry from a national perspective, focusing on his observations from across Canada on the preferred client. MV’s Commissioner and Chief Administrative Officer, Jerry Dobrovolny presented an overall overview of MV, followed by the four General Managers from MV presenting on their respective departments including:

- Cheryl Nelms, General Manager, Project Delivery
- Marilyn Towill, General Manager, Water Services
- Peter Navratil, General Manager, Liquid Waste Services
- Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Following the presentations, in-person attendees enjoyed some food, drink, and networking.

Committee Members

- Adeela Sidhu, Hatch
Anthony Fuller, WSP
Connor Langford , Mott MacDonald Canada
Cristina Fonseca, Stantec
Fred Marquis, Delve Underground
Gemma Dunn, GHD
Greg McNeill, Ausenco
Gurjit Sangha, WSP
Iain Ward, exp
Jack Deragopian, TetraTech
Jeff Halliday, CIMA+
Jesse Unke, Maven
Joe Di Placito, RAM
Michael Wrinch, Hedgehog Technologies
Paul Macinante, Jacobs
Quinn Crosina, Associated Engineering
Thomas Bekenn, RAM
Tim Phelan, AECOM



Municipal Engineering Committee



Raya Smertina

Committee Chair

Hatch

Significant work in the past year:

Client Engagement:

- Re-engaging with municipalities across the province through relationship building and building ACEC-BC profile

QBS and Procurement:

- Supporting ACEC-BC in discussions with municipal procurement departments for balanced and fair contract language and regulatory compliance

Events:

- February 2024 – City of Prince George
- June 2023 – City of Vancouver

Key information for members: The MEC focuses on strengthening the relationships between the municipal engineering consulting industry and our municipal and local government clients, promoting the use of fair contract language and qualification-based selection.

The Municipal Engineering Committee's 17 members met eight times in the past year to discuss client engagement, procurement practices and trends in the industry.

Client Engagement

Rather than focusing on the quantity of events, the committee focused on reconnecting with municipal clients via refreshing their perspective on ACEC-BC and the value the association brings to clients as well as members. Committee members used pre-existing relationships and standard branding language to reach out to municipal clients and discuss their needs, concerns and values for the consulting engineering community. MEC continued to work towards reimagining client engagement events by focusing on shared values and opportunities. Two successful and well-attended events were held with the City of Prince George (February 2024) and the City of Vancouver (June 2023).

Fair Contract Language

The Committee continues to support open and ongoing communication between the association on behalf of its membership and our municipal clients regarding fair contract language and procurement practices. Constructive discussions regarding Professional Service Agreement language, regulatory compliance, authentication of documents and the value of quality-based selection were all initiated with a number of local government organizations, fostering collaboration and sustainable industry practices for all.

MMCD Board Support

MEC's MMCD Board Liaison supported their development of the Client Consultant Agreement, a milestone for the industry and the first update since 2001.

Committee Collaboration

MEC continues to work closely with other ACEC-BC and external committees to share knowledge and resources, including the Transportation Committee, Metro Vancouver Liaison Committee, the MMCD Board and others.

Committee Members

Chris Boit, ISL Engineering
Colin Kristiansen, Kerr Wood Leidal
David Moschini, Tetra Tech EBA
Donovan Klassen, Carollo
Gabriene Kaechele, Binnie
Jesse Unke, Maven Consulting Ltd.
Joel McAllister, Onsite Engineering
Joel Thomson, Urban Systems
Jonathan Musser, Associated Engineering
Kyra Ching, RF Binnie
Marc Winer, Dillon Consulting
Michael Florendo, McElhanney
Paul Farquharson, GHD
Tanya Sadlo, McElhanney
Will Eisbrenner, Binnie
Yariv Ben-Shooshan, Jacobs
Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies





Regulation Working Group



Katie Au

Working Group Chair

BBA

Significant work in the past year: The working group collaborated with Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) on a High-Risk Professional Activities & Work (HRPAW) webinar to inform and knowledge share about risk assessment methods.

Further to the member bulletin that the Regulation Working Group published on Independent Review of High-Risk Professional Activities or Work (HRPAW), the group continued efforts to clarify the requirements set out by this standard. The Regulation Working Group met with Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC) to collaborate on a webinar to inform and knowledge share about the implementation of the standard in consulting projects. Moderated by Erin, the panelists included Younes Rashidi from Hedgehog Technologies, Mina Shahraki and Roger Austin from BBA, Susan Trickey and Michael Porter from BGC Engineering, and Lindsay Steele and Kelly Dayman from EGBC.

During the webinar, EGBC clarified the intent of the standard and provided highlights of the requirements. Two case studies were presented on risk assessment methods applied in projects, followed by panel discussions. The discussions covered risk mitigation measures, changes in risk assessment and peer review processes following the adoption of this standard, and approach to risk assessment for projects that are less design-focused (i.e., studies and assessments).

Other topics that the working group discussed include individual audits, firm audits, continuing education, PPMP support for smaller contractors and the interest of Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC) in understanding the scope of practice for technologies and technicians.

