

# ANNUAL REPORT 26

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THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERING COMPANIES BC





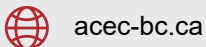
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Consulting  
Engineering  
firms are  
**partners,**  
**experts,** and  
**innovators**  
working for  
**British  
Columbians.**

## Let's Connect!



[acec-bc.ca](http://acec-bc.ca)



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## 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 members' 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.

**100+**

Member  
firms in BC

**40+**

Municipalities  
across BC

**27k+**

Employed British  
Columbians

**>\$7b**

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.



## 2025-2026 Directors

| Role                          | Name                 | Company                         |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chair                         | Ian Steele           | PBX Engineering                 |
| Vice-Chair/Treasurer          | William Johnston     | WSP                             |
| Secretary/Designated Director | Matt Gellis          | Northwest Hydraulic Consultants |
| Past Chair                    | Tanya Sadlo          | McElhanney                      |
| Director                      | Christopher Scollard | Kiewit Engineering Group Canada |
| Director                      | Erin Martin-Serrano  | PBX Engineering                 |
| Director                      | Jay Rao              | EXP                             |
| Director                      | Joe DiPlacito        | Ram Consulting                  |
| Director                      | Kathryn Ekman        | McElhanney                      |
| Director                      | Kip Skabar           | Stantec                         |
| Director                      | Tina Burgess         | Jensen Hughes Canada            |
| Director                      | David Collings       | Collings Johnston               |
| Director                      | Darren Sokoloski     | AECOM                           |
| Director (Resigned in 2025)   | Lillian Siu          | Associated Engineering          |
| Interim Member Director       | Katie Au             | BBA Consultants                 |

# 2025-2026 Appointed Directors

| Name          | Company          |
|---------------|------------------|
| Joe Braun     | Flow Engineering |
| Selena Wilson | Mott MacDonald   |
| Jeff McLellan | BFL Canada       |
| Jayson Walker | Urban Systems    |

# 2025-2026 Executive Committee

| Role                          | Name              | Company                         |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chair                         | Ian Steele        | PBX Engineering                 |
| Vice-Chair/Treasurer          | William Johnston  | WSP                             |
| Secretary/Designated Director | Matt Gellis       | Northwest Hydraulic Consultants |
| Past Chair                    | Tanya Sadlo       | McElhanney                      |
| President and CEO             | Caroline Andrewes | ACEC-BC                         |



## Chair's Report



**Ian Steele**

Chair

**PBX Engineering**

This past year asked a great deal of consulting engineering firms across British Columbia, as economic uncertainty, cost pressures, and the accelerating pace of technological change continued to reshape our sector. Throughout it, the Board of ACEC-BC worked to ensure our efforts translate into lasting support for the priorities that matter most to our members, while continuing to build an association that reflects the strength and diversity of our profession.

Our focus this year was moving beyond one-off initiatives to identify the strategic priorities that will guide ACEC-BC over the coming years, and to commit the Board's attention and resources to supporting them in an enduring way. This deliberate approach is helping ensure our advocacy, thought leadership, and member programming stay focused on the issues with the greatest impact for our sector, rather than shifting year to year.

ACEC-BC continued to provide members with practical, industry-leading guidance on the issues reshaping consulting engineering. Our AI in Engineering Practice Working Group released a Get Started Guide: Exploring AI in Consulting Engineering, helping firm leaders begin informed conversations about AI's implications for their teams, workflows, and operations. With new provincial pay transparency reporting requirements now extending to firms with 50 or more employees, our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee developed a BC Pay Transparency Reporting Guide, giving members practical, sector-specific insight into interpreting results and communicating them effectively.

The Board maintained thoughtful, sustained stewardship of two of our most important long-term initiatives: reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and our relationships with government. Both require patience, consistency, and care, and the Board remained closely engaged in guiding ACEC-BC's approach in each area, ensuring our efforts are respectful, well-informed, and aligned with the trust our members and partners place in us.

Equally important this year was the strength of the Board itself. We placed particular emphasis on welcoming and onboarding new Board members, ensuring they arrive with the context, connections, and confidence to

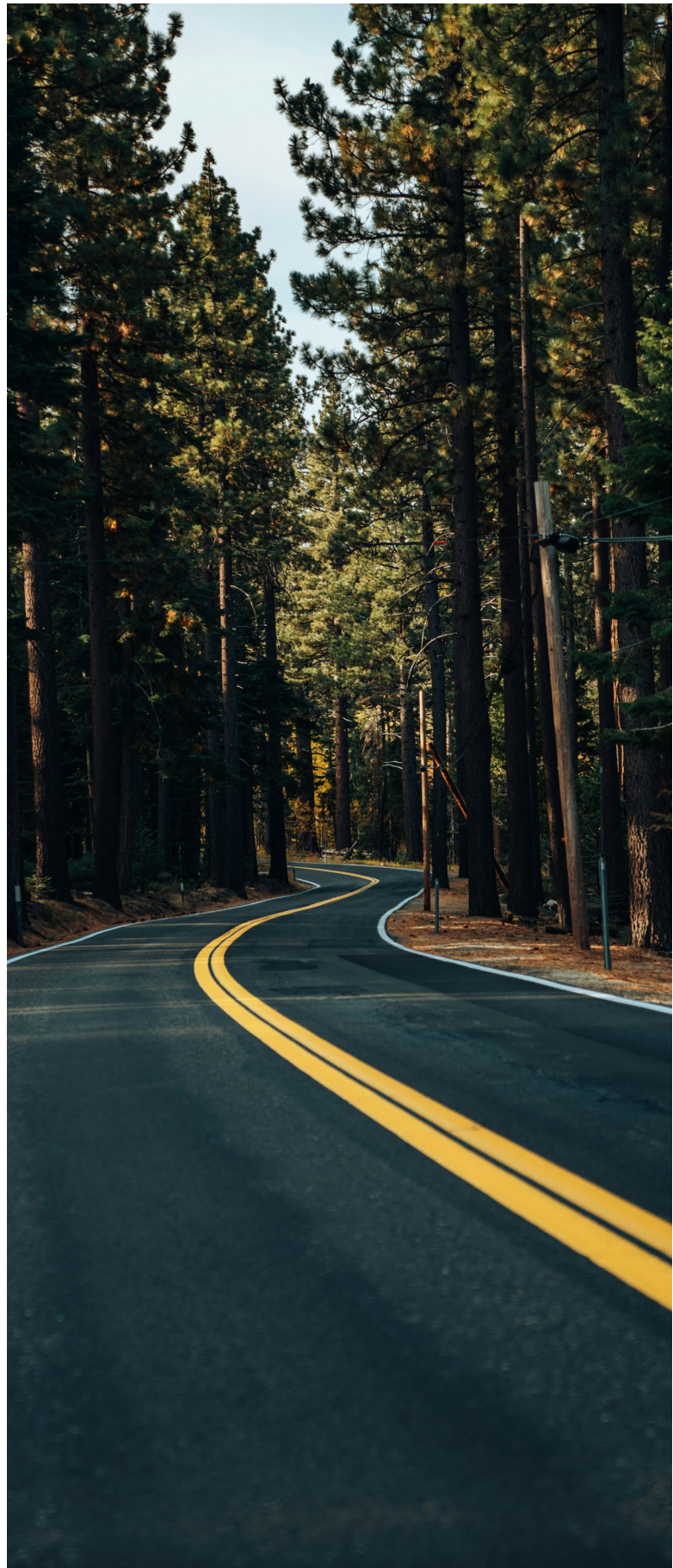
contribute meaningfully from the outset. This work is part of a broader, ongoing commitment to building a Board that is inclusive, diverse, and highly collaborative – one where a range of perspectives and experience across our industry is reflected in how ACEC-BC is governed.

We were encouraged by notable growth in our membership this year, a reflection of the value members continue to find in ACEC-BC's advocacy, insight, and community. That growth was matched by strong engagement across our committees and events, which remain central to how our association develops thought leadership, connects members with one another, and translates industry expertise into practical guidance.

Thank you to all the members and volunteers who gave your time, expertise, and leadership to ACEC-BC this past year. Your commitment continues to be the foundation of our collective strength, and I am grateful for the trust placed in the Board as we work together to support our industry.



**Ian Steele**, ACEC-BC Board Chair, 2025/26





# President's Report



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

Changeable describes the past year in BC, which brings great opportunity for some members, and serious challenges for others. The impact of government's past economic decisions – for example, a rapid increase in capital investment and heavy reliance on immigration to fuel economic growth – coupled with uncertainty over trade with our largest and closest partner, have led to near zero economic growth. At the same time, both the federal and provincial government have signalled their intention to fast-track resource development projects fuelling opportunity for mining, pipeline, and energy projects.

Uncertainty breeds activity, and as we've observed, renewed interest in hearing from our industry. We are thoughtful, considered and able to understand and articulate impacts across systems. And, as we've learned through research over the past few years, we are economically important for BC.

## Our Primary Mission: Advocacy



Each year members work with us to identify inefficiencies and conditions that prove onerous for our members, and to develop thoughtful responses that aim to balance project partner risks. Our contract review advisory group supported review of multiple contract and procurement terms, ranging from classic, one-sided contract terms to unusual and new conditions that impact the consultant's rights to select a qualified team.

Members received detailed updates throughout the year including specific details to support understanding of our response to the province's budget announcement that consulting engineering, geoscience, and architectural services will be subject to PST beginning October 1. We continue to use the voting member communication email list as our primary mechanism for delivering timely, detailed information on the work we do to advance the industry.

## Legislation and regulation:

This past year brought major policy and legislative changes in BC that influence our industry. ACEC-BC continues to engage with government to inform regulation and policy, and to share insight into government's own processes and how they influence timely, cost-efficient construction.

In the spring of 2025, the provincial government passed two pieces of legislation that aim to fast-track projects and help manage construction costs. While regulations supporting the Infrastructure Projects Act are still being developed, the Renewable Energy Projects Act quickly established regulations supporting efficient permitting and clarifying roles.

The Construction Prompt Payment Act aims to create clearer rules for timely payment of invoices. ACEC-BC supported consultation prior to release of the Act and continues to respond to consultation and questions about how the Act affects our industry and can better reflect the unique role of consulting engineering companies in construction.

## Thought Leadership:

Our members continue to support each other and the industry at large through development of key thought leadership and guidance resources. Over the past year we released pieces on diverse topics including AI and personal burnout, and updated the legacy Budget Guidelines for Engineering Services, Document 1 – Transportation & Infrastructure. Along with the Fee Guideline, these resources were accessed by more than 9,000 people both here in BC and elsewhere in the world.



## Creating opportunity for collaboration



Our Annual Report includes reports from our member committees, appointees to external organisations, working groups, and the Future Leaders Network. These groups are vital to member engagement, connection, learning, and create space for developing leaders. Each of these reports discusses how members support each other through advocacy, creating opportunity for collaboration, and building profile for our members and the industry.

## Supporting connection through events:

Over the past year, about 2,500 people joined ACEC-BC events. Each event creates space for learning, fosters connection between members and partners, and provides access to information valued by members.

Our largest event continues to be the Transportation Conference, which greatly benefits and supports our close relationship with the BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit and TransLink. More than 600 people attended this year, and the hybrid format continues to be highly valued by our partners and enables us to deliver a high-quality event within the capacity of our team.

We also marked 50 years of ACEC-BC, which was registered as Consulting Engineers British Columbia in November 1975. Our “Disco Anniversary” was the theme for the Awards for Engineering Excellence in May, with more than 450 people joining the celebration of our members. The Tank Hill Project – part of the BC Highway Reinstatement Program – walked away with the Lt. Governor’s Award, and our house band kept the energy high throughout the evening.

## Building profile for our industry



Our focus on profile is specific and is intended to increase our influence with key partners. When the scope, scale, and impact of the industry is better understood, we create space for our voice to be heard.

In addition to hosting events and publishing content, we attend and speak at conferences and build connection with media partners. Our external media – four websites including three that support signature events, and our social media presence – continues to support spontaneous and recurring awareness of our Association, our members, and support understanding of the impact of the industry.

### **Creating connections and understanding our impact:**

Our outreach efforts with elected officials and professional public sector leaders continue to evolve, and we have experienced an increase in awareness and understanding of our role. Further, we are more frequently hearing that our insight is valued and is leading to small changes in policy and process. Good relationships are based on mutual respect and appreciation for each other, and we also try to make sure that insofar as possible, we show up with relevant insight. Member feedback is invaluable in that regard, and we always appreciate when members share their experience with us.

Over the past few years, we invested in a data study of regulated professionals in BC, and this year received the final report from our data science partner. The study – *Who's Building BC?* – utilised the EGBC registrant database to give us insight into the scale of our industry, our relationships with post-secondary education, the impact of immigration on our profession, and how our industry works as integrated teams across Canada and around the world. Like the 2024 Economic Impact Study, we already see the benefit of this type of investment in our relationships with key partners.

## Building foundations for the future



*Better together* is at the core of everything we do. We know that our members standing together amplifies our voice, informs our position, and advances our objectives. This year we welcomed 15 new Corporate Members including: 39 Parallel Engineering, Arup Canada, Avalon Mechanical Consultants, Brownclaw Asset Management, Clifton Engineering, Elevation Technical, Fuse Advisors, GeoWest Engineering, Great Pacific Consulting, Pace Civil, Ratio Structural, ROV Engineers, RTSE Solutions, Spannovation, and Temec Engineering Group. We also welcomed Hall Constructors, Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP, and Willis Canada as associate members, and DP World, and Westbank First Nations as client members.

