

Young Professionals Committee

Welcome to the latest issue of the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Manitoba's (ACEC Manitoba) Young Professionals Committee (YPC) Newsletter. June has been a busy month for the YPC. This month we bid farewell to two hard-working members, and welcomed three new recruits to the committee. We also had a new Chair and Co-Chair step up to take the reins. Keep reading to learn more!

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Message From the Chair

It's unbelievable how quickly the last two years have gone by. I distinctly remember my first Young Professionals Committee meeting back in 2009, and it's amazing to see how much we've grown over that time and humbling to take on the huge responsibilities of Chair and Board representative.

Our committee members are some of the most talented people I've had the pleasure of working with, and I've only learned to appreciate them more as Chair. Over the past year, three of our members have left the committee: Dustin Warelis (formerly an AMEC employee), Michelle Globush (GENIVAR) and Beth Phillips (Tetra Tech). Both Dustin and Michelle have done an excellent job of organizing our events over the past couple years, and Beth has been and continues to be an excellent resource as the founder of our YP Committee. We wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavours.

We've also have the pleasure of welcoming four new members to our committee: Lin Watt (Dillon Consulting), Kristen Poff (GENIVAR), Andrew Van Delden (Hatch) and Nikou Snell (Hatch). Lin, in addition to leading our student outreach effort, has graciously agreed to be our new Vice Chair, so expect to hear more from her in the near future! Kristen has been assisting Lin with student outreach, Andrew has joined our Promotions and Communications team, and Nikou has taken on an Events Coordinator role.

Our remaining stalwarts are Kimberly Yathon (Tetra Tech), Special Events Coordinator and this year's Rising Star Award winner; Amanda LaCoste (MCW/AGE Consulting Professional Engineers), Promotions and Communications; Mark Warkentin (MMM Group), Special Events Coordinator; Dana Bredin (GENIVAR), Events Coordinator; Owen Van Wallegghem (AECOM), Past Chair; and Shirley Tillett, ACEC-Manitoba's Executive Director.

"Go to the other person, particularly when you carry bad news" is one of the founding people tenets of my company and one I've already had to use as Chair! Over the past couple months, I've learned that best laid plans can go awry, but with a great support system, you can make the best of any situation. This team (and by extension, the ACEC Manitoba Board) is the best support system one could ask for, and I look forward to telling you more about their great accomplishments over the next year.

Until next time,

Kyla L. Kirk, P. Eng. (CH2M HILL)
ACEC Manitoba YP Chair and Board Representative

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.

Annual General Meeting and Golf Tournament

On Monday, May 13, 2013 ACEC Manitoba held their 35th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Niakwa Country Club. A delicious breakfast was sponsored by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba, who, along with the Manitoba Architects Association, and the Certified Technicians and Technologists Association of Manitoba had representatives in attendance to bring greetings.

There was a guest presentation from Dr. Doug Ruth, Dean Emeritus and Dr. Jonathan Beddoes, current Dean of Engineering at the University of Manitoba on their proposal to work with ACEC to create a consulting industry-supported Engineer-in-Residence position at the University of Manitoba. Darren Peters, President of Oldfield Kirby Esau, also spoke on the need to lobby for changes to Manitoba's Limitations of Actions Act, which imposes the longest liability term for engineering services of any jurisdiction in North America (35 years).

It was at this point that the business portion of the AGM began in earnest. ACEC Manitoba Treasurer, Mike Houvardas presented the 2013 Treasurer's report, the 2013 Auditor's Report and Financial Statements, and the ACEC Manitoba 2013-2014 Budget for approval by the membership.

Following the financial reports, Todd Smith (AECOM) presented a summary of ACEC Canada's activities for 2012-2013.

Service awards were then presented to Rick Haldane-Wilson (formerly with Tetra Tech), Owen Van Walleghem (AECOM), and Bruce Wilton (MMM Group Limited) for their service to the Board of Directors. This was followed by a brief presentation by Bruce Wilton, head of the Nominating Committee, recommending the Board members for approval by the membership. New Board members this year will include James Blatz (TREK Geotechnical Inc.), Richard Tebinka (MMM Group Limited), and Kyla Kirk (CH2M HILL).

Incoming President, Steve Reaburn (MCW/AGE Consulting Professional Engineers), presented details on ACEC Manitoba's strategic plan for the coming year. The following are some highlights from the plan:

- advocacy against the inclusion of engineering services in the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, should it be introduced in Manitoba
- construction of the Engineering Legacies wall at the University of Manitoba
- professional development for members
- liaising with the City of Winnipeg, particularly on permitting process changes

This concluded the formal meeting portion of the day.