ACEC-BC members who are professional registrants with Engineers & Geoscientists BC and have primary responsibility or a high-degree of engagement with regulated practice, including oversight of the PPMP and internal training at their firm, are encouraged to join the working group.

Working Group Members

Ashley Adamache, Stantec
Ben Haeusler, Stantec
Bernard Abelson, McElhanney
Brigette Martin, BKL
Celina Kwasniak, Mott MacDonald
Chris Mealing, Mott MacDonald
Clare Share, McElhanney
Katie Au, BBA
Kiyomi Le, RAM
Lianna Mah, Associated Engineering
Maurizio Ponzini, Binnie
Nick Bevilacqua, Fast + Epp
Robin Parker, Kerr Wood Leidal
Stefano Vitucci, WSP
Todd Stewart, Aplin Martin
Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies



Small Firms Council



Erin Martin-Serrano

Committee Chair

Hedgehog Technologies

Significant work in the past year: The council worked through the year on a mentorship initiative for small firms and re-surveyed members on the value of this initiative. Based on feedback, the council is embarking on regular small firm networking events that will be centered around a theme and open to all ACEC-BC small firm members. The council is also working on a bulletin in conjunction with the Business Practice Committee for sub-consultant contract terms and best practices.

Key information for members: The council hosted an in-person networking event on June 27th, 2024, and is also working on a joint bulletin with the Business Practice Committee regarding sub-consultant contract considerations.

Last year, the council's initiatives were mentorship, hybrid office best practices, and contract culture for small firms. To support the mentorship initiative, the council worked through the year and re-surveyed a sub-set of small firms on the value of this initiative as the effort was high to formalize this program. As an outcome, the council is embarking on regular in-person networking events in 2024 for ACEC-BC small firm members. Therefore, the council's initiatives for 2024 are prioritized as follows: in-person networking events, contract culture, and hybrid office best practices.

Networking events – To facilitate networking, connections and data gathering, the in-person networking events will be open for all ACEC-BC small firm members. These are planned to be held between two to four times a year, apart from the summer months. Each event is expected to be planned around a theme and will be held at a local restaurant after typical work hours. These events are to support new connections and gather information on ongoing initiatives. The first event was hosted on June 27, 2024.

Contract culture – For the council's contract culture initiative, a joint bulletin with the Business Practice Committee (BPC) is in progress. The bulletin is geared to outlining best practices and consideration for member firms entering into sub-consultant agreements. The initiative will reference the existing contract publications by ACEC-BC and ACEC while being a bulletin for quick points of reference for member firms. The bulletin is under development and targeted to be released in 2024.

Hybrid office best practices – This initiative requires data gathering and analysis to formalize recommendations to members. As such, this initiative is considered of higher effort for the council. It is planned that the in-person networking events will be used to survey members in attendance and prioritize this initiative accordingly for value to small firms. This will be of ongoing consideration for 2024.

The council's yearly initiatives are a direct result of input from small firms and council members. Supporting small firms in BC with connections and best practices is a key metric for the council. We are looking forward to continuing that support with both in-person networking events and ongoing publications. As a result, the council has prioritized the networking events, and the sub-consultant contract bulletin for 2024 as providing the highest value to ACEC-BC small firm members and reasonable effort for the council.

Committee Members

Colin Commandeur, TWD Technologies

Harvey Mann, CTQ Consultants

Ian Steele, PBX Engineering

James Kay, Alpine Engineering

Josh Lock, Collings Johnston

Lisa Graul, Maven Consulting

Mark Bliss, BKL Consultants

Sean Fritzsimmons, Revive ERP

Tim Stanley, Stratice Consulting





Sustainability and Climate Change



Alex Minett

Committee Chair

Thurber Engineering

Significant work in the past year:

The ACEC-BC Sustainability and Climate Change Committee organized the webinar, Introduction to Climate Science for Resilient Design. The webinar featured guest speakers from the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium who presented on the topic of climate science for resilient design.

Key information for members:

The Climate Change Guidance for Project Scoping document is expected to be published this coming fall.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Committee has completed its third year in which it continued to build on previous successes both internally and externally. The group serves as a forum to share information, advance, and advocate for best practices and resources relating to sustainability and climate change. The committee regularly hosted external guest speakers who provided informative presentations on topics such as:

- An overview of the extent of BC wildfires in 2023, highlighting some of the impacts and near-misses that occurred for drinking water systems.
- The ongoing implementation of the City of Richmond's Circular Strategy.
- Current sustainability initiatives in the District of Saanich.

The committee successfully hosted the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (University of Victoria) and held the Introduction to Climate Science for Resilient Design webinar.

A current publication nearing completion is the Climate Change Guidance for Project Scoping document. The aim of this document is to provide thought-provoking questions to be considered, and potentially implemented, at the time of project scoping. It is expected to be published in the fall, pending board approval.

At a recent strategy session, the group decided to realign its focus to include consideration of sustainable practices within ACEC member firms. We believe we are uniquely positioned through our broad membership to hold open discussions on current practices and initiatives at various firms, learn from those experiences, and share these findings.