### **Building foundations for the future:**

As we host the Annual General Meeting for the 50th time, the team continue to look to the future to understand how our industry is evolving and how we need to adapt to best serve our members. Our Board, volunteers, and the Future Leaders Network continue to develop and advance projects that support us today and build capacity and resilience for the future. These programs allow us to engage and extend our network, and to better understand how we can best serve members.

It remains an honour to represent our community, and a great pleasure to work with our members, and the ACEC-BC team: Ben Abbasipour, Marcie Cochrane, Michael Iskander, and our newest team member, Will Mbaho. Our team and members also benefit from partnership with our extended team – Alla Samusevich, Annabel Aspler, Jessie Wang, and Kim Logan.



## Treasurer's Report



**William Johnston**

Vice-Chair/Treasurer

**WSP**

The Treasurer's Report is provided to members to support understanding the financial operations of the Association for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026. Comments on the 2026-27 operating budget – approved by the Board in March 2026 – are also included.

### **Financial Performance – Summary:**

The Board adopted a budget for 2025-26 in February 2025 that allocated funds to appropriately staff the Association and support members through investment in projects aligned with our strategy and aspirations. The budget anticipated a net deficit, which was managed through surplus generated in the prior year.

Other than planned investment in special projects, the Board focused on consistency in expense and revenue growth aligned with market conditions and inflation. The budget was adopted to with an assumption that a full-time position would be added at the start of the fiscal year.

The operations team work with the Board to balance spending with revenue and adjust over the course of the year insofar as possible. Typically, it is our goal to balance income generated through member dues with the cost of core operations. However, as the year progressed, the team decided to delay hiring the planned, full-time position. This decision was a significant contributor to savings in operations relative to budget and prior year. As a result, income generated through member dues fully covered operating expenses.

The Board continue to view member programs on an aggregate or total contribution basis rather than seeking to generate surplus at each event. This allows us to balance investment in members across the province by generating larger surpluses where feasible. This approach again produced an overall surplus which the Board allocate to special projects or – when required – to cover operating costs or invest in our reserves.

The Board receive and review financial statements at each meeting, and remain satisfied with our financial controls, transparency, and overall management of our resources on behalf of members. The approach to building Association reserves remains our endorsed approach for ensuring financial resilience in the future.

**Revenue:**

Member dues and programs (events, education) account for 95% of our revenue. The balance (other) is income generated through returns on our invested reserve funds. In planning for 2025-26, other income was not considered as it remains somewhat outside management control; the Board support this approach.

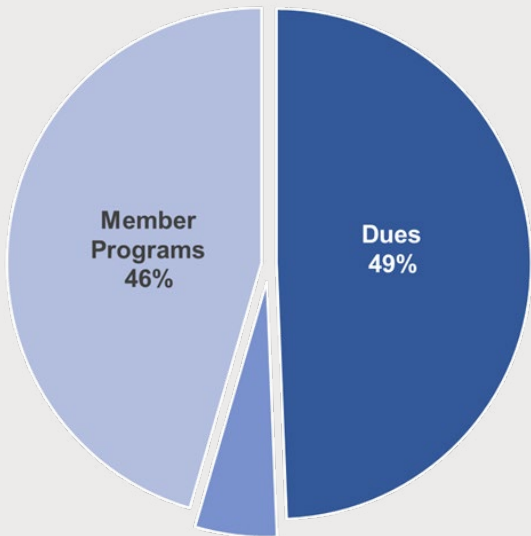


Figure 1: Association Revenue (Dues, Events, Other)

Dues revenue increased almost 7% relative to last year, which came through the addition of 15 new corporate members and continued, steady growth for continuing members. The strong growth in membership is viewed favourably by the Board who consider this a measure of perceived member value. The Board recognize and appreciate that much of this growth results from the relationships between our existing members and other firms in our industry.

Revenue from member programs (events) grew 7.5% relative to 2025, with continued, strong performance of major events like the 2026 Transportation Conference, 2025 Awards for Engineering Excellence, and 2025 Future Leaders Conference. Revenue from Dues and Member Programs was approximately equal over the year.

The Association also benefited from general market conditions, with investment growth and income contributing just above 5% of total Association income.

**Expenses:**

People, facilities, and consulting support are the principal drivers for Association operating expense. As a result of lower than planned people expenses (salaries & benefits, consulting), overall operating expense decreased about 7% relative to 2025.

Operations were funded approximately 105% through member dues, which exceeded the operating target (90 – 100%). The Board continue to view this metric as a good measure of fiscal prudence to support resilient operations and view 2025 as anomalous resulting from people expenses.

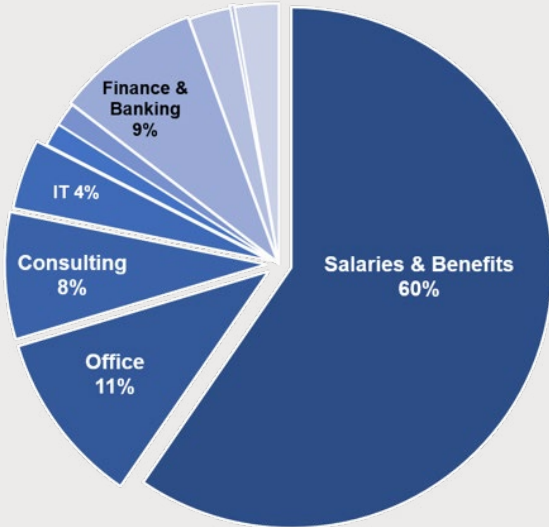


Figure 2: Operating Expense (Fixed)

**Reserves:**

The Board reviewed guidance relating to Association Reserves in 2024 and continue to track favourably against the updated target. Reserves funded are monitored through monthly statements of our financial position; a detailed review is completed annually during budgeting.

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.

At the close of the fiscal year the Reserves were funded in excess of the 2024 target due to reinvestment of returns. The Board view the funding as acceptable; we anticipate use of Reserves in 2026-27 to support capital renewal.

**Assurance:**

At the 2025 AGM, members re-appointed Campbell, Saunders & Co. to support assured preparation of financial statements. The Board remains confident in their services and recommend reappointment for the coming year.

**Looking Ahead:**

The Board and management are alert to variable market conditions for members resulting from downward pressure on key markets like land development and pull back on provincial infrastructure spending. As a result, the Board adopted a budget in March 2026 that assumed modest growth in revenue, with strong investment in our core programs.

Member renewals indicate high retention, although – as expected – overall n-number growth has softened relative to the last five years. Following the Review Engagement, the Board remain satisfied in our approach to financial management and controls. The Board's role will continue to be one of oversight and to ensure that we align our actions to best meet member needs in the year ahead.



# Committee Reports

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ACEC-Canada Year in Review  
AI in Engineering Working Group  
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Regulation Working Group  
Small Firms Council  
Sustainability and Climate Change Committee  
TransLink Liaison Committee  
Transportation Committee  
Transportation Conference Organizing Committee





## ACEC-Canada Year in Review



**Selena Wilson**  
**Mott MacDonald**



**Richard Bush**  
**Binnie**

ACEC's centennial year was a milestone for the Association and Canada's consulting engineering industry. Alongside celebrations of 100 years of impact, ACEC advanced major advocacy priorities: infrastructure was positioned at the centre of the federal government's economic growth agenda, Budget 2025 committed significant new investment, the Major Projects Office was established, and the Canadian Infrastructure Council launched the first National Infrastructure Assessment. Together, these developments strengthened ACEC's role as a trusted advisor to government and created momentum for the long-term national infrastructure strategy our industry has been championing.

### Marking the centennial

Reaching 100 years is a rare achievement and a powerful reflection of the resilience, relevance, and enduring public impact of consulting engineering in Canada.

ACEC-Canada launched its centennial celebrations on May 26, 2025, with a special virtual event and the inaugural National Consulting Engineering Day, which will now annually recognize the industry's contribution to Canada's infrastructure, economy, and quality of life.

Through the Centennial Sponsorship Fund, ACEC supported 25 Member Organization initiatives with \$10,000 each, helping launch or enhance activities such as networking events and economic impact studies. ACEC-BC used these funds to support its 50th anniversary celebrations, which formed part of the broader Centennial celebration. A portion of the funding was dedicated to recognizing members and their contributions to the consulting engineering profession through the ACEC-BC Awards Gala, a key event in the association's 50th anniversary program.

The centennial also showcased member impact through the 100 Impacts for 100 Years campaign, a digital Centennial Timeline, and a student contest that brought winner Anastasia Yermolenko to Ottawa for Engineering Excellence Week.

Celebrations concluded with a Centennial Dinner at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, bringing together 150 industry professionals and leaders, including FIDIC President Alfredo Ingletti and immediate past president Catherine Karakatsanis from Canada.

## Championing industry

Throughout the year, ACEC engaged federal decision-makers as the government advanced Bill C-5, the One Canadian Economy Act, and placed infrastructure at the centre of its productivity and growth agenda.

The Federal Budget 2025 reflected several ACEC priorities, including renewed public and private infrastructure investment, support for projects of national interest, and the \$51 billion Build Communities Strong Fund. ACEC continues to stress that every project is a major project: local bridges, water systems, and community infrastructure are as essential to Canadians as nationally significant corridors and resource links.

ACEC's overarching objective remains a long-term national infrastructure strategy with predictable funding, a National Infrastructure Assessment, a National Infrastructure Corridor, and modern procurement practices that enable efficient, effective project delivery.

Looking ahead, ACEC is also advocating for greater engineering and professional-services capacity, along with strengthened technical expertise within the civil service, so governments can deliver infrastructure commitments successfully.

## **Trusted Advisors to Government**

ACEC is increasingly being called on as a trusted advisor on Bill C-5, the Major Projects Office, infrastructure programs, procurement, and Buy Canada policy. Since the new government was sworn in, ACEC has met with ministerial and senior political staff in several key offices, including Treasury Board, the Prime Minister's Office, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and the office responsible for Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy.

Noting the government's focus on dual-use infrastructure and strengthening Canada through defence infrastructure, ACEC sponsored DND and DCC's inaugural Industry Day last November. ACEC Chair Douglas Coles and President and CEO John Gamble spoke to participants about the vital role of consulting engineering in making those projects happen.

ACEC will continue monitoring implementation of federal commitments and advising on regulatory and procurement conditions that support timely, effective infrastructure delivery.

## **National Infrastructure Assessment**

After three years of advocacy, ACEC welcomed the launch of the National Infrastructure Assessment by the Canadian Infrastructure Council and was among the first stakeholders invited to meet with the Council.

In 2026, ACEC continued contributing to the Council's work on version 2 of the NIA, including a presentation on modern project delivery methods and an extensive submission during the second engagement round.

## **Infrastructure Funding and the National Infrastructure Corridor**

ACEC continued to advocate for predictable, long-term infrastructure funding so designers, builders, and other partners can plan resources and deliver the projects Canadians rely on.

Budget 2025's Build Communities Strong Fund and commitments to connect resource and critical mineral sites, communities, and ports align with ACEC's long-standing advocacy for a National Infrastructure Corridor.

## **Modern Project Delivery**

As Canada prepares for a new generation of nation-building projects, ACEC continues to encourage modern, collaborative delivery models such as Progressive Design-Build, Alliance, and Integrated Project Delivery to reduce overruns, accelerate timelines, encourage innovation, and deliver better value.

ACEC highlighted this priority at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 2025 conference and continues to position member firms as essential partners in collaborative project planning, design, and execution.

## **Working with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities**

ACEC maintained its strong relationship with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and became a key partner in reinitiating the Canadian Infrastructure Municipal Report Card, last published in 2019, to provide an updated picture of the state of Canada's core public infrastructure.

## **Media Activities**

ACEC's advocacy and centennial activities received national and trade media coverage, including commentary on Bill C-5, features related to our AGM and Engineering Excellence Week, and participation in Mediaplanet's 2026 Future of Engineering campaign.

## **International Relationships and Awards**

Internationally, ACEC maintained strong relationships with FIDIC and ACEC-US on global market access, procurement challenges, and U.S. trade policy developments affecting Canadian firms.

Canada hosted a FIDIC North America meeting in November, bringing together member associations from Canada, Mexico, and the United States to discuss trends, issues, and best practices.

Canadian firms and leaders were also recognized at the FIDIC Global Infrastructure Awards Gala, where ACEC received the Member Association Excellence Award in Advocacy for the “Invest in Growth” campaign and member firms CIMA+ and gbi earned project honours.

### **Strengthening firms**

## **Celebrating Excellence in the Industry**

The new ACEC National Awards program provided a national platform to celebrate member firms’ innovation, environmental stewardship, corporate leadership, and technical excellence.

In 2025, nearly 70 submissions were received; 16 projects earned Awards of Excellence and six received Special Awards, underscoring the strength of Canadian consulting engineering.

## **Amplifying the Voice of Consulting Engineering**

Parliament Hill Day, held during Engineering Excellence Week, brought members directly to federal leaders through 40 meetings with MPs, Senators, political staff, and senior civil servants. Members advanced recommendations on long-term infrastructure planning, better value for public investment, and community benefit.

These discussions demonstrated the sector’s technical expertise, regional knowledge, and capacity to help government deliver resilient infrastructure that supports economic prosperity and prepares Canada for future challenges.

## **Staying Engaged: ACEC Events and Publications**

ACEC also delivered industry-focused events and publications that connected members, strengthened leadership, and shared timely insights.

The sold-out Executive Forum, National Leadership Conference, Small Firm Forum, and Future Leaders Management Program and Forum provided senior leaders, small and medium-sized firms, and emerging professionals with opportunities for peer learning, practical insight, and discussion of issues such as talent, AI, market diversification, and procurement trends.