Following the AGM, ACEC members and colleagues kicked off the golf tournament with a BBQ lunch. At one o'clock, teams of four drove to their holes and teed off to start the Texas Scramble tournament. The day started off windy, but was very sunny, and turned out to be a great day for golfing. Afterwards, the golfers gathered in the club for dinner. Various prizes were handed out after the meal, such as the longest drive and straightest drive. In the end, the Tri-Core Projects Manitoba Ltd team was announced as the tournament's winning team.



The Winning Team: John Highmoor, Harold Peterson, and Ed Johnson with David Fuchs the Awards Chair (missing member is Kevin Thorlakson).

Professional Development Seminar Recap

On May 2, 2013, Mark Zweig conducted a full day seminar at the newly renovated Niakwa Country Club. His career started in a management consulting firm that specialized in the construction and development industries. Since then, he has started his own company, ZweigWhite, become an author and publisher and also teaches at a university. He led the group of 24 people in discussions about where A/E (architecture and engineering) firms go wrong in their marketing; what marketing is really about; the differences between marketing, sales and business development; developing a good business plan and mistakes to avoid in that business plan. He is a very knowledgeable teacher and backed every point with an experience or example. The real-life examples and Mark's teaching style made for an informative and engaging session.

ACEC Canada 2013 Recap

ACEC Manitoba is pleased to present the following summary of the ACEC Canada activities for 2012-2013. For more information on ACEC Canada, please visit their website (<http://www.acec.ca>)

• Association of Consulting Engineering Companies – Canada 2012 - 2013 Report Summary

WHAT DOES ACEC CANADA DO FOR OUR MEMBERS?

1. We build the profile of consulting engineers through strategic partnering, increasing awareness and projecting a positive image.
2. We advocate for a better business and regulatory climate for the consulting engineering sector by influencing government, clients and other stakeholders.
3. We are the recognized authority for national industry issues and business practices.
4. We strive to enhance communications with members and stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR:

1. Calling for a National Long-Term Infrastructure Plan

a. *On Parliament Hill...*

During Parliament Hill Day last October, ACEC reps from across Canada met with over 40 MP's to voice

the association's support for a long-term infrastructure plan. ACEC took a strong message: infrastructure investments are vital to Canada's prosperity and they provide value to Canadian taxpayers. 2013 HIGHLIGHTS: WHAT WE ARE ACHIEVING FOR

b. Across Canada...

ACEC, working with the MO's, was prominent at regional infrastructure roundtables across Canada organized by federal Infrastructure Minister Denis Lebel. (Bruce Wilton attended in Kenora, ON) MOs across Canada have also taken this message to their respective provincial and municipal governments.

c. The resultant of these efforts: The largest and longest federal infrastructure plan in Canadian history

The March Federal budget introduced the new initiative including the new Building Canada plan - \$4.7 billion per year in new funding over 10 years. The New Building Canada Plan includes:

- Community Improvement Fund; A \$32 billion Gas Tax Funded and GST Rebate plan for municipalities including a 2% per year indexing.
- New Building Canada Fund - \$14 billion to support major economic projects
- Renewed P3 Canada Fund of \$1.25 billion for P3 Suitable Projects

In addition to the new Building Canada plan, other infrastructure commitments in the budget include \$7 billion over 10 years for investments in First Nations infrastructure and an additional \$10 billion to fund federal infrastructure assets.

2. New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA)

ACEC Canada and the consulting engineering sector are taking a leadership role in promoting interprovincial trade rules that will improve our industry's ability to provide value.

ACEC and its MO's are fully supportive of increasing the flow of goods, services, capital and people across borders in Canada. However, language in the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA) puts pressure on public clients to treat professional engineering services as a commodity. Consequences potentially include reduced taxpayer value including a weakened consulting industry and key expertise focused away from delivering public infrastructure. ACEC has been working with ACEC Manitoba and our provincial politicians to advise of how the agreement could be improved when Manitoba the Manitoba Government decides to join.

3. Improving Public Procurement

ACEC believes that selecting engineering consultants based on qualifications provides the best long-term value to clients. That is why ACEC encourages the use of *InfraGuide Best Practice for Selecting a Professional Consultant* and the use of qualifications-based selection; QBS.

ACEC made significant progress with Defence Construction Canada (DCC) in terms of changes to the way in which proposals are evaluated and scored. These changes will improve the quality of engineering services by reducing the influence of price in proposal evaluation. Early results suggest the changes have been successful. DCC will continue to work with ACEC to promote the importance of quality over price to other public clients.