In conclusion, it should be an exciting year for the Sustainability and Climate Change Committee, and we are looking forward to engaging with other committees and member firms as we look to push our new initiatives forward.

Committee Members

- Afzal Waseem, Tetra Tech
- Al Strang, Morrison Hershfield
- Alex Minett, Thurber
- Bernard Abelson, McElhanney
- Craig Sutherland, KWL
- Edwin Castrejon, Associated Engineering
- Genevieve Brown, NHC
- Hong Zhang, WSP
- Ivan Lee, Morrison Hershfield
- Jiansen Zhang, Parsons
- Robyn Casement, Associated Engineering
- Hayley Waldhaus, McElhanney





Transportation Committee



Mark Byram

Committee Chair

Thurber Engineering

The Transportation Committee provides overarching support to the transportation industry through the following:

- Acting as a sector advisor to the board.
- Developing and reviewing tools, practice content, and advisory documents for use by practitioners.
- Promoting the necessity of resilient, safe, and efficient transportation networks.
- Promoting the durability and sustainability of transportation infrastructure.
- Promoting the use of engineering consultants to address infrastructure needs.
- Promoting Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) procurement of engineering services.

The committee provides support and collaborates with other transportation-related committees (e.g., MoTI Liaison Committee, TransLink Liaison Committee, Municipal Engineering Committee) and intends to be the primary source of contact for other transportation sector stakeholders.

This year saw many significant transportation projects completed by member firms, as can be seen by the number of engineering and construction projects that were nominated at this year's ACEC Awards Gala.

The nominations included several Ministry of Transportation projects:

- Kicking Horse Canyon Phase 4
- BC Highway Reinstatement Program – Highway 5
- Quartz Creek Bridge Replacement Project
- Royal Avenue Underpass Rehabilitation and Deck Replacement
- Red Lillooet River Bridge Deck Renewal
- Highway 17 & Mount Newton Cross Road Transit Queue Jumper Lanes Project
- Highway 29 Realignment
- The Old Skeena River Bridge: Rehab & Recoating of a 100-Year-Old Steel Truss Bridge
- Highway 1 Malahat Tunnel Hill Washout

The extensive nomination list speaks to the significant impact the ministry has had on the consulting industry and the province in 2024. The Transportation Committee specifically recognized the ministry's enlightened approach to their relationship with the consulting engineering industry and nominated the ministry for a client of the year award.

Subsequently, a jury awarded Client of the Year to the Ministry of Transportation, noting the exceptional collaboration between the ministry's team and the engineering community. This sentiment is echoed by the Transportation Committee.

Additional to collaborating with stakeholders in the transportation sector, the committee has continued to update the Budget Guidelines for Engineering Services – Infrastructure and Transportation document. The diversity of the members of the group has served us well in this process which has brought varied perspectives and experiences into the discussions.

The committee members look forward to connecting with additional stakeholders and individual members in the coming year.

Committee Members

Aled Griffiths, Mott MacDonald
Amy Hunter, PBX Engineering
Anne-Marie Langlois, COWI
Courtney Gosselin, GHD
Emre Oruklu, WSP
Imran Gehlen, AECOM
Martin Devonald, BGC Engineering
Neal Cormack, ISL Engineering
Neon Koon, Jacobs
Raya Smertina, HATCH
Richard Bush, Binnie
Ryan MacPherson, SNC-Lavalin
Salmaan Virani, Collings Johnston
Thomas Hoffschild, AECOM
Vijay Kallur, Arcadis





Transportation Conference Organizing Committee



Chris Thurnburn-Huelin

Committee Chair

Lafarge Canada

Significant work in the past year: Delivery of the Hybrid Transportation Conference on February 14-15, 2024.

The Transportation Conference Organizing Committee serves as a planning team that delivers the annual transportation sector conference in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) and TransLink. Monthly meetings are held to generate programming, source speakers, and coordinate delivery requirements for the conference. The committee strives to incorporate topical messaging on key initiatives from MOTI and TransLink, along with relevant initiatives from other transportation agencies in BC. Working with the MOTI team, the committee supports integration of the annual BC Consulting Engineers Awards ceremony into the conference agenda.

To support broad engagement and accessibility, the committee presented the conference as a hybrid event with content presented virtually on February 14 and in-person workshops, tours, and awards dinner on February 15. This approach was enthusiastically supported by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the purpose of recognizing excellence through their awards program.

Conference Program:

The conference program focused on content that would benefit ACEC-BC members and partners and was hosted virtually on February 14. Nearly 600 people across Canada, the US, UK, and Australia registered and joined online to engage with more than 24 speakers. The virtual format supported two content streams in the afternoon with keynote speakers presenting to the full audience in the morning. Presentations included: Shared Micromobility, Lessons from the Türkiye Earthquake, Project Updates (Burnaby Mountain Gondola, Granville Connector), Significance of Indigenous Knowledge

and Wisdom on Projects, and more. The conference partners – TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure – were very engaged in preparation and provided exceptional content for the event.

