



WINTER 2023

# THE Voice

A quarterly publication produced by the **BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association** for its members and industry partners



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## UPCOMING EVENTS 2023

May 12  
2023

Ivan Hanchard  
Charity Golf Tournament

Sept 17 – 19  
2023

Annual 2023  
Fall Conference

Dec 7 – 9  
2023

AGM & Holiday  
Celebrations

## Introducing the 2023 Board of Directors Executive

The Association is pleased to introduce  
the new Board of Directors Executive for 2023:



**Lincoln Kyne**  
**CHAIR**  
Lafarge Canada Inc.



**Stephen Mc Neil**  
**VICE CHAIR**  
Yellowhead Road & Bridge



**Scott Griffin**  
**SECRETARY / TREASURER**  
Renaissance Group



**Robert Hasell**  
**PAST CHAIR**  
Emil Anderson Group

## Introducing the 2023 Board of Directors



**Peter Ashcroft**  
Mainroad Group



**Glen Barker**  
Jacob Bros  
Construction



**Chris Charbonneau**  
YRB Group



**Grayson Doyle**  
Peter Kiewit Sons



**Steve Drummond**  
Capilano Highway  
Services



**Lyle Johnson**  
Eurovia BC



**Len Kazakoff**  
Dawson Group



**Chris Moore**  
McLean &  
Armstrong LLP



**Shane O'Donell**  
TYBO Contracting



**Vanessa Werden**  
Jenkins Marzban  
Logan LLP



**Joe Wrobel**  
JPW Earthworks

# The BCRB&HCA 2022 Fall and Winter Events

Last year the Association was pleased to be able to organize and host in-person events for our membership once again, bringing leaders and partners in the road building and heavy construction industry together to network, learn and discuss strategies for working together and supporting our major infrastructure across the province.

## The 2022 Fall Conference

Taking place September 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, the 2022 Fall Conference at the Marriott Okanagan Resort in beautiful Kelowna featured an outstanding lineup of conference speakers, which included Chief Ian Campbell on the Path to Reconciliation, broadcasting veteran Jas Johal on BC Politics, Associate Deputy Minister for Highways Kevin Richter and David Hubner from Infrastructure BC.

Attendees also had the opportunity to enjoy the Golf Tournament, Hockey Foursomes and of course, the Banquet. Thank you to all the sponsors and attendees for making this a memorable event.



# The BCRB&HCA Fall Conference 2022



# Thanks so much to our Fall Conference 2022 Sponsors!

## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



## Partner Sponsors



# The BCRB&HCA 2022 AGM & Holiday Celebrations

## The 2022 AGM and Holiday Celebrations

The Association hosted the 56th Annual General Meeting and Holiday Celebration once again in Victoria at the beautiful Fairmont Empress Hotel this past holiday season, from Dec 1 – 3, 2022. The AGM is the premier BC Road Builders' event attended by over 600 delegates, including guests from other partnering organizations/associations and the provincial government.

Minister of Transportation & Infrastructure, Honourable Rob Fleming opened the AGM, followed by the MoTI Contractor of the Year Awards Luncheon. Early AGM events and activities included the Hockey Game, Leaders Lunch and Sector Meetings with the iconic Jingle Bell Ball closing out the festivities, and a Family Brunch with Santa wishing a happy holiday season to all. A heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors and attendees for bringing the cheer and sending the year off in style.



# The BCRB&HCA 2022 AGM & Holiday Celebrations





# Thanks so much to our AGM & Holiday Celebration 2022 Sponsors!





# Strategic Plan 2023

**BC Road Builders  
and Heavy Construction Association**

## Our vision:

The BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association is the recognized advocate for investment in resilient core infrastructure that creates economic growth, strong communities and a sustainable environment.



**47,000**

KM OF BC HIGHWAY  
& SIDE ROADS



**2,973**

BRIDGES CONNECTING  
COMMUNITIES IN BC



**280+**

MEMBER COMPANIES



**97,000+**

MEMBER EMPLOYEES

# Goal One:

## Increased and Sustained Investment in Resilient Core Infrastructure

### ➔ Advocating for Predictable and Consistent Infrastructure Investment

Working collaboratively with owners, we will identify investment priorities to ensure predictable and consistent infrastructure growth.

- Through the Board and committee structure, advocate that owners ensure predictable and consistent infrastructure investment to support sustained growth of the industry.
- Educate the public on the benefits of predictable and consistent infrastructure investment.

### ➔ Providing Informed Project Delivery Models

We will provide informed and trusted advice to project owners on aspects of project procurement, labour, and resilient design approaches to ensure project delivery is optimized and value maximized for taxpayers.