## **Fostering the Next Generation**

ACEC expanded student and early-career outreach to attract talent to consulting engineering. In partnership with the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students, ACEC promoted the profession through campus engagement, student conferences, and digital initiatives, while increasing sponsorship from two events to five this year.

- Canadian Engineering Competition; Canadian Engineering and Leadership Conference; Conference on Sustainability in Engineering; Conference on Diversity in Engineering; and Summit on the Development of Engineering Societies.

Members of the Future Leaders Network also prepared a Board-endorsed white paper on the implications of artificial intelligence for consulting engineering.

ACEC continued to treat diversity, equity, and inclusion as a strategic priority for the sector’s growth, capacity, and competitiveness, launching a digital DEI Resource Centre with practical tools, expert insights, and engineering-specific resources.

The Association was also represented at sector-related DEI events, including Engineers Canada’s 30 by 30 Conference, EngiQueers, and the Conference on Diversity in Engineering.

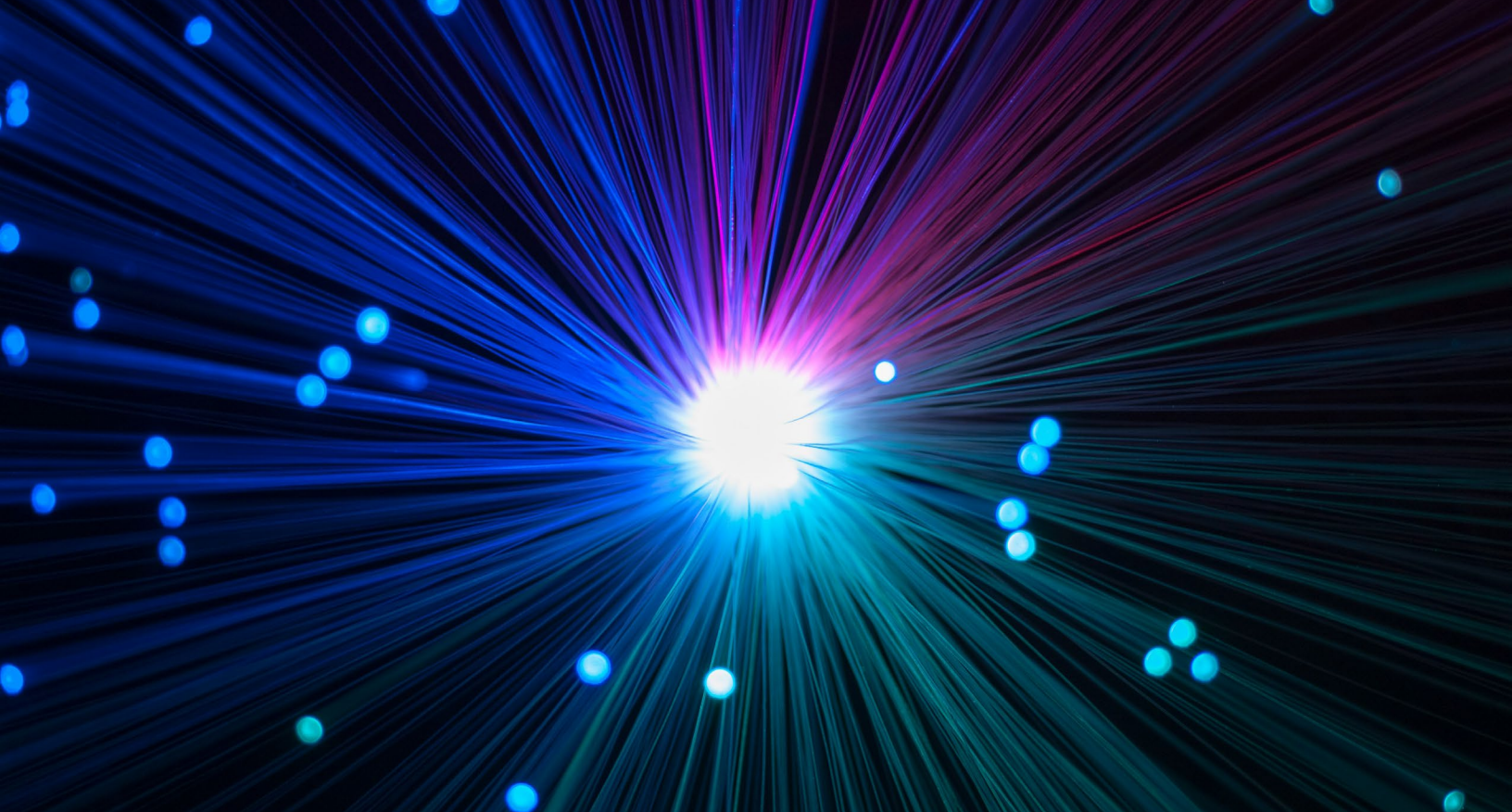
## **Economic Insights and Industry Engagement**

To support member planning and decision-making, ACEC continued to provide economic insights through industry sentiment surveys and the Economic Assessment and 5-Year Forecast of the Engineering and Design Services Industry in Canada, both conducted by the ACEC Research Institute.

## Looking Ahead

As we look to the year ahead, ACEC's strategic priorities will be focused on continued momentum of our ongoing advocacy efforts with government, seeking ways to address workforce capacity challenges to meet our growing national infrastructure, climate and technological needs, and delivering high-value practical support to our members that helps firms navigate our evolving and increasingly complex business and market climate.





## AI in Engineering Working Group



**Azadeh Koohzare**  
**McElhanney**

The AI in Engineering Working Group continued its activities in 2026 as a forum for ACEC-BC members to connect on the evolving landscape of AI in engineering practice. The group remains focused on building awareness, supporting responsible and ethical AI adoption, and fostering collaboration across the consulting engineering industry.

The working group is composed of members from a diverse range of consulting firms, including small, medium, and large organizations. Members bring expertise in engineering, data science, and digital transformation, and continue to apply AI tools across areas such as design automation, asset management, and client reporting. The group has also expanded its membership in 2026, reflecting growing industry interest in AI adoption.

In November 2025, the working group published its first guidance document on the use of AI in engineering consulting. The guidance focuses on helping consulting firms adopt AI responsibly, with emphasis on ethical considerations, transparency, and practical implementation in professional practice.

The working group meets regularly and continues to explore practical AI use cases, governance considerations, and implementation challenges. Knowledge sharing remains a core focus, with members actively discussing real-world applications and lessons learned.

To strengthen collaboration across ACEC-BC, the working group has increased engagement with other committees. Representatives from other committees are invited to participate in meetings, while several working group members attend other ACEC-BC meetings to share updates and exchange insights. A representative from the Future Leaders Network also participates, helping to communicate learnings to emerging professionals.

To further expand industry knowledge, the working group has introduced informal guest speakers. Typically, every second meeting includes a presentation from a practitioner within the consulting engineering sector, sharing specific AI use cases and experiences. These sessions support practical learning and promote knowledge sharing across the group.

Looking ahead, the working group is planning an industry event, tentatively scheduled for late Fall of 2026. The event is expected to include a panel discussion with AI experts from consulting engineering firms across British Columbia and Canada. Planning is ongoing, with the goal of creating a forum for broader industry discussion on opportunities and challenges related to AI in engineering.

### Working Group Members

- Ari Wibowo, Ausenco
- Azadeh Koohzare, McElhanney
- Brendan White, PBX Engineering
- Eliza Waddell, David Nairne Consulting
- Jason Harrison, Wylie-Crump Ltd.
- Luis Galindo, KWL
- Maryam Bostani, HDR
- Paul Docherty, Binnie Engineering
- Rahim Othman, Parsons
- Samuel Abranques, RAM
- Vignesh Ramadhas, Westmar Advisors
- Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies



# Building Engineering Committee



**Justin Chu**  
Chair  
Jacobs

**Significant work in the past year:** Initiated collaboration with other committees to develop messaging regarding pending industry changes such as the Prompt Payment Act and the 2030 Model National Building Code.

**Key information for members:** Advocacy continues with respect to impacts on engineering practice from changes to regulations, codes and standards.

The Building Engineering Committee (BEC) is a practice-focused committee, supporting building engineering professionals through the creation of content, informing ACEC-BC policy, and collaborating with other committees.

The committee seeks to balance membership across all relevant disciplines, including civil, electrical, geotechnical, mechanical, and structural, as well as specialty disciplines such as acoustical, building science, and code consulting. The committee members work together to discuss broad sector issues, including response to code updates, public policy, and regulation.

Over the last year, the committee supported advocacy efforts related to the adoption of the Infrastructure Projects Act and the Royal Assent of the Prompt Payment Act. The committee has continued to work towards developing communication and messaging for the engineering community with respect to relevant changes here, as well as other areas like the upcoming 2030 National Model Building Code.

With adoption of the Infrastructure Projects Act and future adoption of the Prompt Payment Act, and changes to how the province delivers buildings and projects, the committee is maintaining focus on issues relevant to members. The committee has begun planning communications to help members understand the changes introduced under the new Acts and regulations.

Additionally, the committee has started planning for future events to bring the engineering community together to celebrate some of the high-quality work being delivered by our members.

## Committee Members

- Andrew Tashiro, WSP
- Andrew Williamson, BKL Consultants
- Biswadeep Gosh, Jensen Hughes
- Darren Gervais-Harrison, PBX Engineering
- Fadi Ghorayeb, DIALOG
- Graeme McAllister, Thurber Engineering
- Graeme Terris, Pinchin
- Greg Ciura, McElhanney
- Justin Chu, Jacobs
- Mark Anderson, Bush Bohlman & Partners
- Michael Santoso, MCW Consultants
- Mohammad Fakoor, RJC Engineers
- Sara Mighan, MCW Consultants
- Tina Burgess, Jensen Hughes



## Business Practice Committee



**Michael Florendo**

Committee Chair

**R.V. Anderson**

**Significant work in the past year:** The Business Practice Committee (BPC) continues to provide advice and develop resources addressing business practice issues. Over the past year, the BPC led the update of the 2026 Consulting Engineers Fee Guideline and supported the development of the following resource documents:

- Budget Guidelines for Engineering Services, Document 1 – Transportation & Infrastructure (led by the Transportation Committee)
- Position Paper: Partnering Considerations for Small Firms (in collaboration with the Small Firms Council)

The committee continues to review and update key ACEC-BC guidance documents, with a revised Ownership of Work Product Position Paper, planned for release in 2026.

Committee members also provided comments on onerous contractual clauses identified by member firms to support client discussions and potential revisions to contract language.

In addition, in March 2026, the BPC hosted the first webinar in a series focused on professional and business practice topics, titled “Lessons in Professional Liability for Design Professionals”. Check the ACEC-BC events calendar for future webinars in this series.

### Key information for members:

- The BPC is focused on the following key activities and objectives:
- To provide advice and develop resources for business practice issues, including position statements, educational events and webinars, and standard contract forms for consulting projects;
- To support ACEC-BC’s promotion of quality-based consultant selection across the industry;
- To perform annual reviews/updates to ACEC-BC consulting fee guidelines;
- To monitor emerging industry-specific issues that affect the business interests of member firms.

As with previous years, the key document developed by the BPC is the annual update to the ACEC-BC Consulting Engineers Fee Guideline, which was issued in November 2025. This year's guideline included an expanded Methodology section that provided additional commentary on industry trends related to the continued increase in costs of business expenses, impacts of inflation, reduced availability of qualified professionals, and overall ability for organizations to reinvest in their operations, build in resilience, and leverage new tools and technology.

A new section was also added to the guideline document this year to provide members with guidance related to rate escalation for multi-year contracts. With our clients undertaking larger and more complex infrastructure projects, many of which have schedules spanning upwards of eight to 10 years, consultants are being requested to hold rates, without escalation, for multiple years. While our clients are looking for increased cost certainty, consultants are urged to review historical economic data to develop reasonable estimates and approaches to cost escalation in consultation with their clients.

The 2026 guideline recommended an increase in rates, slightly higher than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which was approved by the Board. The recommendation was largely due to market conditions in BC, as well as industry trends noted above.

The BPC also monitored emerging industry-specific issues that affect the business interests of member firms, including fee-based selection across the majority of engineering consultant clients in the BC region, prompt payment legislation, Bill M216 The Professional Reliance Act, application of the Provincial Sales Tax on engineering services, and inclusion of artificial intelligence (AI) requirements within service contracts.

We look forward to closer collaboration with other ACEC-BC committees as we continue addressing the challenges faced by member firms.

## **Committee Members**

Amanda Rust, Binnie  
Anita Le, Jacobs  
Alyse Wilkinson, WSP  
Brian Chatwin, Chatwin Engineering  
David Lu, McElhanney  
Frank Liu, Hatch  
Jay Rao, exp  
Joe Braun, Flow Engineering  
Kathryn Ekman, McElhanney  
Kip Skabar, Stantec  
Michael Florendo, R.V. Anderson  
Rob McLeod, Axis Insurance  
Robert Lew, Aplin & Martin  
Sheldon North, BGC Engineering



## Engineers and Geoscientists BC Consulting Practice Advisory Group



**Nick Bevilacqua**

ACEC-BC Representative

**Fast + Epp**

The primary function of the EGBC Professional Practice Advisory Group (PPAG) is to:

- 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 expanded its scope to also provide oversight to the following practice-related advisory groups within EGBC, allowing for broader representation across the consulting community:

- 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. Nick currently serves as Chair of the PPAG, and he was just re-appointed to continue serving in this role for another year.