Connection and Awards:

The committee developed three tours including a site visit to the Broadway Subway project, the Pattullo Bridge, and a walking tour of the Granville Connector. Alongside the tours the program included two in-person by the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure on Climate Resilience and the Fraser River Tunnel Project. Following the tours and workshops guests enjoyed a reception followed by the BC Transportation Consulting Engineers Awards & Dinner.

Outcomes:

The conference attendance this year was record breaking at nearly 600 participants and included over 100 representatives from conference partners TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation. We were delighted to welcome the Hon. Dan Coulter, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit, and Deputy Minister Kaye Krishna and Assistant Deputy Minister Kevin Volk from the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure.

Our Community Partner program – first introduced in 2020 – continues to bring benefit to community organizations and conference participants. This year the committee invited Engineers in Action who joined the conference program, attended the networking event, and benefited from a donation from the organizers.

The committee was also delighted to welcome strong response to requests for sponsorship, which benefited the quality of the program and helped cover the association’s investment in the conference.

Looking forward to 2025, the committee anticipates the opportunity to seek new ways to engage participants across the province, serving the needs of the industry and our partners.

Committee Members

- Ben Abbasipour, ACEC-BC
- Brett Oystensen, McElhanney
- Brigid Canil, BC Ministry of Transportation
- Caroline Andrewes, ACEC-BC
- Francois Pepin, Kiewit
- Katherine Miller, Mott MacDonald
- Kenedee Ludwar, BC Ministry of Transportation
- Kristine Majlath, Kiewit
- Kurtis Mayne, ISL Engineering
- Marcie Cochrane, ACEC-BC
- Martin Fyfe, Binnie
- Maryam Tabeshian, McElhanney
- Matt Gardiner, BC Ministry of Transportation
- Melina Mascarenhas, TI Corporation
- Michael Iskandar, ACEC-BC
- Pallav Deka, BC Ministry of Transportation
- Patrick Stancombe, Associated Engineering
- Rippan Bhattacharjee, GHD
- Thomas Chhun, AECOM
- Winston Guo, TransLink



TransLink Liaison Committee



Ian Steele
Committee Chair
PBX Engineering

Significant work in the past year:

- Held three Committee meetings, with important dialog on continuing and emerging topics of relevance.
- Supported and hosted the annual Client Engagement Event in-person.

The Terms of Reference for the committee was prepared and adopted by the Board in 2021. The primary purpose of the committee is to provide a mutually beneficial relationship between ACEC-BC and TransLink that builds on open communication, allows dialog to improve delivery and quality of consultant services that supports TransLink to deliver its annual capital and maintenance programs that underpin the efficient and effective operation of the regions transport network.

The Committee continues to be very active. Meetings were held in September, December, and April. In December, Jeff Busby announced that he was moving to the Chief Operating Officer role for TransLink and that Shezana Hasko would be taking over as the primary point of contact for the Liaison Committee. Several other changes on the TransLink team were also announced, with some TransLink members moving to other roles and new members taking their place. The Committee congratulated Jeff on the new role and thanked him for his years of dedicated and thoughtful work in support of the Committee and welcomed Shezana and the other new members to the Committee.

At the three meetings, TransLink provided regular updates on ridership recovery, Access for Everyone Plan and Advocacy, maintaining a state of good repair, key project updates, and upcoming capital programs. The Committee continued to engage with TransLink on a range of topics, including design consultant performance, rising construction costs, and consulting industry capacity.

Discussion on procurement practices included the procurement lookahead initiative, incorporating Sustainability and EDI into procurement processes, and on-going timely feedback for proposal submissions.

In March, the Committee supported ACEC-BC in hosting the annual TransLink Client Engagement event. The format was consistent with last year’s event, offering both an in- person experience and hybrid option. The event took place with a near sold-out in-person audience and significant on-line attendance, continuing to demonstrate the interest in and value of engaging with TransLink. The presentations were full of meaningful content, resulting in significant questions and dialog. Upon having his age revealed, the Committee Chair took a bit of a ribbing, to which he responded that he felt like he had earned what few grey hairs he has. The attendees also recognized that Mark Minson was retiring in two weeks and thanked him for his exemplary service, collegial support to the consulting committee, and years of work with TransLink. Feedback on the event was again overwhelmingly positive.

The Committee is looking forward to another active year ahead.

Committee Members

- Alvin Tse, ISL
- Basse Clement, McElhanney
- James Hnatiuk, Hatch
- Tamsin Silvester, WSP



TRAN Liaison Committee



Kevin Leggett

Committee Chair

McElhanney

In November 2023, the TRAN Liaison Committee underwent a transition with the election of a new steering committee. Christian Babuin became past chair, Kevin Leggett assumed the role of chair, and Amanda Pellam was elected secretary. Edoardo Ballarin joined as a new member, while Sam McIlwain represented the Young Professionals. Returning members, Shane Cook and Jonathan Borch, continued their valuable contributions to the committee.

