

# Young Professionals Committee

Welcome to the latest issue of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Manitoba's (ACEC Manitoba) Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Newsletter. March is National Engineering month, and both ACEC Manitoba and APEGM will be celebrating! Provincial Engineering and Geoscience Week (PEGW) will be March 9 – 16, while ACEC will be hosting events the week of March 3 – 7, including the 640 event, TWICE reception, and Business Practices conference.

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## What is a Young Professional?

A Young Professional is defined as any employee of an ACEC-MB member firm under the age of 35 or with up to 10 years of experience in his/her field.

## Upcoming YP Events and Notices

- **ACEC-Manitoba February YPC Meeting**

When: Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 5:30 PM

Where: Hatch (500 Portage Avenue)

- **ACEC-Manitoba: Meet the Board**

When: Wednesday, March 26, 2014, 5:30 PM

Where: TBA

Cost: \$20

The YPC will be organizing an evening to meet and discuss with the ACEC-Manitoba board. More details to follow!

*This event is only open to YP employees of ACEC Manitoba registered firms.*

## • YP Committee Presentation

Are you or your coworkers interested in learning more about ACEC, and the twelve ACEC-MB Committees? The ACEC YP Committee would love to visit and present to you over lunch! Please contact us at [yp@acec-mb.ca](mailto:yp@acec-mb.ca) to set up a date.

## Event Recap

### • How to Give a Great Presentation

On February 11, the YPC hosted a breakfast seminar at the WSP/Smith Carter offices. 18 Young Professionals enjoyed plenty of coffee, food, and an excellent presentation by Bev Doern.

Bev provided clear, concise and practical tips on connecting with the audience, developing strong introductions and conclusions, and working with presentation aids, such as PowerPoint. Bev both discussed, and demonstrated, how to give a great presentation.

Bev Doern is the past District Governor of Toastmasters. She is currently working with the Centre for Advancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Manitoba. As the Chief Thought Generator of A Thought Worth Sharing, she also offers individual speech coaching and interactive workshops on presentation skills.

The YPC thanks Bev for sharing her time and knowledge.

## Spotlight On...

### • Tyson Ehnes, P. Eng.



**“Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds. The mediocre mind is incapable of understanding the man who refuses to bow blindly to conventional prejudices and chooses instead to express his opinions courageously and honestly.”**

- Albert Einstein

**Role:** Events Coordinator

**Employed by:** AECOM

**As a:** Water Resources Engineer

**Studied at:** University of Manitoba

**And left with a degree in:** Civil Engineering

**Years in Consulting:** Four

**Why I love my job:** That moment when your model actually does what you thought it would do; yeah that's nice.

**What I do in my free time:** Golfing

**Song that best describes my life:** Underwhelmed - Sloan

**Mac, Windows or Linux?** Windows, but not Windows 8, I don't know where they were going with that.

**If someone were to make a movie about your life, who would you want to portray you?** Christian Bale

- **The ACEC Technical Women in Consulting Engineering (T.W.I.C.E.) Committee**

***Increasing Diversity in Consulting Engineering.***

The ACEC-MB TWICE committee is the first of its kind across Canada, and was formed in 2013 to provide strategic advice on matters related to increasing diversity in the consulting engineering industry; specifically increasing the retention of women in member organizations.

The committee's vision centers on utilizing analysis and consultation to formulate recommendations and best practices to foster overall growth in the representation of women in the profession. This research will also be applied to develop best practices for life-work balance concerns.

The committee will also help facilitate opportunities to encourage networking, mentoring, and professional development with the goal of increasing the retention of women in the industry.

***What activities does the committee do?***

In December 2013, the TWICE committee hosted an evening at the Smith Carter building that brought together professionals at various stages in their careers. The evening consisted of a technical presentation and building tour by Howard Procyshyn, P. Eng., LEED AP – Principal and Director of Engineering at WSP.

On March 4, 2014, the TWICE committee is hosting a reception at the University of Manitoba to highlight International Women's Day and National Engineering Month. The evening will be an opportunity for industry professionals, from across the engineering sector, to network and be entertained by dynamic keynote speaker Ms. Nadine Speirs, Owner, President and Design Expert of the Metal Depot Ltd.

Additionally, TWICE is working with our industry organizations to organize professional development and mentorship opportunities and develop a report on best practices for retention of engineering professionals.