4. Supporting Business Practices

a. New ACEC Documents

Three new ACEC standard forms of agreement are ready for release:

- ACEC Document 35 - Project Management
- ACEC Document 36 - Agreement of Studies and Reports
- ACEC Document 39 - Agreement between Owner and Owner's Engineer for Design/Build

These documents compliment ACEC Document 31, the owner/consultant agreement and ACEC Document 32, the prime/sub-consultant agreement that were completed in 2010 and 2011.

b. Training on ACEC Documents and Contracting Practices

ACEC will be looking at partnering with MO's and co-brand seminars on best contracting practices. The ACEC suite of documents will be showcased and form the basis of the seminars content.

c. Endorsement of (Canadian Contract Documents Committee) CCDC Documents

ACEC has endorsed two new CCDC contracts:

- CCDC 14 – Design-Build
- CCDC 15 – Construction Management

The ACEC Contract Committee was successful in negotiating changes to CCDC 14 and 15 to ensure their fairness and balance, especially with regard to risk to designers.

5. Taking Positions on Public Policy

- Licensing of Engineering Technicians and Technologists is supported by ACEC within defined scopes of practice under the same provincial legislation that defines and regulates the practice of Professional Engineering.
- An Oil and Gas Pipelines policy is being considered by ACEC pending more review by a task force on the subject and input from members and MOs.
- Our Quebec MO; AICQ; is cooperating with the Charbonneau Commission's inquiry into the construction industry, testimony is being monitored by both AICQ and ACEC. ACEC will coordinate all communications on this issue as required.

LOOKING FORWARD: CREATING MORE VALUE FOR MEMBERS

2013-2016 Strategic Plan

The ACEC Board has recently updated its strategic plan to guide its activities over the next three years. All activities will be focused on building one or more of the following strategic pillars:

- Advocacy on national issues – Public Sector and Private Sector Focused
- Image and profile building
- Client liaison and business practices support
- Member engagement and communications

Key strategies for this year include:

- Engaging private sector organizations that represent clients of consulting engineering firms and/or that impact the business and regulatory climate for consulting engineering.
- Engaging and empowering the membership through communications and opportunities for member participation.
- Delivering and demonstrating value to members.

New Programs and Initiatives going forward this year include:

- Increased budgets for MO Tour/Engagement will allow ACEC to have more direct interaction and more opportunities to participate in MO activities.
- Expanded Private Sector Outreach to engage with organizations that represent private sector clients, especially in the commercial, industrial, energy and resource sectors.
- Government Relations Constituency Week will allow ACEC members to meet with Members of Parliament in their local Riding as a follow-up to Parliament Hill Day. This will be coordinated with MOs.
- Annual Chief Executives Roundtable for ACEC Members will be considered to ensure that ACEC and MOs are in tune with the leadership of ACEC member firms.
- Media Strategy including proactive media outreach, key contact with journalists, a strategic social media plan and crisis communications.

Spotlight on...

- Andrew Van Delden, EIT



"Brevity is the soul of wit"

Role: Communications and Promotions

Employed by: Hatch

As an: EIT - Structural

Studied at: University of Manitoba

And left with a degree in: Civil Engineering (Structural)

Years in Consulting: One

Why I love my job: There are so many reasons I enjoy my job, but I think the best part is being able to help create or

maintain a structure that provides a marked benefit to society, like a hydroelectric generating station. These are the sorts of projects that I used to watch Discovery Channel specials on as a kid, and it's really satisfying to play a role in them.

What I do in my free time: A few years ago I became a member of the Winnipeg Sports Car Club and began participating in their Autoslalom events. Autoslalom is a timed motorsport where drivers navigate one at a time through a course defined by traffic cones. It's a very affordable motorsport, and there are very few activities that are quite as exciting, and it's hard to leave without a smile on your face. If you're interested, you can find more information on www.wsccl.mb.ca/autoslalom

Song that best describes my life: I wish I could truthfully answer this question with "You're the Best" by Joe Esposito, but I haven't defeated any members of the Cobra Kai dojo.

Mac, Windows or Linux? Windows. The first computer my family owned was a Mac, and back then owning it was an experience in destitution. As a Mac owner you had the privilege of waiting twice as long to pay twice as much for half the software, and that resentment lingers to this day. Given my experiences trying to trick Windows 8 into doing what I wanted, that preference may change in the future.

Which Captain Kirk would win in a fight, new or original? If new Captain Kirk fought old Captain Kirk, regardless of the outcome, everyone loses. That being said, I think Chris Pine's Kirk has the edge; Pine's got the height advantage, and if Shatner's famous battle with the Gorn is any indication, he's more of a lover than a fighter.

Contact Information

We thrive on feedback! For newsletter related questions or comments, please email ypnews@acec-mb.ca.

If you'd like more information on the YPC, please contact our Chair, Kyla Kirk, at yp@acec-mb.ca.

For additional information on ACEC Manitoba and the ACEC Manitoba YPC, please visit our website at 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