Aligned with our Terms of Reference, the committee's purpose and goals are to:

- **Liaise with MoTI** by strengthening communication and collaboration with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
- **Promote engineering consultants** by advocating for the integration of engineering consultants in MoTI's transportation program delivery.

- **Support consulting engineers** through ensuring MoTI considers the interests and requirements of consulting engineers
- **Advocate for QBS procurement** by continuing to promote Qualification- Based Selection for engineering services procurement by MoTI.
- **Facilitate knowledge transfer** through industry-wide knowledge sharing and succession planning.
- **Promote transportation in British Columbia** by emphasizing the significance of maintaining an efficient transportation network.

Throughout the past year, the committee achieved several important goals:

- **Strategic Meetings:** We planned JLC meetings after the ACEC-BC Transportation Conference, leading to productive discussions and more in-person attendance from MoTI.
- **Industry Feedback:** We created opportunities for industry input on important topics, helping us communicate better with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

- **Subcommittee Engagement:** We have actively engaged with the Joint Liaison Subcommittee on Bridges and have aided in setting up a new subcommittee focused on tackling climate-related challenges.
- **Advocacy for QBS:** We continued to strongly support TRAN's Qualification-Based Selection for engineering services procurement throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the objectives and strategies for the upcoming year include:

- **Revisions to the Terms of Reference:** Plan to revise the Terms of Reference to align with evolving goals and needs.
- **Engagement with the Climate Change Subcommittee:** Promote and increase participation in the Climate Change Joint Liaison Subcommittee to discuss climate change and environmental challenges facing the Ministry of Transportation.
- **Advocacy for QBS beyond engineering services:** Continue promoting Qualifications-Based Selection for engineering and other professional services engaged by MoTI.
- **Seek Industry Feedback on RFQs/RFPs:** Actively seek and integrate constructive feedback from industry on RFQs and RFPs to ensure owner and stakeholder needs are met.
- **Collaborate with other partners:** Foster discussions with other industry partners such as BC Roadbuilders to provide constructive feedback to MoTI, enhancing collaboration and addressing shared concerns.
- **Streamlining Meetings:** Focus JLC meetings on fewer, critical issues to enhance the depth and quality of discussions, ensuring effective use of everyone's time.
- **Transportation Network Advocacy:** Continue to advance discussions on the importance of maintaining an efficient transportation network within British Columbia.

MoTI Bridge Liaison Subcommittee

As a part of the TRAN Liaison Committee, the MoTI Bridge Liaison Subcommittee meets annually to discuss technical issues and industry updates that effect bridge design and construction in British Columbia (BC). A key role for the group relates to the early engagement of industry professionals with MoTI during the development of MoTI standards and requirements. This year, our members provided input on several important MoTI topics, provided review inputs to CSA-S6-25, and produced a comprehensive whitepaper about Building Information Modelling (BIM) in the transportation industry.

Our last meeting was held on October 24, 2023, and included the following subjects of interest: updates to MoTI design standards and requirements, discussions on future MoTI policy, and general information on MoTI staffing.

The subcommittee was invited to comment on several documents and policies to be introduced by MoTI. These include:

- **Concrete Testing** – The MoTI shared its plans for updated testing requirements for concrete, which are planned to be implemented in the SS section 211 this year.
- **Construction Variance** – The MoTI introduced a document for approving and recording variances during construction.
- **Bridge Inspection Requirements** – The MoTI is working to develop a drawing showing the designers recommended inspections for the bridge on a component level. This drawing shall be included in the record drawing set.
- **Reengagement of Consultants for Legacy Projects** – The MoTI has approved a procedure for the reengagement of consultants to update and complete shelved projects.
- **RFX (RFP, RFQ, RFEI) Consistency** – A MoTI committee has been formed and is working on updating the RFX templates internally, so that they can be more consistent.
- **Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Bridges in BC Whitepaper** – The MoTI Bridge BIM Task Force, part of the Bridge Liaison Subcommittee, developed a Draft Whitepaper on BIM in transportation engineering for ACEC and the BC MoTI. The document provides a comprehensive description of the current state of BIM as it relates to bridges in BC.

Committee Members

Alfred Kao, Associated Engineering
Alireza Ahmadnia, BC MoTI
Amanda Pellam, ISL Engineering
Bruce Hamersley, BASIS Engineering
Carl Lutz, BC MoTI
Caroline Andrews, ACEC-BC
Chad Amiel, McElhanney
Christian Babuin, TetraTech
Craig Schaper, Associated Engineering
Darryl Matson, COWI
Edoardo Ballarin, Binnie
Frankie Fu, BC MoTI
Ian Baker, BC MoTI
Isabelle Duelli-Duente, BC MoTI
Jamie McIntyre, Mott Macdonald
Jianping Jiang, WSP
John Philp, Stantec
Jonathan Borch, Urban Systems
Joseph Adom, BC MoTI
Justin Bae, BC MoTI
Keith Holmes, WSP
Khalid Khan, BC MoTI
Kristin Greinacher, Klohn Crippen Berger
Larson Christiansen, BC MoTI
Lihua Zou, Atkins Realis
Mark Byram, Thurber
Michaela Horner, BC MoTI
Mingyu Li, BC MoTI
Murray Johnson, Stantec
Neon Koon, Jacobs
Prerna Sohal, BC MoTI
Reza Saiedi, BC MoTI
Ryan Taylor, Parsons
Sam McIlwain, BASIS Engineering
Scott Loptson, Morison Hershfield
Shane Cook, Associated Engineering
Tony Martin, Mott Macdonald