- Provide ongoing participation with all owners on improved procurement practices, with the ambition to work with the relevant regulatory stakeholders on implementing a procurement process that maximizes value for the project and rewards continued innovation.

### ➔ Supporting Data Driven Decision Making

Working with members, committees, and relevant stakeholders, we will work to identify key data points, and use this information to develop systems that track and report on trends within our industry.

- Through the committee structure, identify and collect critical data requirements for the measurement of industry health and create a BCRB&HCA data hub.
- Effectively communicate data insights and incorporate them into focused advocacy campaigns and programs.



Across Canada, 39% of all roads and 38% of all bridges and tunnels are rated in "fair," "poor," or "very poor" condition (Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, 2019).

# Goal Two:

## Lead an Innovative, Efficient & Sustainable Industry

### → Building a Strong Industry Foundation

**Building on the robust organizational platform and history of the Association, we will further develop processes that expand the influence and reach of the industry to better engage stakeholders.**

- Maintain terms of reference for all committees/task forces in order to set time sensitive deliverables that contribute to meaningful outcomes for the BCRB&HCA members and infrastructure owners.
- Partner with the Provincial government and other owners to establish a *Culture for Success*: a set of relationship guidelines within the construction sector.
- Update the *Blue Book* with the Provincial government through their contractor, on regular adjustments to reflect accurate costs of ownership.

### → Leading Industry Innovation

**We will be a thought leader in driving innovation in the road building sector. We will work with project owners to provide structure and momentum to deliver innovative and more sustainable infrastructure.**

- Partner with the Provincial government on updating the *Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the B.C. Road Building and Maintenance Industry* guide.
- Update the *Good Roads Cost Less* white paper with 2022 survey data and share it with relevant stakeholders.
- Implement a green house gas reduction program within the road building industry.

### → Advocating for Efficient Project Delivery

**We will work with owners and stakeholders to identify project delivery issues. We will advocate practical and executable solutions that ensure projects can be delivered in a timely and efficient manner.**

- Through the committee structure, systematically work to identify opportunities to reduce bureaucratic procedures and red tape that are leading to adverse project outcomes, including project delays, cost uncertainty and increased claims.
- Through the committee structure, work with relevant project owners on creating greater efficiency in project delivery.



Good roads cost less. Less congestion and less greenhouse gas emissions, more efficient. Poor quality roads cost the BC public over \$300 Million per year (ICBC, 2021 & Canadian Automobile Association statistics, 2021).

# Goal Three:

## Align Capacity with Industry Demands



### Attracting Future Talent

We will grow the industry workforce by developing better engagement tools and programs to better attract underrepresented groups: women, youth, Indigenous peoples and new immigrants.

- Invest in industry initiatives and media campaigns to promote the industry and attract diverse talent.
- Supply additional Indigenous engagement education to our member companies.
- Advocate for expansion of Federal immigration programs.
- Expand the BCRB&HCA Scholarship Program to attract more young people to the industry.
- Participate at relevant industry job fairs / schools to better promote career opportunities.



### Building Effective Career Development Programs

We will support and promote existing programs and develop new training initiatives that both ensure our workforce has the necessary skills for today, and for the future of our industry.

- Promote and support the expansion of the Abbotsford School District Heavy Equipment Operator Program to other school districts in the Province.
- Explore the use of innovative simulator technology to promote opportunities within the industry.
- Work with the Provincial government to identify, fund and deliver additional training opportunities to the workforce utilizing government funding mechanisms.



### Building Effective Programs that Promote Worker Health and Safety

Working with industry partners, we will promote health and safety programs, and ensure that these resources are available to member companies, including mental health and addiction support.

- Promote mental health support within the industry.
- Introduce an online *Road Builders Safety Training System* to the British Columbia road building and maintenance industry.



5.9% of the population in British Columbia identify as Indigenous (Statistics Canada, 2016).  
11% of the employees working in the B.C. Highway Maintenance sector identify as Indigenous (BCRB&HCA Membership Survey, 2022).

# The Betty Spalton Scholarship Winners



Betty Spalton



**Betty Spalton was an industry and Association leader who made important contributions to our sector. The Betty Spalton Scholarship provides financial support to individuals obtaining an education in fields associated with the road building and heavy construction industry.**

**In the past, the scholarship has been awarded to two outstanding applicants. In 2022, there were so many incredible applicants (and such generous funding from donors) that we're proud to report that the scholarship was awarded to six promising students!**

**Take a look at the potential future pioneers of road building in BC below.**

## **Jasleen Kaur**

Jasleen Kaur, a 23-year-old Civil Engineering and Commerce student in her final year at UBC Vancouver heard about the Betty Spalton Scholarship through her internship at Graham Infrastructure. Jasleen is interested in building strategies for the successful execution and completion of heavy civil projects. "Effective strategy requires a deep understanding of the project, the industry, and its stakeholders. Construction projects can struggle with

successful execution and this can be minimized by developing a comprehensive and clear strategy that can improve project outcomes and reduce costs."