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

- Key updates and discussion topics from Advisory Groups
- Professional practice advice, with a strong emphasis on practice boundaries
- Prioritization of Professional Practice Guidelines and Advisories
- Regulation of Firms, Continuing Education Program, and Annual Reporting

The majority of the PPAG's input during these discussions is focused on the prioritization of proposed Practice Guidelines and Advisories. EGBC staff actively look to industry to guide this prioritization, and consequently our group can have a significant impact in steering EGBC towards the publications that are helpful and pertinent without placing unrealistic responsibilities or expectations on consultants.

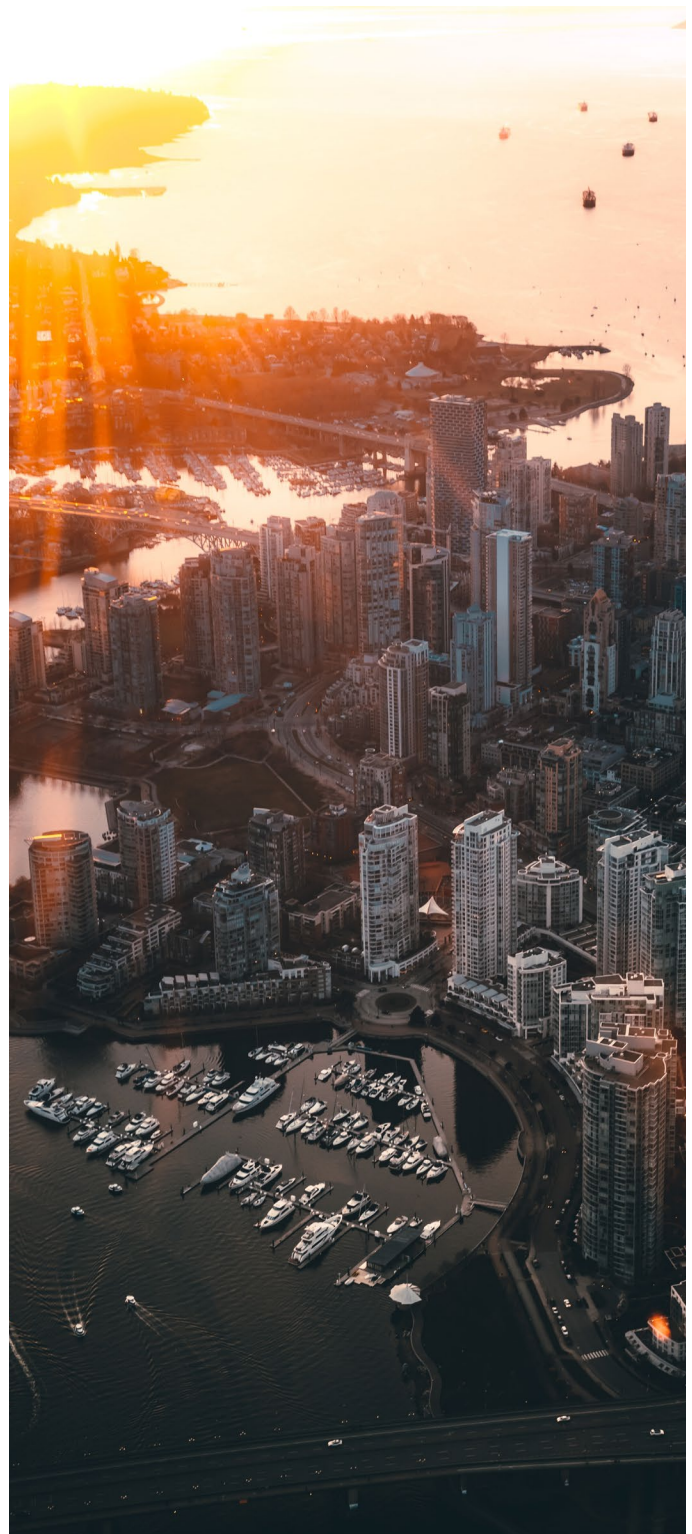
Some specific topics discussed over the last year by the PPAG impacting the consulting community include the following:

**Practice Boundaries:** AIBC and ASTTBC: EGBC has been in discussions with these organizations with respect to how the contemplated updates to their areas of practice could impact the engineering community. Significant concern from consultants – particularly focusing on ways in which such updates could impinge on the reserved practice of engineering – was shared with EGBC during these discussions.

**Regulatory Requirements across Jurisdictions:** EGBC has been in discussion with Engineers Canada regarding harmonization of Continuing Education (CE) requirements across jurisdictions and regulators. Reducing and streamlining the time and effort that many consultants that are registered in various provinces and territories currently spend in meeting the requirements of each individual regulator has been a major focus of these discussions.

**EGBC Registration Delays:** The current wait times that EITs endure to have their P.Eng. application processed has become a significant concern across the industry. The PPAG met with the EGBC registration team to not only voice this concern but also discuss ways in which the consulting community could help with mitigating the problem – namely more widespread onboarding of capable consulting firms into the Accredited Employer Program.

**EGBC Audits:** The PPAG provides a good forum for representatives from a variety of different firms and industries to raise concerns regarding observed trends in both Individual and Firm Audits conducted by EGBC. One of the primary goals of these discussions is to assist EGBC in their role as a regulator while steering them away from placing overly onerous requirements on both member firms and individual registrants.





# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee



**Peggy Chen**  
Committee Co-chair  
**Associated Engineering**



**Adam Hoag**  
Committee Co-chair  
**COWI**

## Significant work in the past year:

- Burnout Recognition & Prevention Resource
- Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) Resource
- Parental Leave Policy Event
- Pay Transparency Reporting Resource
- Indigenous Inclusion in Procurement: Insights and Understanding from the City of Vancouver (member-only resource)

## 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. Members of the committee develop an annual workplan, and smaller teams collaborate to advance key themes and initiatives throughout the year.

### Burnout Recognition & Prevention Resource

The committee identified burnout as an increasingly important workplace issue affecting the consulting engineering profession. Through the Mental Health Sub-Committee, a resource was developed to increase awareness of burnout, support early recognition of warning signs, and provide information on prevention and recovery strategies. The resource was released in December 2025.

### Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) Resource

Following discussions held during a panel event in 2023, members identified interest in learning more about how Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) can support inclusion and employee engagement. The committee developed a resource guide outlining the purpose, benefits, and implementation considerations for ERGs, along with examples and additional resources to support firms interested in establishing these programs. The resource was released in March 2026.

### Parental Leave Policy Event

Building on themes and discussions from the 2024 Gender Equity Workshop, the Gender Equity Sub-Committee organized a panel discussion focused on parental leave policies and practices within the consulting engineering sector. The event explored approaches being used across the industry, opportunities to support employees throughout their parental leave journey, and considerations for creating more inclusive workplace policies. The event was held on June 23, 2026.

### Pay Transparency Reporting Resource

As pay transparency reporting requirements are phased in across British Columbia, member firms identified a need for practical guidance tailored to the consulting engineering sector. The committee developed a resource that draws on the experiences of firms that have already completed reporting and provides insights on data preparation, interpretation of results, communications planning, and continuous improvement. The resource is intended to help firms meet legislative requirements while using reporting as a tool to support equitable workplace practices and informed decision-making. The resource was released in June 2026.

### Indigenous Inclusion in Procurement: Insights and Understanding from the City of Vancouver

Procurement processes increasingly incorporate requirements related to Indigenous inclusion and reconciliation. To help members better understand evolving expectations, the committee developed a report examining themes and insights from anonymized responses submitted to the City of Vancouver as part of a recent procurement process. The report builds on ACEC-BC's ongoing work related to reconciliation and Indigenous relations and is intended to support member firms in strengthening their understanding of Indigenous inclusion within procurement environments. The report was released to members in April 2026.

### Work in Progress:

The committee continues to develop resources and events to support ongoing learning and discussion across the industry, including:

- Pay Transparency Panel Discussion
  - Follow-up event to complement the Pay Transparency Reporting Resource.
- Menopause in the Workplace Resource/Event
  - Exploring workplace awareness, supports, and best practices. Details are currently being developed.
- Neurodiversity Resource/Event
  - Exploring opportunities to better understand and support neurodiversity within the consulting engineering profession. Details are currently being developed.

### **Committee Members**

Adam Hoag, COWI

Chelsea Seaby, KCB

Chunpreet Sahota, WSP

Jay Rao, EXP Services

Marcie Cochrane, ACEC-BC

Michelle Ng, Moffat & Nichol

Peggy Chen, Associated

Raya Smertina, Hatch

Robyn Affleck, BGC

Sadaf Neyshaboori, BBA

Selena Wilson, Mott MacDonald

Sharon Choi, RAM

Shirin Falamarzian, BBA

Suzanne Powell, Thurber

Vicki Kilpatrick, McElhanney

Yukti Arora, Parsons



## Future Leaders Network



**Joe Braun**

Committee Chair

Flow Engineering

### Key information for members:

The Future Leaders Network (FLN), formerly the Young Professionals Group, is a province-wide network dedicated to promoting, empowering, and supporting the development of early-career professionals in British Columbia's consulting engineering industry. Open to anyone with 10 or fewer years of consulting experience, the FLN is a place for emerging leaders to grow, collaborate, and contribute to the future of our profession.

Our network spans four primary regions: the Lower Mainland, the Okanagan, Vancouver Island, and Northern. With over 50 active volunteers from 26 member firms, our group reflects the diversity and strength of the ACEC-BC membership, and it enables the FLN to deliver programming that is both relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the next generation of leaders.

The FLN structure includes Regional Committees in each active area, a Provincial Steering Committee that brings regional voices together, and a Conference Committee that organizes our flagship annual event. Additionally, FLN representatives are embedded in other ACEC-BC committees, ensuring that the perspectives of early-career professionals are present throughout the association's work. Our Company Champions also continue to be instrumental in promoting events and connecting our network across firms.

### Increasing FLN Engagement – A Board Priority

The consulting engineering sector is facing a demographic shift, with senior leadership concentrated among a shrinking cohort and a growing wave of emerging professionals preparing to step up. Without intentional engagement, our industry risks losing critical knowledge and leadership continuity. Historically, the FLN's focus has centered on events, limiting members' visibility into and participation in ACEC-BC's advocacy and policy work.

In late 2025, the Board formally adopted "Increasing FLN Engagement" as a strategic priority, a clear signal of its investment in our long-term leadership pipeline.

The FLN led a structured process: defining the problem, gathering internal and external input, developing and assessing options, and building a practical implementation plan, with regular Board check-ins throughout.

The goal is to help future leaders move beyond attending events to genuinely contributing, building real pathways to leadership in their firms and within ACEC-BC. The plan was presented to the Board in June 2026 and will move into implementation in the next term.

### 3-Year Strategic Plan Continuation

This year, we further advanced our 2024–2027 Strategic Plan, a roadmap for strengthening volunteer experience, enhancing event engagement, and developing mentorship opportunities across the province. We viewed this work through the lens of the Increasing FLN Engagement as a board priority. As we progressed the 3-year plan, we simultaneously drew on it as a source of input and feedback for the Board priority's implementation plan.

### FLN Conference

A highlight of our year was the 2025 FLN Conference, held in November under the theme Stronger Connections, Brighter Futures. As in past years, we adopted a hybrid model to maximize event accessibility. It offered a full-capacity in-person experience at the BCIT Tech Collider alongside a virtual livestream for remote attendees.

The day featured compelling speaker sessions, engaging panels, and lively networking that brought together professionals from across the province. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with attendees citing the caliber of the content, the relatability of the presenters, and the sense of community fostered throughout the day. The conference gave attendees the opportunity to learn from industry experts on topics such as success for emerging leaders, building inclusive futures, leading beyond the title, and salary discussion and value negotiation.

### Events, Student Outreach, and Community Involvement

Our Regional Committees hosted a variety of professional development, networking, student outreach, and mentorship events across the province. Events this year included:

- Professional development seminars on topics like: inclusive leadership and unconscious bias, navigating the technical career path, fundamentals of financial literacy, time management and self-discipline, and navigating multidisciplinary projects.
- Networking opportunities, including the Future Leaders Network Exchange.
- Student outreach events with participation in the Engiqueers Conference and support for WESST's (Western Engineering Student Societies' Team) annual conference.
- Community Involvement events including a Minigolf Charity Event and collaboration events with JCI (Junior Chamber International), Girl Guides, and Engineers of Tomorrow.
- Mentoring events including a Fireside Mentorship Mixer.

### Looking Ahead

The momentum continues into 2026–27. Planning is well underway for the 2026 Future Leaders Conference, currently themed Bridging Generations, Building Leaders. Looking ahead, we're focused on strengthening how we bring both returning and new volunteers into the fold, refining roles based on recent feedback and alignment with the Board priority. We're planning our annual fall retreat, and kick-starting the implementation of the Board priority itself. Through it all, we remain committed to delivering on the next phase of our strategic plan while strengthening our identity under the Future Leaders Network banner. As we grow, we encourage new volunteers to get involved and help shape the future of our industry.