Young Professionals Group



Genevieve Brown

Committee Chair

Northwest Hydraulic Consultants

The Young Professionals Group (YPG) mission is to promote, empower, and support career growth of Young Professionals in the consulting engineering industry.

The YPG is made up of over 50 volunteers with less than 10 years of experience in consulting engineering representing 32 member firms. We have four regional groups (Northern, Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, and Okanagan) which provide representation across the province.

This year has been a year of rebuilding and transition as we seek ways to better support our committee members as well as other young professionals across the province.

3-Year Plan

This year started off with the development of a new 3-year strategic plan for the YPG. Members from across the province participated in two planning sessions to provide input on their vision for the YPG's future and develop actionable items to achieve it. The 3-year plan focuses on three primary initiatives:

1. Improve the experience of existing and new members – This initiative aims to improve the volunteer experience, by creating new onboarding and transition protocols for smooth transitions and sharing of knowledge.
2. Host engaging events for YPs at member firms – Providing engaging networking and professional development events is a core purpose of the YPG. The goal is to engage with ACEC members consistently, through more events for professional development and networking utilizing both in-person and virtual platforms.
3. Develop more mentorship opportunities for YPs – ACEC-BC is an organization with a wide diversity of members that has been underutilized in the past for mentorship. The goal is to develop more mentorship opportunities for YPs through informal and formal settings.

YP Conference

In November 2023, the YPG hosted our 4th annual conference, “Empowering Future Leaders in a Changing Environment.” This year marked the return of the conference to an in-person format with all sessions streamed virtually across province. The conference was a great success with the in-person component selling out quickly. The conference provided the opportunity to for YPs to learn from industry experts on topics like performance reviews, career roadmaps, and fostering relationships while also having the opportunity to connect and expand their networks.

Events, Student Outreach, and Community Involvement

Our four regional groups, continue to host a variety of events at a local scale across the province. Events this year included:

- Professional development seminars on topics like climate change, handling client expectations, and time management.
- Networking opportunities in formal and informal settings to help foster connections.
- Student outreach events at BCIT, UVic and UBC Okanagan to promote careers in consulting engineering to students.
- Community involvement with organizations like Science and Innovators in School, Girls in STEAM, and Coldest Night of the Year.

Looking Ahead

Overall, 2023/24 was an exciting year for the YPG, with significant effort spent reflecting on our current status, envisioning the future of the YPG, and taking actionable steps towards this vision. We are excited to follow through on items of our strategic plan to provide engaging events, mentorship opportunities, and improved volunteer engagement across the province.



YPG Committee Members

Adeela Sidhu, Hatch
Aileen Maynard, Hedgehog Technologies
Alex Minett, Thurber Engineering
Alice Zhao, HDR
Amy Russell, Thurber
Brett Oystensen, McElhanney
Bryce Buryska, McElhanney
Carly Tremblay, Urban Systems
Catherine Zhang, Aplin Martin
Chazel Solamo, AllNorth
Daisy Ma, Bush Bohlman & Partners
Darren Gervais-Harrison, PBX
David Lu, Aplin & Martin
Dennis Wu, Mott MacDonald
Donovan Klassen, Corollo
Elijah Anzai, Collings Johnston
Eric Fornwald, Aplin Martin
Evan Smith, WSP
Genevieve Brown, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Grant Mitchell, BGC Engineering
Gurleen Gang, Ecora
Hadi Aghahassani, Entuitive
Haley Waldhaus, McElhanney
Hameed Dagher, McElhanney
Hana Ready, Stantec
Harvey Mann, CTQ Consultants
Jasmine Smith, Urban Systems
Jennifer Dowden, Binnie
Jeremy Frigillana, Binnie
Jessica Dhami, Thurber Engineering
Jessica Opeka, Mott MacDonald

Jill Usher, Thurber
Joe Braun, Flow Engineering
John Dick, Mott MacDonald
Jordan Beach, Aplin Martin
Kalum Skipper, Thurber Engineering
Kate Lappan, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Kathryn Lewis, AECOM Canada
Kurtis Spence, Wood Canada
Kyra Ching, Binnie
Lexi (Lixian) Lin, WSP
Matt Beck, WSP
Matthew Beck, WSP Canada
Michelle Piper Kulak, Stantec
Mitchell Young, Moffatt & Nichol
Riley Vibert, McElhanney
Salmaan Virani, Collings Johnston
Sam McIlwain, BASIS Engineering Ltd.
Tahmineh Teymourian, WSP
Talya Mellor, WSP
Temi Oduborisha, Binnie
Trevor Whiton, Stantec
Tyra Phillips, Associated Engineering
Vlada Yurtaieva, Thurber Engineering
Will Eisbrenner, Binnie