Jasleen Kaur

**Jasleen's favourite bridge in BC:  
The Alex Fraser Bridge**

I grew up close to the bridge and would go on it a lot when I was younger. It has a unique cable-stayed design which is visually stunning. It inspired me to pursue civil engineering and it represents a symbol of my passion and career aspirations.



The Alex Fraser Bridge

# The Betty Spalton Scholarship Winners

## Cathy Le

Currently studying Applied Science, specializing in Civil Engineering at the University of British Columbia, 23-year-old Cathy Le heard about the Betty Spalton Scholarship through colleagues and mentors in the construction industry. She's interested in pursuing Project Management because the construction industry is full of surprising events and new challenges that provide opportunities to meet and collaborate with people. "I was excited to hear that I was awarded the scholarship! Growing up with immigrant parents comes along with hardships, and I was extremely thankful to have received support from the community."



Cathy Le

## Cathy's favourite bridge in BC: The Second Narrows Rail Bridge

The Second Narrows Bridge is my favourite because I got to work on an Underground Water Supply Tunnel situated under the bridge! It's also my favourite because the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge is right next to it. The location has a significant meaning to the construction industry as it reminds me of the impact I have on society.



The Second Narrows Rail Bridge

## Chantal Kwan

In her second year of Civil Engineering at the University of Victoria, 21-year-old Chantal Kwan discovered the scholarship from simply searching online—and is glad she did! Chantal's interest in road building was sparked after the major flooding and landslides that occurred in November 2021. "The mass damage and destruction to roadways impacted the whole province. The part of road building that intrigues

## The Betty Spalton Scholarship Winners

me the most is coming up with solutions to repair these types of damages and developing mitigative measures for future management of extreme weather events.”



Chantal Kwan

Chantal’s favourite highway in BC:  
BC Highway 19 (Campbell River to Port Hardy)

A couple of summers ago, I hiked the Cape Scott Lighthouse trail. To get to the trailhead you travel to Port Hardy and then get on a logging road for about an hour. My favourite stretch of the drive was on Highway 19 between Campbell River and Port Hardy. The greenery and wildlife were stunning!



Highway 19

### Hannah Garampil

21-year-old Hannah Garampil discovered the Betty Spalton Scholarship while perusing the BC Road Builders website, and was eligible to apply as a Civil Engineering with a minor in Commerce at the University of British Columbia and was ecstatic to find out she was a scholarship recipient. “Taking my first steps into the construction industry was daunting – especially since there is a small percentage of women in the field. However, knowing that there are resources that support diversity such as the Betty Spalton Scholarship inspired me to continue with my education”



Hannah Garampil



## The Betty Spalton Scholarship Winners

Hannah is generally interested in bridges, roads, and transportation due to the unpredictability and adaptability needed to create solutions and improve connectivity.

Hannah's favourite highway in BC:  
The Sea-to-Sky Highway

I very much like the Sea-to-Sky Highway due to the abundance of nature that can be seen.



The Sea-to-Sky Highway

### Jesse Bertucci

University of Victoria Engineering student Jesse Bertucci is also a Red-Seal Heavy Equipment Technician who used to work in the road construction industry for Island Asphalt in Victoria, BC for just over six years. He discovered the Betty Spalton Scholarship from his grandfather, a retired road construction worker. The part of road construction that excites him the most is the engineering behind the design of road construction equipment.

"I loved working on Caterpillar skid steers, rollers, and pavers as a mechanic at Island Asphalt, and I hope to continue on and help design them as an engineer in the future."



Jesse Bertucci

## The Betty Spalton Scholarship Winners

### Jesse's favourite highway in BC: BC Highway 4

My favourite highway in BC is Highway 4, which links Tofino and Ucluelet to Port Alberni. It's just such an amazing drive with spectacular views and great locations to stop and enjoy nature. It's also an incredible construction and engineering feat. I hope to drive it again this summer.



Highway 4

### Noah Duncan

Studying Civil Engineering and minoring in Business at the University of Victoria, 22-year-old Noah Duncan was encouraged to apply for the scholarship by his father, who also works in the industry. Noah's interest in working in the industry is related to management and having the ability to positively impact communities by building infrastructure that will improve the day to day lives of individuals living in these communities. "Working and collaborating with people to achieve goals in the most efficient and effective way is a crucial part of the industry.



Noah Duncan

This is also the reason I chose to include a minor in business with my civil engineering degree, which will allow me to become more specialized in this aspect of the industry."