## Committee Members

Adam Hoag, COWI  
Adeela Sidhu, Hatch  
Aleem Nawla, Stantec  
Anahita Bashardoust, AECOM  
Anand Brar, Aplin & Martin  
Asal Rahbari, Hatch  
Carley Tremblay, Urban Systems  
Carter MacPherson, Urban Systems  
Catherine Zhang, Aplin & Martin  
Charlie Lewthwaite, CIMA+  
Chirysse Anderson, PBX Engineering  
Colby Miletto, Carollo Engineers  
Coral Deleff, CDM Smith  
Darren Gervais-Harrison, PBX Engineering  
Dennis Wu, Stantec  
Elijah Anzai, Collings Johnston  
Eric Fornwald, Aplin & Martin  
Fleur Versluys, Urban Systems  
Gurleen Gang, Ecora  
Haley Waldhaus, McElhanney  
Harman Sandhu, McElhanney  
Harvey Mann, Alpine Engineering  
Helena Ard, Hatch  
Jacob Kooy, NHC  
James Irwin, Stantec  
Jamilla Sunderji, Stantec

Jaryl Grande, Ecora  
Joe Braun, Flow Engineering  
John Dick, Mott MacDonald  
John Wardrop, Thurber  
Josh Braun, McElhanney  
Jun Park, Stantec  
Justin Boechler, Thurber  
Justin Ng, McElhanney  
Kathryn Lewis, WSP  
Kimberly Jones, Thurber  
Kyra Ching, Stantec  
Laura McPhedran, Onsite Engineering  
Lexi Lin, WSP  
Maira Bolanos Parra, Edge Sustainability  
Masood Meidani, BBA  
Matt Beck, WSP  
Michael Santoso, MCW  
Nancy Situ, Mott MacDonald  
Nicole Wong, Hatch  
Nina Gous, Aplin & Martin  
Raeiti Azarkeyvan, SRK Consulting  
Riley Vibert, McElhanney  
Saavin Khurana, Aplin & Martin  
Sara Mokhtari, RAM  
Soumya Thapliyal, BBA  
Trevor Nikodym, HDR  
Vlada Yurtaieva, Thurber



## Heath & Safety Roundtable



**Rob Dhillon**

Working Group Chair

McElhanney

**Significant work in the past year:** Provided a collaborative forum to discuss emerging HSE risks and opportunities, including AI, technology, leadership, culture, seasonal hazards, and evolving industry practices and regulatory developments.

The Health & Safety Leaders Working Group continued to serve as a valuable forum for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and thought leadership among ACEC-BC member firms. Throughout 2026, discussions focused on emerging risks, industry trends, and practical strategies to strengthen health and safety performance across the engineering consulting industry.

A significant area of focus was the rapid emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), including its potential applications in HSE, associated risks, governance considerations, and future opportunities. Members also explored the evolving state of safety, including shifting away from traditional lagging indicators such as TRIF toward more meaningful measures of critical risk exposure, learning, and safety performance.

Additional topics included 2026 wildfire preparedness and climate-related hazards, regulatory changes, roadside worker safety, drone operations and related

risk controls, vehicle telematics, winter readiness, mental health and wellness, and the practical operationalization of safety management systems. The group also examined energy-based safety principles and emerging industry initiatives, including the adoption of Type II safety helmets with integrated chinstraps and other Canadian Construction Safety Council-led safety advancements.

These discussions continue to support a proactive, modern, and collaborative approach to health and safety leadership across British Columbia's consulting engineering industry.

### Committee Members

Chinh Chu, ISL Engineering and Land Services

David Chen, Associated Engineering

Joe Pelliccia, Parsons

Michelle Cooke, McElhanney

Mike Harroun, Mott MacDonald Canada

Nicolas Chan, Thurber Engineering

Oleg Luyre, BGC Engineering

Ray Henderson, NHC

Reuben Wilkinson, Klohn Crippen Berger

Rob Dhillon, McElhanney

Sharon Blount, BGC Engineering



## Membership Affairs Committee



**Joel Sawatzky**

Committee Chair

**Stantec**

The purpose of the Membership Affairs Committee is to support and advise the Association on actions that promote member engagement and to advise on matters related to Association Marketing and Communications including member recruitment, onboarding, annual renewal and other member experiences.

The Membership Affairs Committee continues to support ACEC-BC through initiatives that promote member engagement, enhance the membership experience, and ensure a consistent and defensible approach to membership applications.

Over the past year, the Committee has focused on:

- Strengthening the membership application review process
- Improving onboarding and communication with new members
- Increasing member engagement through events and ambassador initiatives

The Committee holds bi-monthly meetings where members provide updates on completed work, collaborate on initiatives, and discuss Committee business.

### Significant Work in the Past Year:

#### New Membership:

An important role of the Committee is to review new member applications (Corporate, Associate, and Client) and provide recommendations to the Board. Through the 2025-2026 reporting period (July 2025-June 2026), the Association experienced strong interest in membership, with a significant number of new applications received, which is encouraging and a testament to the strong leadership of the Association.

#### Start-up of an Ambassadors League

The development and rollout of the Ambassadors League was a major initiative for 2025-2026. Following approval, the program moved into implementation with a soft launch and active participation at the Small Firms Council Social in April 2026.

#### Membership Application Process Improvements

A major focus of the Committee has been strengthening the transparency, consistency, and defensibility of the membership application review process. This has included the development of a checklist-based evaluation framework to support more structured and objective decision-making. Key criteria under consideration include EGBC registration, the presence of Professional Engineers within applicant firms, and evidence of established operations in British Columbia.

Work is ongoing to further clarify the distinctions between corporate and associate membership categories and to ensure alignment with current bylaws and Board expectations. In parallel, the Committee has initiated early discussions to support potential bylaw updates in the 2028 cycle, helping position the organization for future growth and evolving membership needs.

**Membership Engagement and Volunteer Recognition**

Improving member engagement and volunteer recognition has been another key priority. The Committee has focused on identifying opportunities to increase participation and volunteerism across the organization, recognizing their importance to long-term member value and connection.

Areas of focus include:

- Exploring volunteer recognition programs to better acknowledge contributions
- Strengthening connections between members, events, and Committee activities

These efforts are aimed at fostering a more engaged and active membership base, and this initiative will continue as an action item throughout the next year.

**Committee Operations and Governance**

The Committee has continued to operate effectively through its established working group structure, which included the Steering Committee, Executive Interface Group, Production Output Management Group, and the Ambassadors Group over this past year. This structure was just recently reviewed by the Committee and changes are forthcoming for the next year to improve efficiency and better align with upcoming initiatives.

Regular meetings have supported:

- Timely review of membership applications
- Advancement of key initiatives
- Coordination across sub-committees

**Key Information for Members:**

Membership in ACEC-BC continues to show strong interest, as demonstrated with new members over the last year, with applications reflecting a healthy mix of corporate, associate and client members. This ongoing demand highlights the importance of maintaining clear, consistent, and defensible membership criteria, particularly when assessing borderline applicants.

Early feedback from the Ambassadors League has been positive, demonstrating its value in strengthening member engagement at events and fostering connections within the organization. At the same time, there remain opportunities to further enhance the member experience, including increasing volunteer participation and improving onboarding processes to ensure new members are more aware of available benefits and opportunities.

Looking ahead, the Committee will continue to focus on finalizing and implementing a structured membership application review checklist to support consistent decision-making. Efforts will also include expanding and refining the Ambassadors League program and enhancing onboarding and ongoing member communications and supporting bylaw clarification and future updates. These initiatives align with broader ACEC-BC priorities, particularly in strengthening Committee effectiveness and increasing overall member engagement and participation.

Overall, the Membership Affairs Committee has made solid progress over the past year, particularly in improving application processes, advancing engagement initiatives, and strengthening the overall member experience.

**Committee Members**

Clive Leung, Carollo  
David Collings, Collings Johnston  
Joel Sawatzky, Stantec  
Kurtis Spence, Wood  
Lianna Mah, AE  
Marc Winer, Parsons  
Matt Beck, WSP  
Tijana Smiljanic, McElhanney  
Yukti Arora, Parsons



## Master Municipal Construction Documents Association



**Marc Winer**

ACEC-BC Representative  
**Parsons**



**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 (ACEC-BC) and the Municipal Engineers Division of Engineers and Geoscientists BC to create fair and equitable documents and practices for the municipal sector. Today, 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 127 Members (2 Associate Members, 59 Sponsoring Members, 66 Supporting Members).

ACEC-BC appoints two members to represent the industry on the MMCDA Board of Directors. Joel McAllister was appointed in 2021, and Marc Winer in 2026.

Historically, the Board Chair was selected from Sponsoring Members (i.e. local governments and regional districts). In 2025, it was decided to rotate the Chair role through the three original founding organizations. Joel McAllister is currently the chair through the end of 2027.

The MMCDA made several changes to its operations over the past year, including moving from an externally supported operational structure to a self-managed structure with its own staff. The Association hired a General Manager and is leasing an office space in Kelowna.

As we look ahead, the ACEC-BC Directors to the MMCDA support increased engagement between the two organizations, including joint action related to advocating for adoption of the MMCD CCA and co-hosting events.

In the past year, the MMCDA continued to offer their full range of services, including training programs covering over 600 participants, a three-fold increase from the 2024-25 fiscal year.

When registered as supporting members of MMCDA, members of 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, and the Board recognizes the value of our industry's engagement. This positive contribution is also well recognized by the other MMCDA partners in municipalities, government and the consulting industry.



## Metro Vancouver Liaison Committee



**Jeff Halliday**

Committee Chair

WSP

### Significant work in the past year:

- Developed and maintained a tracking system for Metro Vancouver RFQs and RFPs to document ACEC-BC member-reported issues which supports informed discussions with Procurement on common concerns and preferred outcomes.
- Compiled lessons learned from MV Projects to serve as specific examples of scope creep and inconsistency in Project Management activities.
- Generated a list of common equipment from an inventory database. Coordinating with MV to review and identify any devices which can be considered standard to enhance design efficiency and improve consistency for O&M personnel.
- Refreshed the format of the annual engagement event to provide ACEC-BC Members with a more effective opportunity to interact with Metro Vancouver leadership

### 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 Metro Vancouver Liaison Committee seeks to engage members actively engaged with Metro Vancouver to collaborate with Metro Vancouver General Managers and Directors to address areas of shared interest. The committee works as a whole and delegates detailed work relating to specific topics to sub-committees. The sub-committees often work together where issues overlap. In addition to the sub-committee areas of focus, the committee hosts an annual Client Engagement Event with Metro Vancouver.

### Procurement Sub-committee

Chaired by Gemma Dunn (GHD), the sub-committee scope covers MV procurement processes, selection criteria, RFQ/ RFP requirements, contract terms, and related issues.

The Procurement Sub-Committee strengthened collaboration between Metro Vancouver Procurement and the consulting community through structured, evidence-based engagement. The committee's work helped advance improvements in procurement transparency, communication practices, MSA management, standards accessibility, and procurement processes.

Most importantly, the introduction of measurable tracking and regular dialogue with Metro Vancouver created an effective mechanism for identifying issues, monitoring progress, and achieving meaningful process improvements for both Metro Vancouver and industry participants.

Specific actions taken by the Procurement Sub-committee included:

- Advocated for more consistent and timely updates on award and loss notifications with MV's commitment to providing regular communication with proponents between RFP close and notification of award.
- Worked with MV Procurement to develop a consolidated list of active MSA/TESA rosters with expiry dates to be circulated to ACEC-BC Membership.
- Initiated review of potential scope overlap between rosters identifying opportunities for streamlining while promoting improved understanding of MSA rules of engagement.

#### Project Management Sub-committee

Chaired by Cristina Fonseca (Stantec), the sub-committee scope covers project management and related issues (i.e. cost, schedule, quality, scope, and risk control), as well as working with MV to improve the management and delivery of their capital plan.

The PM sub-committee maintained its focus on promoting a common understanding of the level of effort expected by MV for Project Management tasks provided by consultants. Through direct outreach with representatives from ACEC-BC Member Firms, the sub-committee generated an issues register containing specific examples of scope creep in efforts related to project management. Topics identified for improvement included seeking clarity and agreement on; number of meetings, format and extent of project correspondence, project submittals, change management, and scope definition.

The PM Sub-committee is actively seeking additional examples from ACEC-BC Membership in two categories:

1. Scope Creep or misaligned understanding of PM Duties on MV Projects.
2. Best practices for PM Services from public-sector clients in other regions.

#### Technical Services Sub-committee

Chaired by Evan Sherman (Brown & Caldwell), the sub-committee scope covers submission milestone expectations, design standards, stakeholder management, technical innovation, and related issues.

The Technical Services sub-committee continued to advance the open discussion towards resolution of several key issues including:

- Drafting standard updated to simplify final signature process.
- Enhance efficiency, quality, and reliability of Record Drawings by updating the MV drafting standard to align with EGBC guidelines,
- Implemented a Pilot Program to revise approximately 15 technical specification documents/standards and developed a 4-year plan for comprehensive review and update.
- Collaborating with O&M personnel to generate a list of standard equipment used at MV facilities to promote consistency in operations, sourcing of spare parts, and training.
- Ongoing engagement with MV to review and provide feedback on development, refinement, and adoption of artificial intelligence policies.
- Provided feedback on proposed MV Cost Estimate Framework that will be introduced in 2026.