Events 2023-2024

Date	Event Name
June 2023	• Client Engagement Event with City of Vancouver • YPG Breaking Barriers: Achieving Accessibility & EDI in Engineering Design
August 2023	• YPG: Understanding & Exceeding Client Expectations
September 2023	• YPG Volunteer Appreciation Event
October 2023	• Technical Forum with BC Hydro: Remotely Operated Vehicles
November 2023	• Young Professionals Conference 2024 • Panel Discussion on Employee Resource Group • Client Engagement Event with BC Hydro
January 2024	• YPG: Career Journey with Suzanne Powell
February 2024	• Transportation Conference 2024 • Client Engagement Event with City of Prince George • YPG: Time Management
March 2024	• Independent Review of High-Risk Professional Activities or Work
April 2024	• Introduction to Climate Science for Resilient Design • Connections with ACEC-BC's Board of Directors in Victoria
May 2024	• 2024 Awards for Engineering Excellence Gala • Client Engagement Event with Metro Vancouver • 2024 Leaders Dinner
June 2024	• Small Firms Connections • YPG: Volunteering and Work Life Balance • YPG: Panel Discussion on Climate Change

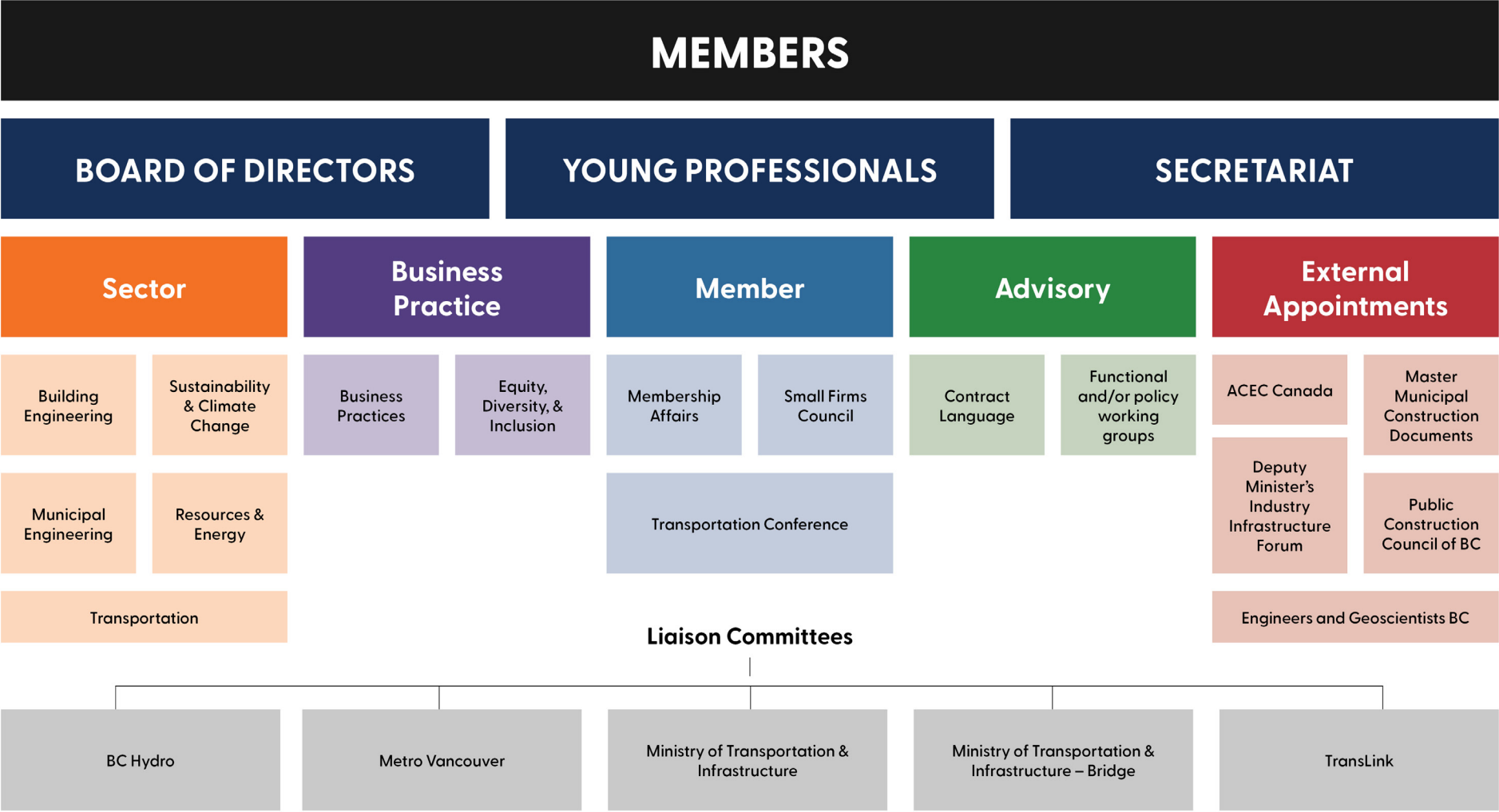


THANK YOU!