***Are you currently looking for volunteers?***

We are always looking for volunteers to sit on the committee or plan events.

***Why should Young Professionals be interested in your committee?***

The TWICE committee addresses issues that are relevant to all members, whether experienced or still in the Young Professional realm, so it would be of interest to any Young Professional looking to become involved in ACEC or who is interested in potential networking and career development opportunities.

***Interested in learning more?***

Please contact Kristen Poff by e-mail at [Kristen.Poff@wspgroup.com](mailto:Kristen.Poff@wspgroup.com)

## **Other Business**

- **ACEC Board Meeting Highlights**

**February 3 2014**

- **ACEC Staffing:** A new Manager of Member Engagement, Martine Proulx, will start with ACEC in the first week of March. She will facilitate communications and act as a resource to MOs and member firms.
- **2013-2014 Budget Forecast:** AICQ is projecting a 30-40% shortfall in dues revenue in Quebec as a result of the current economic and political climate. Staff has adjusted the current year 2013-2014 budget to achieve the budgeted deficit approved in March 2013. Staff plan to present a deficit budget for next year (2014-2015) to allow continued investments in strategic priorities such as member engagement and private sector outreach.
- **Past Chairs Council:** The Board approved a governance policy formally recognizing the role and mandate of the Past Chairs Council to provide advice and input to the Board.
- **Transparency and Integrity:** The Board approved terms of reference for a task force to examine if there is an appropriate role for ACEC with respect to integrity and ethical conduct of member firms. J. Mewis (Chair), L. Piciacchia, S. Gibbons, P. Ruffell, R. Landry and J. Ritchie are to be invited. The task force will be consulting with MOs and will look at existing tools, including models for codes of conduct and enforcement, within and external to ACEC.
- **Payroll Multipliers:** Concerns were raised that some clients were attempting to “regulate” the payroll multipliers used by consultants. The consensus of the ACEC Board was that (1) payroll multipliers were proprietary and commercially sensitive information, and (2) revealing the salary of employees violated the employee’s privacy under federal privacy legislation. ACEC will issue a statement on this matter to MOs and member firms.
- **Quality of Engineering Documents:** Some stakeholders have expressed concern over perceived quality and/or completeness of contract documents prepared by engineers. ACEC will engage with stakeholders to determine the nature of the concerns (e.g. standard of care vs. perfection, less fees for design, litigious climate) and explore opportunities to educate stakeholders and members.
- **Review of ACEC Contract Documents:** ACEC will notify membership of opportunities to review proposed ACEC documents and/or ACEC endorsed documents and offer comments to the Contracts Committee.
- **Client Relationships:** As a result of hyper-sensitivity to “perceived conflicts of interest” it is becoming very difficult to invite clients to corporate or association/industry events that also provide value to clients (including awards dinners and educational events). ACEC will engage with the Canadian Public Procurement Council to explore if there could be recognized standards or protocols that would allow clients to participate in industry or association events while ensuring transparency and public trust.
- **Future Consolidation of the Industry:** The Board expressed concern over a potential trend of more “mega projects” that will offer limited opportunities for SMEs and attract large foreign construction companies. This, combined with clients looking more frequently for “one-stop shopping” (i.e. design-build, P3) that may result in large construction companies buying engineering firms or engineering firms acting as subcontractors to construction companies. Or in some cases, they may send engineering work overseas. ACEC may have to review its membership criteria or consider membership categories that contemplate such arrangements. By engaging such firms, ACEC may be able to play a role in educating large construction firms, consortia, and clients on the value proposition that Canadian consulting firms can offer.

- **Mark your calendar! ACEC Summit 2014 in Winnipeg, Manitoba – The Fairmont Winnipeg**



What: ACEC Summit and National Convention

When: June 19-21, 2014

Where: Winnipeg, Manitoba

The ACEC National Summit is coming to Winnipeg! During this annual event, Canada's leaders in consulting engineering will gather for ACEC's Annual General Meeting and a variety of social activities and presentations inspired by Winnipeg's unique and diverse culture. The event will showcase the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and The Forks, Winnipeg's historic and vibrant meeting place. We look forward to meeting consulting engineers from across Canada next year!

For more information, please visit

[http://www.acec.ca/events\\_awards/acec\\_summit\\_and\\_national\\_convention/2013/summit2014.html](http://www.acec.ca/events_awards/acec_summit_and_national_convention/2013/summit2014.html).