## Committee Members

Bridgette Martin, BKL

Connor Langford (Vice Chair), Mott MacDonald

Cristina Fonseca, Stantec

Evan Sherman, Brown and Caldwell

Gemma Dunn, GHD

Gurjit Sangha, WSP

Iain Ward, EXP

Jack Deragopian, Tetra Tech

Jason Colenutt, AECOM

Jeff Halliday, WSP

Joe DiPlacito, RAM

Masood Meidani, BBA

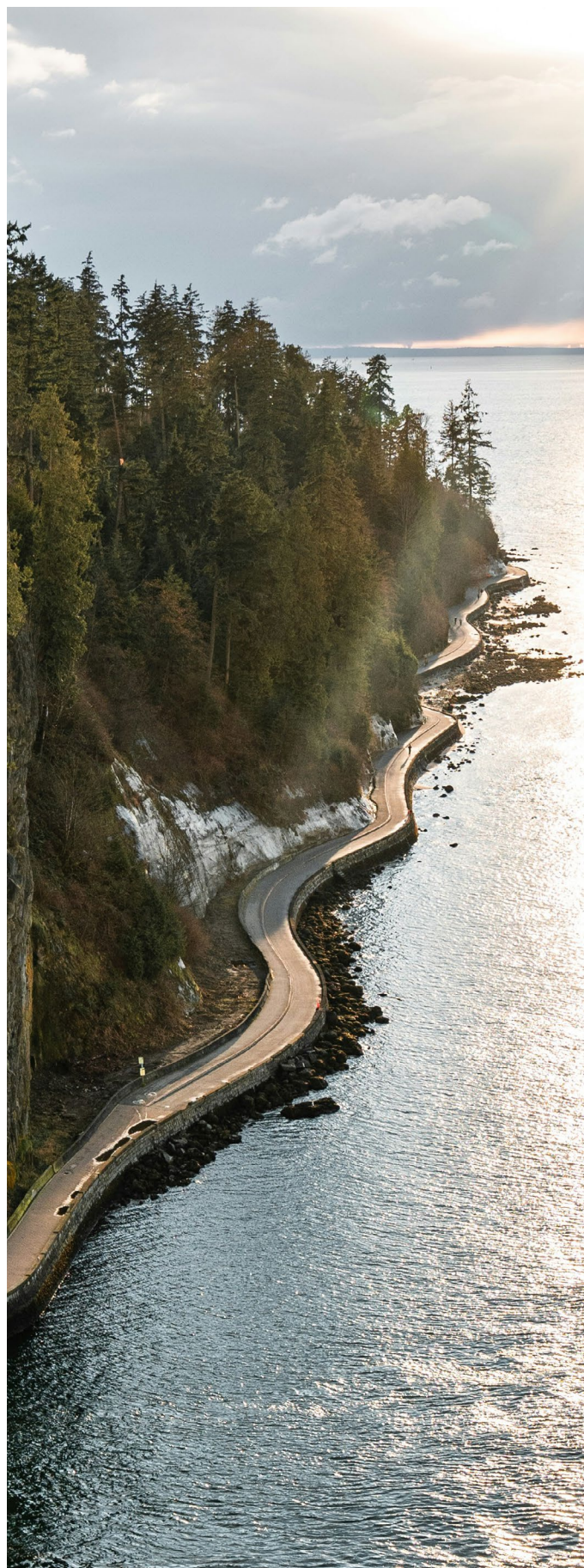
Michael Florendo, CDM Smith

Michelle Maynard, Associated Engineering

Nicole Babuik, Ausenco

Param Mankoo, Carollo

Thomas Bekenn, RAM





## Ministry of Transportation and Transit Joint Liaison Committee

### Bridge Sub-committee



**Keith Holmes**

Committee Chair

**WSP**

The Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MoTT) Bridge Sub-Committee brings together ACEC-BC member firms providing bridge services to the Ministry alongside senior members of the MoTT bridge team, including the Chief Bridge Engineer. The Sub-Committee meets twice annually to address technical matters and exchange information relevant to bridge design and construction across British Columbia.

The past year has been productive, with eight working groups established to focus on key priority areas. These groups meet regularly and report back to the Bridge Sub-Committee on their progress. Highlights include:

#### Standard Notes

Advancing significant updates to the Ministry's standard notes, with downstream implications for standard drawings, special provisions templates, and the MoTT Supplement to CSA S6:25.

## Seismic

Finalizing updates to MoTT requirements for seismic evaluation and retrofit reporting, for inclusion in the next edition of the Supplement to CSA S6:25.

## Procurement / RFX Consistency

Early discussions supported the development of the Ministry's "SPARCC" initiative (Services Performance Assessment & Review of Consulting Contracts). Current efforts focus on enhancing consultant performance evaluation processes and improving consistency in procurement documentation.

## GFRP Reinforcement

Compiled extensive resources from jurisdictions across North America. Next steps include identifying and delivering a pilot project to advance design guidance, special provisions, and construction specifications.

## Construction Cost Estimating

Updated contacts for the Ministry's tender cost database and is preparing for its integration into the new Integrated Project Services (IPS) system.

## BIM for Bridges

Assessed the current state of BIM practices in BC and beyond. Next steps include delivering a pilot project within a BIM environment and developing a roadmap for BIM adoption across the BC bridge sector.

## Artificial Intelligence

Evaluating emerging AI tools for application in engineering, procurement, and technical review processes.

## Carbon Footprint

Compiled resources for understanding and calculating embodied carbon in bridges. Ongoing work includes industry engagement to identify gaps, targeted training opportunities, and development of a database of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs), which standardize the reporting of environmental impacts for construction materials.

Beyond these focused initiatives, the Sub-Committee continues to provide a valuable forum for collaboration, enabling key members of BC's bridge community to share experience, align practices, and advance common initiatives.

## **Committee Members**

Adam Hoag, COWI  
Alireza Ahmadnia, BC MoTT  
Carl Lutz, BC MoTT  
Chad Amiel, McElhanney  
Craig Schaper, Associated Engineering  
David Woolford, COWI  
Frankie Fu, BC MoTT  
Helen Chin, Kiewit  
Ian Baker, BC MoTT  
Isabelle Duelli-Duente, BC MoTT  
Jamie McIntyre, Mott MacDonald  
Jenna Kim, BC MoTT  
Jianping Jiang, WSP  
John Philp, Stantec  
Joseph Adom, BC MoTT  
Justin Bae, BC MoTT  
Keith Holmes, WSP  
Kent Hodgson, BC MoTT  
Khalid Khan, BC MoTT  
Kristin Greinacher, KCB  
Larson Christiansen, BC MoTT  
Lihua Zou, AtkinsRéalis  
Mark Byram, Bau Group  
Michaela Horner, BC MoTT  
Mingyu Li, BC MoTT  
Murray Johnson, Elevation Technical Services  
Neil Cabanez, MoTT  
Perna Sohal, BC MoTT  
Reza Ahani, BC MoTT  
Reza Saiedi, BC MoTT  
Ryan Taylor, Parsons  
Scott Loptson, ISL  
Terrence Davies, TY LIN  
Tian Wang, BASIS Engineering  
Tony Martin, Mott MacDonald  
Vikram Verma, MoTT



# Municipal Engineering Committee



**Gabriene Kaechele**  
Committee Chair  
**Binnie**

## Significant work in the past year:

### Adoption of Key Initiatives

In 2025, the Municipal Engineering Committee (MEC) focused on developing a strategic approach to planning activities that reflects the perspectives of both municipalities and committee members while aligning with ACEC-BC’s broader objectives. In late 2025, the Committee developed Key Initiatives (KI) and stretch goals for a two-year period and formed dedicated working groups to advance each initiative.

The KIs are centered on areas of mutual interest and shared value between municipalities and consultants, as well as exploring new opportunities to strengthen engagement with clients and industry partners. Key themes include the value of high standards and quality work, seeking efficiencies, promoting positive dialogue on infrastructure investment, and fostering discussions on workforce capacity, knowledge transfer, and the development of practical experience for the next generation of professionals.

### Client Engagement

The Committee successfully delivered two Client Engagement events in 2026, providing valuable opportunities for open dialogue and collaboration between municipal leaders and consulting engineers.

The first event was held in February 2026 with representatives from the Cities of Surrey and White Rock. Discussions focused on procurement practices, key challenges facing municipalities, opportunities to improve efficiency in project delivery, and current workforce capacity challenges.

The second event was held in June 2026 in Nanaimo and brought together representatives from the City of Nanaimo, the Regional District of Nanaimo, and the Municipality of North Cowichan. The discussion centered on municipal engineering perspectives, the value of strong collaboration between municipalities and consultants, and approaches to delivering sustainable infrastructure.

Both events reinforced the importance of ongoing engagement between municipalities and consultants and provided valuable insights that will help inform the Committee’s future initiatives and priorities.

### QBS and Procurement

The committee continues to support ACEC-BC’s review of municipal contracts to support balanced and fair language, respond to onerous clauses, and assure regulatory compliance. Efforts included identifying emerging issues, engaging with municipalities to discuss concerns, and promoting fair and balanced contract language.

## **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, as well as promoting the services provided by the Municipal Engineering Consulting Industry.

The committee members represent a broad cross-section of member firms who provide municipal engineering services across the province. Over the past few years, we have maintained a commitment to meet virtually, which supports representation from the Okanagan, Prince George, and Vancouver Island, in addition to representatives from the Lower Mainland. The committee meets approximately monthly to discuss engagement with our municipal clients, procurement practices and contract language, as well as trends in the industry.

### **Client Engagement**

This year, the committee focused on reconnecting with municipal clients as well as re-envisioning our event format and content in a way that best serves ACEC-BC members. As part of this effort, the Committee developed a municipal engagement strategy informed by discussions with municipal leaders, industry representatives, and committee members, helping to identify areas of mutual interest and value. These insights have guided the Committee's priorities and supported the delivery of regional engagement events that bring together municipalities and consulting engineers to discuss topics such as procurement practices, infrastructure delivery, workforce capacity, and opportunities for more effective collaboration.

Through this ongoing engagement, the Committee has gained a stronger understanding of municipal perspectives while providing a forum for open dialogue on issues that affect both municipalities and consulting engineers. The feedback received through these discussions continues to inform the Committee's initiatives and supports ACEC-BC's efforts to strengthen partnerships across the municipal engineering sector.

### **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. Discussions focused on municipal procurement practices, risk allocation, indemnity provisions, confidentiality requirements, experience thresholds, AI-related restrictions, and other contract terms that may limit competition or increase project risk. Through these discussions, the Committee identified opportunities to improve procurement practices, raise member awareness of emerging issues, and strengthen relationships with municipalities to support more effective project delivery.

### **Committee Collaboration**

Liaisons from both the Metro Vancouver Committee and the MMCD Board continue to actively participate in MEC meetings, serving as a supportive link between the groups. This role facilitates ongoing knowledge sharing and strengthens collaboration across committees. Their presence helps bring broader perspectives to discussions and supports more informed decision-making that benefits both municipal clients and the consulting engineering community.

## Committee Members

Adrian Corlett, Parsons

Chris Boit, ISL

Coral Deleff, Carollo

David Moschini, Tetra Tech EBA

Donovan Klassen, Carollo

Erica Messam, ISL

Gabriene Kaechele, Binnie

Jack Percy, McElhanney

Jayson Walker, Urban Systems

Jeff Halliday, WSP

Jessica LeNoble, KWL

Joel McAllister, Onsite Engineering

Jon Irving, McElhanney

Jonathan Musser, Associated Engineering

Kate Kirkland, Urban Systems

Marc Winer, Parsons

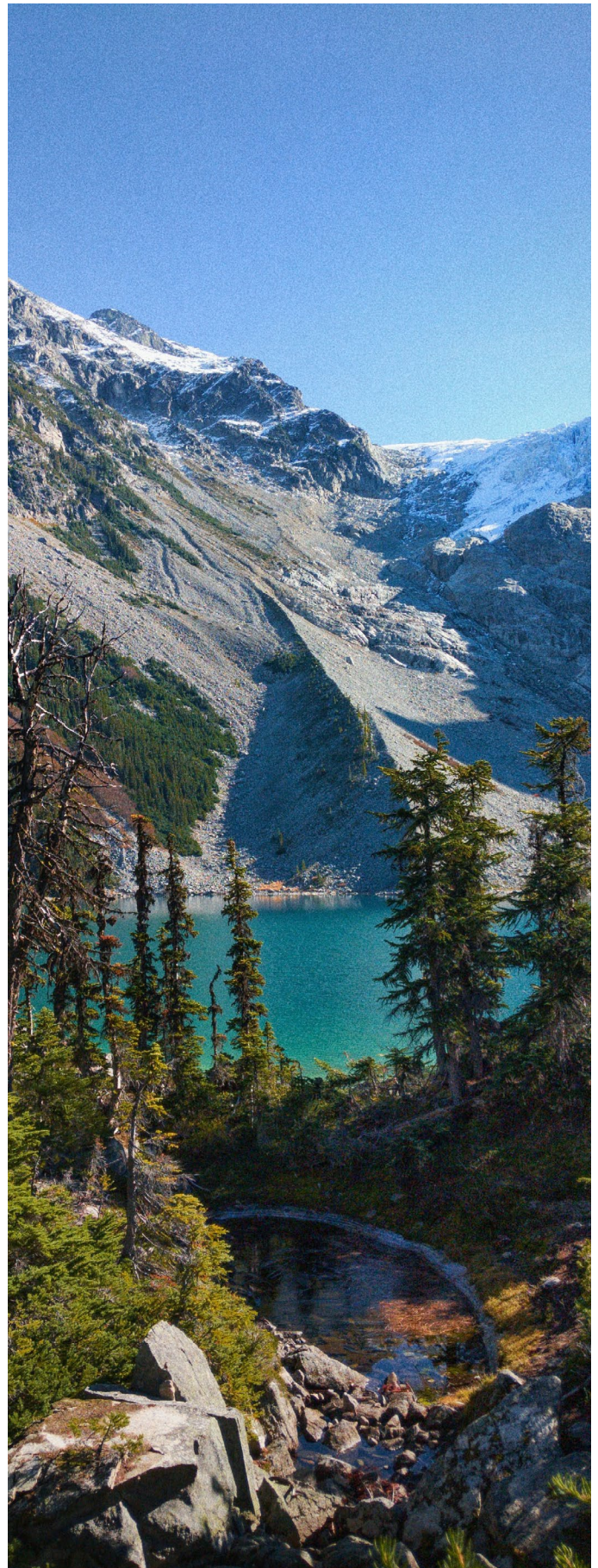
Paul Farquharson, GHD

Raya Smertina, Hatch

Tanya Sadlo, McElhanney

Will Eisbrenner, Binnie

Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies





## Regulation Working Group



**Katie Au**

Working Group Chair

**BBA**

The working group provides a forum for sharing experiences and advising ACEC-BC on matters relating to regulation of professionals registered with Engineers and Geoscientists BC (EGBC).