2023 - 2024 Sponsors

- ACCIONA
- Aplin & Martin Consultants Ltd.
- Associated Engineering
- AtkinsRéalis
- Axis Insurance
- AXA XI
- BFL Canada
- Binnie
- COWI
- EXP
- Flow Engineering
- GHD
- Harper Grey
- Hatch
- Hedgehog Technologies
- ISL Engineering
- Kiewit Engineering Group Canada ULC
- Klohn Crippen Berger
- Kontur Geotechnical Consultants
- Langley Concrete Group
- McElhanney
- MCW Consultants
- Mott MacDonald
- Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
- Parsons
- PBX Engineering
- RAM
- Revive ERP
- Stantec
- Stites Co.
- Stratesol
- Stratice Consulting
- TD Insurance
- Tetra Tech
- The Langley Concrete Group
- Thurber Engineering
- Torus Talent
- Twining, Short & Haakonson, Barristers
- Tybo
- Urban Systems
- Victor Insurance

ACEC-BC Organization Chart



Corporate Members

AECOM Canada Ltd.
Alpine Civil Engineering Consultants
Aplin & Martin Consultants Ltd.
Arcadis Canada Inc
Associated Engineering (B.C.) Ltd.
ATKINSRÉALIS Canada Inc.
Ausenco Engineering Canada Inc.
BASIS Engineering
BBA
BGC Engineering Inc.
Binnie
BKL Consultants Ltd.
Brown and Caldwell
Bunt & Associates Engineering Ltd.
Bush Bohlman & Partners
Carollo Engineers Canada Ltd.
CDM Smith Canada
Charter Project Delivery Inc
Chatwin Engineering Ltd.
CIMA Canada Inc.
Collings Johnston Inc.
COWI
CTQ Consultants Ltd.
David Nairne + Associates Ltd.
Delve Underground
DIALOG
Dillon Consulting Limited
DMD & Associates Electrical Consultants
Ecora Engineering & Resource Group
Edge Sustainability Consultants Inc.
Elgabry Engineering Inc.
Entuitive Corporation
exp Services Inc.
Faction Projects Inc
Fast + Epp Structural Engineers
Flow Engineering
Frykberg Innovations Inc
GHD Limited
Gygax Engineering Associates Ltd.
H.H. Angus & Associates Ltd
Hatch Ltd
HDR Corporation
Hedgehog Technologies Inc.

InterCAD Services Ltd.
ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd.
Jacobs
Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd.
Kiewit Engineering Group Canada ULC
Klohn Crippen Berger Ltd.
Knight Piésold Ltd.
Koers & Associates Engineering Ltd.
Kontur Geotechnical Consultants Inc.
Layton Consulting Ltd.
Maven Consulting Ltd.
McElhanney Ltd.
MCW Consultants Ltd.
Moffatt & Nichol
Morrison Hershfield Limited
Mott MacDonald Canada Limited
MPE, A Division of Englobe
Northwest Hydraulic Consultants Ltd.
Onsite Engineering Ltd.
Parsons Inc.
PBX Engineering Ltd.
Pinchin Ltd.
RAM Consulting
RJC Engineers
RKTG Associates Ltd.
Roy Campbell Ltd.
Senez Consulting Ltd.
SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.
Stantec
Stratice Consulting
StructureCraft
T.Y.Lin International Canada Inc
Tetra Tech Canada Inc.
Thurber Engineering Ltd.
TWD Technologies Ltd.
Urban Systems Ltd.
Water Street Engineering Ltd.
Watson Engineering Ltd.
Weir-Jones Engineering Consultants Ltd.
Westmar Advisors Inc.
Wood Canada Ltd.
WSP Canada Inc.

Associate Members

ACCIONA
Advance Principle Consulting
Axis Insurance
BA Blacktop Ltd. Group of Companies
Bay & Associates
BFL Canada
Blakiston Consulting
EDI Environmental Dynamics
Flatiron Constructors Canada Limited
Harper Grey LLP
Lafarge Canada
Ledcor
Pomerleau
Premiere Traffic Data Services
Revive ERP
SLS Lighting
The Langley Concrete Group
Thomson Technology Power Systems ULC
Thriveworks Coaching and Consulting
Torus Talent Consultants
Tybo Contracting
Wilson M. Beck Insurance Services
Wylie-Crump Limited

Client Members

BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
City of Abbotsford
City of Burnaby
City of Campbell River
City of Coquitlam
City of Kelowna
City of Maple Ridge
City of Richmond
City of Surrey
FortisBC
Island Health
Regional District of Nanaimo
Township of Langley
TransLink