### Noah's favourite highway in BC: BC Highway 419

Growing up in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island, and being heavily involved in sports meant travelling to other Vancouver Island communities nearly every weekend. By doing so I got well acquainted with Highway 19, which made travelling for sports possible. For this reason I would say Highway 19 on Vancouver Island is my favourite highway in BC, as without it many of the activities that I took part in growing up and to this day would not have been possible.

## BC Winter Storm '22 Member Highlight: Emil Anderson



This past December, British Columbia and its transportation infrastructure was once again impacted by a major weather event, with experts saying it was the worst winter storm BC had experienced in over 20 years. The storm hit the province on December 22nd and 23rd, keeping much of the public indoors and off roads, disrupting travel, and bringing road maintenance crews out in full force to ensure roads were safe.

BCRB road maintenance member Emil Anderson Maintenance (EAM) Fraser Valley rose to the challenge, with crews working day and night to respond to the storm emergency on the highways in the Fraser Valley area.

EAM Fraser Valley holds the contract for Highway Maintenance with the Province, making sure the public is safe and the highway corridors are cleared and passable after a major weather event.



Within their service areas are Service Area 7 (SA7) and Service Area 14 (SA14) in the Fraser Valley. “They were at the epicenter of the storm, and we certainly had our hands full,” shared Emil Anderson President & CEO Robert Hasell. “Our staff and employees have dealt with many weather events in the past including landslides, floods, avalanches but never close to the magnitude of this event.”

The unrelenting rain came in three waves, with atmospheric river conditions lasting nearly a week in the area. All major highway corridors in SA7, including Highway 1, Highway 3, Highway 5 (the Coquihalla), Highway 11, Highway 7, and the Columbia Valley Highway were impacted and closed by the flooding, and any side roads were also impacted and closed. During the second and third waves EAM crews tried to retain the remaining infrastructure after the initial wave.



## BC Winter Storm '22 Member Highlight: Emil Anderson

Rock was essential to controlling the river flow and erosion, and they deployed drill and blast crews to two separate locations including one that involved excavating the highway corridor near Hope, BC. EAM crews worked 24 hours a day for several weeks in order to provide temporary and permanent highway repairs to re-open the crucial supply chain routes and reconnect the province, followed by months of temporary repairs that allowed traffic to resume. “We couldn’t travel from community to community, so the logistical challenges were overwhelming when setting up crews and equipment to resume. Each time we thought the weather was stabilizing, another wave would arrive creating more damage to the infrastructure,” said Hasell.

Safety for the public and crews was the top priority, and working together with the Ministry and many contractors made it possible.

“During the first 48 – 60 hours, the focus was primarily on getting stranded motorists off the highways and home to safety. This required prioritized excavation locations to allow trapped vehicles out, and where this wasn’t possible, a massive air rescue effort arranged by the Province,” Hasell explained. “EAM worked alongside the Ministry of Transportation Staff and also enlisted our own forces (Emil Anderson Construction and Ballina Contracting) along with numerous other Civil Contractors, Traffic Control Contractors, and materials suppliers working around the clock to reinstate the highway system.



There are two many to list unfortunately but I would like to take the opportunity to again thank all of the subcontractors and suppliers (you know who you are) that assisted us to bring the corridors back on line.”



## Upcoming BCRB&HCA Events

Save the date! You won't want to miss these upcoming Road Builder events in 2023:

### 1. Ivan Hanchard Golf Tournament

May 12, 2023

Annual Ivan Hanchard Charity Golf Tournament taking place on May 12, 2023 at Northview Golf and Country Club in Surrey. Members are encouraged to sponsor a hole, provide a silent auction item and come out and have some fun! We will once again be raising money for BC Children's Hospital and the association's Betty Spalton Scholarship Fund.



### 2. Annual Fall Conference

September 17 – 19, 2023

Annual Fall Business Conference taking place September 17 – 19, 2023 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna, BC.



### 3. Winter AGM and Holiday Celebrations

December 7 – 9, 2023

Hosted in Victoria at the beautiful Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre from December 7 – 9, 2023.



## ROAD BUILDERS MENTAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

### The Road to Mental Wellness



New topic each month promoting employee mental health & wellbeing.

**FREE FOR MEMBERS!**

[wellness@roadbuilders.bc.ca](mailto:wellness@roadbuilders.bc.ca)



BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association's Workplace Wellness Program is designed to create lasting workplace culture change, with benefits for both employers and employees.

The program is available, free-of-charge, to all BCRB & HCA member companies. Our long-standing commitment to the road building and heavy construction industry gives us a deep and unique understanding of the business and your workforce. With a proven track record in supporting our members, we have extensive and highly-relevant expertise.



**Scan this code to visit the Road Builders' Mental Wellness program site**



## BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

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