Throughout the year, the group continued to facilitate discussion among consulting engineering firms on emerging regulatory issues, practical implementation challenges, and opportunities to improve regulatory efficiency.

The working group continued to monitor and share experiences related to firm and individual audits conducted by EGBC. Discussions focused on audit processes, overlap between corporate and individual audits, audit findings, and opportunities to improve communication of common trends identified through audits. Members also exchanged practical experiences related to Professional Practice Management Plans (PPMPs), corporate audit preparation, independent reviews, and annual firm renewal requirements.

A focus of the working group remained the alignment of regulatory requirements across Canadian jurisdictions. Building on the group's previous advocacy to Engineers Canada, members continued discussions regarding labour mobility, continuing professional development (CPD) harmonization, interprovincial registration requirements, and opportunities to reduce administrative burden for professionals and firms practicing across multiple provinces. The group also encouraged broader national engagement through ACEC organizations and regulators in other jurisdictions.

The working group also discussed several emerging regulatory and practice matters affecting ACEC-BC members, including:

- Independent Reviews of High-Risk Professional Activities or Work (HRPAW);
- Authentication of cost estimates;
- Registrant firm responsibilities related to the use of restricted titles;
- EGBC's Design-Build Practice Advisory;
- Professional Reliance legislation proposals;
- Reserved practice and scope of practice considerations for technologists and technicians;
- Interpretation of geomatics practice.

The Regulation Working Group appreciates the contributions of its members, who collectively bring perspectives from consulting engineering firms of varying sizes and disciplines across British Columbia. ACEC-BC encourages professionals involved in firm practice, compliance, quality management, professional governance, and regulatory affairs to participate in the working group and help inform future advocacy and engagement with regulators on behalf of the consulting engineering industry.

### **Working Group Members**

Ashley Adamache, Stantec  
Ben Haeusler, Stantec  
Bernard Abelson, Mott MacDonald  
Bran Helenurm, Binnie  
Brigette Martin, BKL  
Celina Kwasniak, Mott MacDonald  
Clare Share, McElhanney  
Joshua Culp, Acadia Engineering  
Osama Moin, RAM  
Lauren Ashe, BCG Engineering  
Lianna Mah, Associated Engineering  
Maurizio Ponzini, Binnie  
Megan Tenzer, McElhanney  
Nick Bevilacqua, Fast + Epp  
Robin Parker, Kerr Wood Leidal  
Stefano Vitucci, WSP  
Susan Trickey, BCG Engineering  
Todd Stewart, Aplin Martin  
Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies





## Small Firms Council



**Josh Lock**

Committee Chair

**Collings Johnston**

### Significant work in the past year:

- The Council hosted two Small Firm Connections networking events, in October 2025 and April 2026, welcoming small firm members and several first-time guests.
- It also published Partnering Considerations for Small Firms in Project Pursuits, developed with the Business Practice Committee, and provided small-firm input on the Budget Guidelines for Engineering Services and proposed awards-program changes.

### Key information for members:

- Small Firm Connections will continue, with two in-person events targeted each year as ACEC-BC capacity allows.
- The new partnering position paper helps small firms consider expectations, risk allocation, and commercial commitments when joining larger teams. Future topics may include small-firm AI adoption and professional liability requirements flowing down from prime contracts.

The Small Firms Council's work remains guided by direct input from small firm members. Earlier outreach identified mentorship, connection, hybrid work practices, and contract culture as areas where small firms would benefit from ACEC-BC support. The Council has refined that mandate into a practical annual rhythm: two in-person connection events, one focused bulletin or position paper, and regular discussion of emerging issues affecting small firms.

Small Firm Connections remained the Council's most visible activity. The October 9, 2025 event at Rogue Kitchen and Wetbar drew about 30 attendees, several of them non-members meeting ACEC-BC for the first time. Feedback confirmed that the format helps members build relationships and share experience, while giving the Council a read on emerging priorities. The April 9, 2026 event reached about 57 registrants, supported by direct outreach from Council volunteers.

Contract culture also remained a core priority. Building on the earlier Sub-Consultant Agreements bulletin prepared with the Business Practice Committee, the Council developed Partnering Considerations for Small Firms in Project Pursuits. The paper addresses the commercial risks small firms may face when supporting larger prime consultant proponents, particularly where expectations around scope, role, or commercial benefit shift after award. A working group of Erin Martin-Serrano, Josh Lock, and Trevor St. Germain prepared the draft, with review from Mark Bliss, Tim Stanley, the Business Practice Committee, and ACEC-BC Board members before publication in June 2026.

The Council also contributed small-firm perspectives to other ACEC-BC initiatives, including the Budget Guidelines for Engineering Services and potential awards-program changes to improve small firm participation. Membership expanded in late 2025, and Council leadership transitioned in 2026: Josh Lock became Chair in May, while Erin Martin-Serrano continues to serve as Board Partner. Looking ahead, the Council will maintain its cadence of connection events and practical resources. Bulletin topics under discussion include small-firm AI adoption and the professional liability requirements that flow down through prime consultant agreements.

## Committee Members

Adam Spears, Delta Wye Engineering  
Colin Commandeur, Great Northern Engineering  
Erin Martin-Serrano, PBX Engineering  
Harvey Mann, Alpine Engineering  
James Kay, Alpine Engineering  
Jeremie Bergeron, Delta Wye Engineering  
Joshua Culp, Acadia Engineering  
Laura McPhedran, Onsite Engineering  
Maira Bolanos Parra, Edge Consultants  
Mark Bliss, BKL Consultants  
Murray Johnson, Elevation Technical Services  
Salma Farzim, Westco Consulting  
Tim Stanley, Stratice Consulting  
Trevor St. Germain, Maven Consulting  
Younes Rashidi, Hedgehog Technologies



## Sustainability and Climate Change



**Edwin Guerra Castrejon**

Committee Chair

**Associated Engineering**

### Significant work in the past year:

Delivered a virtual panel built on the ACEC-BC member guide “Incorporating Climate Change Considerations for Project Scoping and Procurement”.

### Key information for members:

Created an Embodied Carbon in Bridges working group that is collaborating across the industry to advance the practice of environmental life cycle assessment for this specific type of infrastructure.

The Sustainability and Climate Change Committee continued its mandate to advance best practices in sustainability and climate change across British Columbia’s consulting engineering industry. The committee met monthly throughout the year, gathering virtually with strong and consistent participation from member firms, and featured a guest presentation at nearly every meeting to keep members current on emerging tools, standards, and policy.

The committee’s speaker program reflected the breadth of the sustainability and climate change umbrella. Presentations included a climate resilience framework and climate-adjusted design criteria for public-sector buildings in BC, district energy systems, a comparison of embodied carbon and life-cycle assessment software, and an introduction to the new voluntary Sustainability Program for Firm Registrants being developed by Engineers and Geoscientists BC for launch in late 2026 – a program in which a committee member is directly involved as part of the working group.

A central focus of the year was the committee’s Embodied Carbon in Bridges initiative. The subgroup advanced a formal work product, reviewed by external experts, and established a working relationship with ASCE’s Infrastructure 2050 program to align on awareness, calculation methods, and benchmarking for bridge embodied carbon. The subgroup is preparing to adapt the forthcoming National Research Council of Canada life-cycle assessment guide for bridges to BC practice. This work is of significant interest to the consulting engineering industry and is likely to be undertaken in collaboration with other committees within and outside ACEC-BC, including the Ministry of Transportation and Transit Bridge sub-committee and the Transportation Committee.

The committee also delivered a member webinar built on the ACEC-BC guide \*Incorporating Climate Change Considerations for Project Scoping and Procurement\*, hosting a panel of owner and consultant representatives to help member firms embed climate considerations earlier in project scoping and procurement. The session was offered free to member firms. In parallel, the committee progressed collaborations with the Small Firms group on a Net Zero Primer and with the Building Engineering Committee on shared member resources and maintained close ties with the Future Leaders Network.

The committee welcomed new members over the year and thanks its outgoing co-chair, Robyn Casement, for her contributions and leadership. The committee is looking forward to an exciting, busy year and to engaging with other committees and member firms to continue to contribute and advance best practices in sustainability and climate change.

### **Committee Members**

Afzal Waseem, Tetra Tech

Alex Minett, Thurber

Anna Lemaire, COWI

Clare Share, McElhanney

Craig Sutherland, Kerr Wood Leidal  
Associates

Edwin Guerra Castrejon Associated  
Engineering

Genevieve Brown, Northwest Hydraulic  
Consultants

Haley Waldhaus, McElhanney

Ivan Lee, Stantec

Jessica Dhami, Thurber

Katherine Greene, Stantec

Steffan Waters, BBA Consultants





## TransLink Liaison Committee



**James Hnatiuk**

Committee Chair

**Hatch**

The purpose of the ACEC-BC TransLink Liaison Committee is to support communication and collaboration between TransLink and the consulting industry and work together with TransLink on areas of shared interest. Together, we address a wide range of topics like regulation, diversity and inclusion in our workplaces, and efficiency in procurement. The Committee collaborates to find solutions to common issues like proposal submission requirements while advocating for the qualification-based selection of consultants. Our Committee members also bring the perspective of shared experience from our industry's work with other clients from around the world.

Significant renewal of committee membership occurred this year with a new chair and a full slate of new members. Consideration was given to achieving gender diversity on the Committee. An administrative meeting was held in December for new committee members to get acquainted and to brainstorm priorities for the coming year. These included items related to procurement consistency and efficiency, such as standardization of proposal requirements and debriefs, coordination of pre-qualification lists, modifications to contract terms and conditions and the creation of a fall project status update. The Committee also remains interested in the status of TransLink's capital investment plans and funding sustainability.

The Committee continued to be active with joint ACEC-BC and TransLink meetings this year. At the February Committee meeting, TransLink provided substantive updates on key initiatives including the establishment of

an integrated Project Delivery Office, building greater internal project oversight capacity through the use of in-house resources and implementation of a vendor performance management system. TransLink also provided updates on the 2026 Capital Plan and 2027 Investment Plan. Industry shared experiences from recent procurements and offered specific examples of areas for improvement. A planning session with TransLink was held in May to discuss the content and approach and to prepare for the TransLink Client Engagement Breakfast.

In June, the Committee supported ACEC-BC in hosting the annual TransLink Client Engagement Event. The format was modified in 2026 to place greater emphasis on updates to key TransLink initiatives and the introduction of TransLink leadership and new staff members. As always, the summary of upcoming consulting engineering opportunities was made available during the session. Industry interest and engagement were high as the event continues to fulfill an important role for the consulting community. As with prior years, both in-person and virtual participation options were provided.

The Committee is looking forward to an active program which includes advancing items of importance to both TransLink and the consulting community.

### Committee Members

Aled Griffiths, Mott MacDonald

Alvin Tse, ISL Engineering

Basse Clement, McElhanney

Ian Steele, PBX Engineering

James Hnatiuk, Hatch

John Dick, Mott MacDonald

Tamsin Silvester, WSP



## Transportation Committee



**Neal Cormack**

Committee Chair

ISL Engineering

### Significant work in the past year:

Stakeholder Outreach Program; Working Group Deliverables (Future Proofing Transportation Infrastructure; Current Workforce in Transportation)

### Key information for members:

An open and collaborative approach provides value for transportation projects. Consultants who communicate proactively, maintain consistent teams and bring holistic, senior expertise are best positioned to support clients in delivering complex infrastructure programs.

I am proud of the dedication and hard work our committee has demonstrated this year. This has been a year of renewal and momentum for the Transportation Committee. We welcomed new members, finalized our Terms of Reference and Workplan, established meaningful working groups, and continued a robust stakeholder outreach program. Thank you to all members for your commitment and contributions.

### Committee Renewal and Governance

The 2025–2026 year marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Transportation Committee under the leadership of Chair Neal Cormack, P.Eng., ENV SP, ISL Engineering and Land Services Ltd., and Vice-Chair Martin Devonald, BGC Engineering. The committee welcomed four new members during the year: Nico Malfara (HDR), Trevor Cheng (BKL), Nancy Situ (Mott MacDonald, FLN representative), and Scott Minahan (Stantec, Ports and Marine Terminals). The FLN representative position was recently surrendered, with a new member to join in the fall of 2026.

The committee's Terms of Reference (ToR) and Workplan were reviewed, updated and formally adopted by the ACEC-BC Board in March 2026. The revised ToR includes updated committee roles, refined terminology, and improved coordination with other ACEC-BC sector committees. The Workplan prioritized short, medium, and long term committee objectives, establishing recommended policy positions and developing supporting content to advance these priorities. This was a meaningful milestone that sets a clear foundation for the committee's activities going forward.

## Working Groups

Two working groups were established to advance the committee's short-term goals, each led by a committee member.

### *Future Proofing Transportation Infrastructure (Lead: Amy Hunter, PBX Engineering)*

This working group is developing a strategic plan and white paper on emerging technologies and future-proofing considerations for the transportation industry. The group identified five key themes and has been developing interim deliverables, including a presentation shared with the broader committee for feedback. The white paper is targeted for completion by the end of summer 2026.