- **ACEC Manitoba LinkedIn Group**

ACEC Manitoba is on LinkedIn! This group is intended to serve as a one-stop shop for all of your ACEC Manitoba announcements, including professional development opportunities, YP events, important notices, and much more. To join, please visit <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/ACEC-Manitoba-6500051>

- **2015 Allen D. Williams Scholarship**

**Nomination Intention due by Monday, March 3!**

The Allen D. Williams Scholarship provides an ACEC YP up to \$5,000 to attend the 2015 International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) Conference in Amman, Jordan. The conference brings together

consulting engineers from across the globe. Intent to Nominate must be submitted to ACEC by the YPs employer by **March 3, 2014**.

For 2015 nomination information, please visit <http://www.acec.ca/>

For information about past and future FIDIC Conferences, please visit <http://fidic.org/>

## • **640 – ACEC Manitoba Celebrates National Engineering Week**

What: Pecha Kucha Talks  
When: 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM, Monday, March 3, 2014  
Where: King's Head Pub (120 King Street)  
Cost: Free, suggested \$5 donation for Engineers Without Borders (EWB)

This is ACEC Manitoba's Inaugural 640 event celebrating National Engineering week. Engineering week is all about celebrating our industry with the general public, and telling others why we do what we do as professionals employed in engineering companies.

Pecha Kucha is a presentation format that limits speakers to 20 slides for 20 seconds each. At 6 minutes and 40 seconds, the talks are long enough to be informative, but short enough to be entertaining. The event will begin at 5:30 PM, with presentations beginning at 6:40 PM. The speakers will be;

- **Erin Untereiner** – Chapter President, Engineers Without Borders U of M
- **Rick Haldane-Wilsons** – Senior Consulting Manager, PCL Constructors Canada Ltd.
- **Owen Van Wallegghem** – Water Treatment Engineer, AECOM
- **Jomar Manzano** – DCRA Chair, Structural EIT, Tetra Tech
- **Indra Kalinovich** – Hydrochemist, Dillon Consulting
- **Roger Rempel** – Senior Environmental Engineer, Stantec Engineering

Come celebrate with us! Bring your spouse. Bring your friends. Bring those people who don't know what being an engineer means. Enjoy a refreshment and the fun presentations, and spread the word!

*No registration is required for this event. This venue is 18+ and ID will be required.*

## • **Energy Reception**

What: Reception and Keynote Presentation  
When: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Thursday, March 13, 2014  
Where: RBC Convention Centre, Pan-Am Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 375 York Avenue)  
Cost: \$110.00 (GST excluded)

The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Manitoba's Energy, Science and Technology Committee extends an invitation to all members to attend the 2014 Energy Reception and Keynote Presentation. The Keynote presentation will begin at 5:00 PM with Mr. Scott Thomson, President and CEO of Manitoba Hydro and Mr. John Fox, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mineral Resources Division, Province of Manitoba.

Visit <http://acec-mb.ca/> for on-line registration and payment.

- **15th Annual ACEC Manitoba Awards of Excellence Gala**

What: Awards Ceremony  
When: 5:30 PM, Thursday, April 17, 2014  
Where: The Metropolitan Entertainment Centre (281 Donald Street)  
Cost: Tickets: \$200 Corporate Table (10): \$1,500

Join us for a memorable celebration of engineering achievements by Manitoba's Consulting Engineering industry. Master of Ceremonies Peter Jordan hosts this spectacular evening where a number of projects compete for Manitoba's most coveted Awards of Excellence in Engineering.

Reception and project showcase: 5:30 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Awards Presentation 9:00 PM

For further details, and to register, please visit <http://www.acec-mb.ca/awards>.

## Contact Information

We thrive on feedback! For newsletter related questions or comments, please email [ypnews@acec-mb.ca](mailto:ypnews@acec-mb.ca). If you'd like more information on the YPC, please contact our Chair, Kyla Kirk, at [yp@acec-mb.ca](mailto:yp@acec-mb.ca). For additional information on ACEC Manitoba and the ACEC Manitoba YPC, please visit our website at [www.acec-mb.ca](http://www.acec-mb.ca).

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Find old copies of the ACEC-MB YPC Newsletter at [www.acec-mb.ca/young-professionals-newsletters.php](http://www.acec-mb.ca/young-professionals-newsletters.php)