### *Current Workforce in Transportation (Lead: Martin Devonald, BGC Engineering)*

This working group is conducting a Transportation Workforce Study covering demographics, education, skilled trades shortages and funding program gaps. Data collection has been initiated using sources including EGBC's 2024 membership survey and outreach to the ACEC-BC EDI committee. Preliminary findings were shared with the committee in April 2026. A final deliverable is also targeted for summer 2026.

## AI in Transportation Engineering

The committee has also begun exploring the scope of AI integration within transportation engineering. Vijay Kallur (Arcadis) led a discussion on topics including reproducibility of AI-generated solutions, professional liability, and regulatory requirements. A recent Ministry of Transportation and Transit terms of reference was discussed that requires consultants to obtain client approval before using AI tools. The committee is developing a position document on AI use in transportation engineering practice, with contributions from all members. This work may be integrated with the Future Proofing working group's deliverables and/or shared separately with the AI committee.

## Stakeholder Outreach

A core objective for the committee this year has been to engage directly with key clients and infrastructure owners across the transportation sector. The intent of

this outreach is to better understand client priorities, procurement challenges, and emerging needs – and to identify where consulting engineers can provide greater value. Committee champions were assigned to key external stakeholder organisations including BC Ferries, BC Parks, BC Transit, DFO/Coast Guard, DP World, Infrastructure BC, TI Corp, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, YVR and railway operators. Streamlined outreach materials were developed collaboratively by the committee to support a consistent and professional approach to engagement.

The findings from each outreach session will be compiled into a white paper to be shared with the broader ACEC-BC membership. This deliverable is intended to translate client feedback into practical insights for consulting engineering firms – covering themes such as what clients value most in consultant engagements, common procurement frustrations, emerging areas where additional expertise is needed, and the evolving landscape of infrastructure delivery in BC.

### *BC Transit – June 17, 2026 (Aaron Lamb, Jennifer White, Errol Nordstrom, Levi Timmermans)*

The committee met with BC Transit to discuss their priorities, challenges, and experience working with consulting engineers. BC Transit is managing significant growth in its capital infrastructure program, with electrification creating added complexity around facility upgrades, utility coordination, schedule certainty, and evolving technical requirements.

Their main challenges are incomplete or poorly coordinated designs, frequent RFIs and change orders, late-stage redesign, limited budget visibility, and inefficient procurement processes for smaller assignments. The “bait and switch” issue – where firms propose senior personnel but deliver different teams – was also raised as a concern.

BC Transit indicated that consultants can provide greater value by clarifying scope early, maintaining stable project teams, improving multidisciplinary coordination, designing within budget, reporting burn rates transparently, and providing stronger construction-phase engineering support. They also emphasized the need for deeper electrification expertise and stronger communication with non-technical stakeholders such as local governments and councils.

A key opportunity for ACEC-BC is to establish a dedicated BC Transit subcommittee to support more regular dialogue and improve alignment as BC Transit's infrastructure program continues to expand.

### Concluding Remarks

Communication, collaboration and proactive engagement remain the cornerstones of effective client-consultant relationships in the transportation sector. These themes have emerged consistently across our committee discussions and stakeholder interactions. The ongoing demographic shift within the industry – as experienced professionals retire and junior staff take on increasing responsibility – underscores the need for structured knowledge transfer and open dialogue across all levels of project teams.

The electrification of transit infrastructure, the integration of AI into engineering practice, and broader questions of future-proofing transportation systems are defining challenges for our industry in the years ahead. The committee is well positioned to contribute meaningfully to these conversations through its working groups, stakeholder outreach program and ongoing collaboration with ACEC-BC's other sector committees.

Looking ahead, the committee will continue its stakeholder engagement program through the fall of 2026, with meetings anticipated with DP World, BC Ferries, BC Parks and other organisations. Working group white papers will be finalized. A new FLN member will join the committee in the fall to strengthen our connection with emerging professionals in the transportation sector.

I would like to thank ACEC-BC and all committee members for the opportunity to lead the Transportation Committee. This has been a year of meaningful progress and I look forward to the continued work ahead.

### **Committee Members**

Amy Hunter, PBX Engineering  
Caroline Andrewes, ACEC-BC  
Ed Miska, AECOM  
Jayson Walker, Urban Systems  
Kip Skabar, Stantec  
Mark Byram, BAU Group  
Martin Devonald, BGC Engineering  
Matthew Colwill, CIMA+  
Michelle Ng, Moffat Nichol  
Neal Cormack, ISL Engineering  
Neon Koon, McElhanney  
Nico Malfara, HDR  
Raya Smertina, HATCH  
Scott Minahan, Stantec  
Trevor Cheng, BKL  
Vijay Kallur, Arcadis



## Transportation Conference Organizing Committee



**Katherine Miller**

Committee Chair

**Mott MacDonald**

**Significant work in the past year:** Delivery of the 2026 Hybrid Transportation Conference – January 28-29, 2026.

The Transportation Conference Organizing Committee serves as a planning team that delivers the annual transportation sector conference in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation & Transit (MOTT) 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 MOTT and TransLink, along with relevant initiatives from other transportation agencies in BC. Working with the MOTT 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 January 28 and in-person workshops, tours, and awards dinner on January 29. This approach was enthusiastically supported by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit 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 January 28. More than 650 people registered and joined online to engage with more than 33 speakers. The virtual format supported two content streams in the afternoon with keynote speakers presenting to the full audience in the morning. Presentations included: Transforming Infrastructure Delivery through Digitalization and Collaborative Practices, Major Project Updates, Transit Oriented Communities and Developments, and more. The conference partners – TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation & Transit – were very engaged in preparation and provided exceptional content for the event.

### Connection and Awards:

The committee developed five tours including site visits to the Broadway Subway Project, the Holdom Overpass, the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal, Pinetree & Guildford, and Phibbs Exchange. Alongside the tours, the program included two in-person workshops: Vancouver's Seawall Detour Emergency Response, and Active Transportation in Action: Local Planning that Delivers Big Impact. Following the tours and workshops, guests enjoyed a reception followed by the BC Transportation Consulting Engineers Awards & Dinner. The awards dinner included a welcome from Councillor Alec Guerin from the Musqueam nation.

### Outcomes:

The conference attendance this year was record breaking at over 651 participants, and included representation from conference partners TransLink and the Ministry of Transportation & Transit. We were delighted to welcome Deputy Minister Heather Wood and Associate Deputy Minister Paula McKay from the Ministry of Transportation & Transit.

Our Community Partner program – first introduced in 2020 – continues to bring benefit to community organizations and conference participants. This year the committee invited Our Community Bikes, who joined the conference program with an in-person presentation on day two and received a donation from the ACEC-BC.

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.

We are looking forward to 2027; the committee anticipates the opportunity to host the next conference, continuing to serve the needs of the industry and our partners across the province.

### **Committee Members**

Acushla Burden, AtkinsRéalis  
Alireza Ahmadnia, BC Ministry of Transportation  
Asal Rahbari, Hatch  
Brigid Canil, BC Ministry of Transportation  
Dennis Wu, Stantec  
Emilie McLaren, BC Ministry of Transportation  
Gordon Zhou, TransLink  
Hannah Khosravi, GHD  
Jianping Jiang, WSP  
Katherine Miller, Mott MacDonald  
Lindsay Hawkins, RAM Consulting  
Matt Gardiner, BC Ministry of Transportation  
Matthew Browning, McElhanney  
Matthew Chan, Parsons  
Melina Mascarenhas, TI Corporation  
Patrick Stancombe, Associated Engineering  
Paul Evans, Thurber Engineering  
Simon Lee, Binnie  
Thomas Chhun, GHD  
Tijana Smiljanic, McElhanney  
Winston Guo, TransLink

### **ACEC-BC Team**

Annabel Aspler, Events Partner  
Ben Abbasipour, Marketing & Communications Leader  
Caroline Andrewes, President & CEO  
Marcie Cochrane, Strategic Partner  
Michael Iskandar, Marketing Specialist

## Events 2025-2026

| Date                  | Event Name                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 2025</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 ACEC-BC Annual General Meeting</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>September 2025</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Leaders Breakfast – Kamloops</li> <li>• Regional Leaders Breakfast – Kelowna</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>October 2025</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Firms Connections Event</li> <li>• ACEC-BC FLN: Inclusive Leadership and Unconscious Bias</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>November 2025</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Future Leaders Network Conference</li> <li>• FLN Breakfast Event: Navigating the Technical Career Path</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>January 2026</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FLN: Fundamentals of Financial Literacy for Future Leaders</li> <li>• Transportation Conference 2026</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>February 2026</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client Engagement Event with the City of Surrey</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>March 2026</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar: Lessons in Professional Liability for Design Professionals</li> <li>• FLN Breakfast Event: Time Management &amp; Self Discipline</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>April 2026</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FLN Panel Discussion: Navigating Multidisciplinary Projects</li> <li>• Small Firms Connections Event</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>May 2026</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FLN Member Connections: Future Leaders Network Exchange</li> <li>• ACEC-BC: Leaders Dinner</li> <li>• Climate-Ready Projects: Scoping &amp; Procurement in Practice</li> <li>• Awards For Engineering Excellence Gala</li> </ul>                                                                   |
| <b>June 2026</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client Engagement Event with Metro Vancouver</li> <li>• Client Engagement Event on Vancouver Island</li> <li>• Client Engagement Breakfast with TransLink</li> <li>• FLN Panel Discussion: Conflict Management for Future Leaders</li> <li>• Parental Leave Plus: Beyond the First Step</li> </ul> |

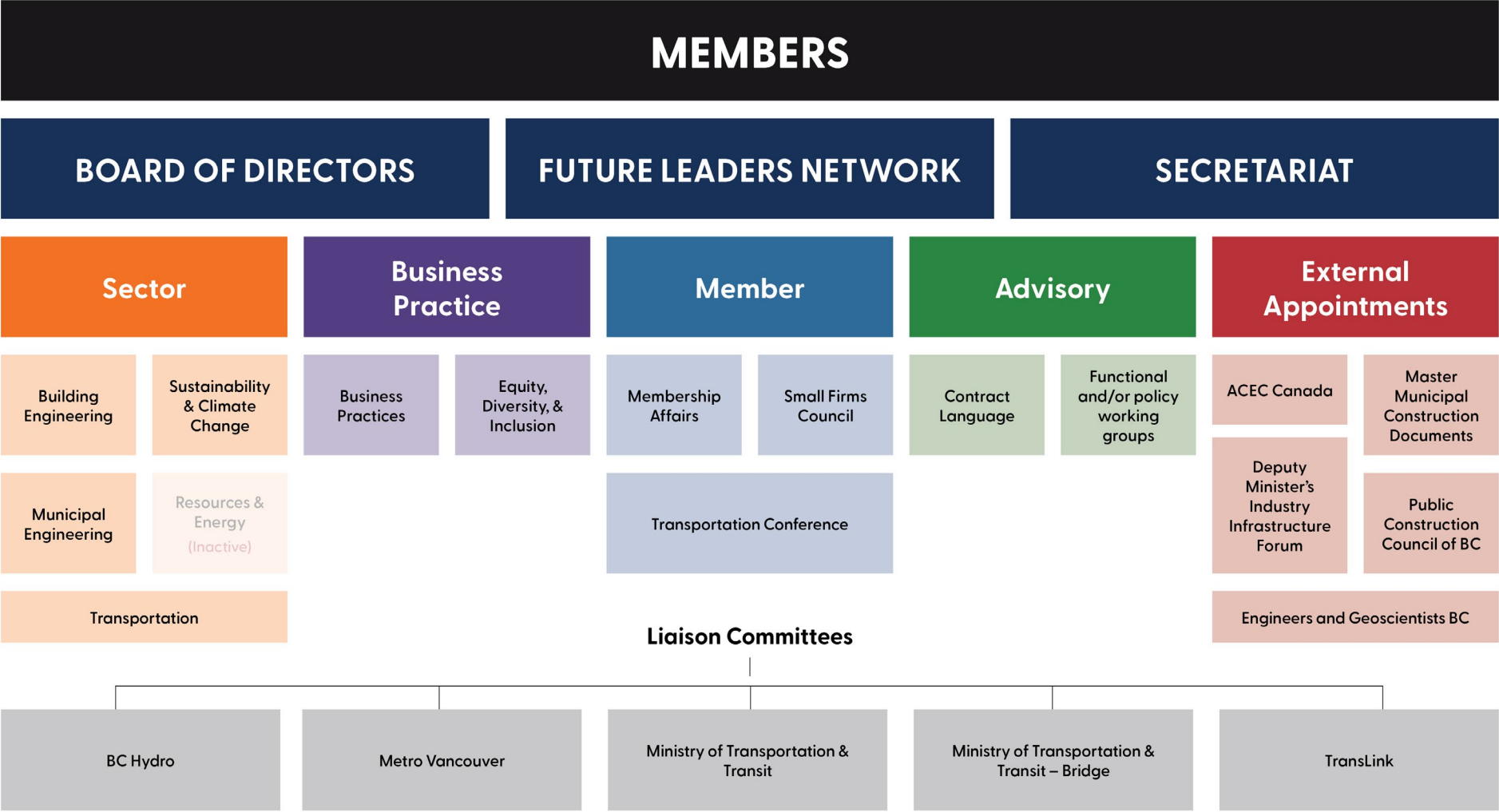


# THANK YOU!

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- Thurber
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- Victor Canada
- WSP
- Wylie Crump

# ACEC-BC Organization Chart



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Ministry of Transportation & Transit  
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