

2017 Annual Report

TO THE
BC COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE
MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERS



Executive Director's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present the British Columbia Common Ground Alliance (BCCGA) 2017 Report to Members.

This document lays out the high-level success we have had in 2017 in relation to the new five year strategic priorities.

This year the BCCGA has made great strides in visibility, engagement, and service delivery. In addition to continuing our education and awareness programs, a priority focus of our existing strategic plan is to build capacity in our organization to meet the needs of the British Columbia excavation community.

We are more confident than ever that our message of worker and public safety, in connection with underground infrastructure, is being received and understood across British Columbia.

As a member-driven organization, we must manage the unexpected and address emerging challenges while maintaining continuity of our core programming.

The BCCGA will continue to grow and evolve in 2018, maintaining a clear provincial voice for improved safety and damage prevention in connection with underground infrastructure throughout the Province.

Once again thank you, our generous and committed members, volunteers and Board members, for your dedication and support.

Dave Baspaly
Executive Director

The BCCGA will work with its members, stakeholders and regulatory partners to increase awareness of BCCGA and BC One Call.

- Supported 8 standing committees, 1 project committee and the One Call Taskforce.
- Explored One Call legislation in BC. A primary focus of this year's initiative has been raising the awareness of provincial and municipal politicians.
- Targeted organizations that have not yet joined BC One Call. In this regard, we targeted both members and non-members to determine creative solutions and proposals for non-member Telcoms and large non-member municipalities to join BC One Call.
- In partnership with the Canadian Common Ground Alliance and Federal Senator Grant Mitchell, we worked to develop federal damage prevention legislation. See Strategic Priority Five for additional details.
- Presented former Minister Peter Fassbender an award for his support in Victoria over his years in the provincial legislature.



The BCCGA will be a leader in setting standards for industry and will invest in ground disturbance awareness and education activities designed to improve underground safety for workers and the general public.

- Ground Disturbance Training Standard
 - Through the Pipeline Safety Committee, we developed and launched an independent 'standard' for ground disturbance training in BC, in partnership with the Alberta Common Ground Alliance.
 - To obtain endorsement and to be an approved BC ground disturbance training provider, the curriculum is designed to incorporate best practice, regulatory expectations, and the rules set by utilities and underground plant operators.
 - This standard alone will make BC a safer province by creating a common expectation for all stakeholders
- Locating Course
 - Continued to promote the locating curriculum developed in partnership with WorkSafeBC. In this respect, locator training sessions were held across BC, reaching hundreds of participants in 2017.
 - The BC Municipal Safety Association and Kwantlen Polytechnic University have actively delivered locating course throughout the province.
 - We have expanded the capacity of the program by adding an additional instructor.
- The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) have granted official technical trade status for the certification. Many of the BCCGA locating experts now serve on the ASTTBC oversight Board.

The BCCGA will develop creative initiatives designed to support municipalities and excavators to integrate safe practice at all stages of the process continuum including: regulations, design, engineering, procurement, permitting, construction and maintenance/ monitoring.

- Delivered a successful damage prevention month campaign in April, including promotional pieces and proclamations to mayors and councils.
- Had a proclamation read out by an MLA in the BC Legislature – April was declared Safe Digging Month.
- Provided DigSafe lapel pins to all members of the BC Legislature.
- Held a series of radio remotes in partnership with FortisBC, one particularly successful remote with the CFL Grey Cup.
- Participated in the 'Bridging the Gap' Safety Conference.
- Delivered two targeted contractor breakfasts in Prince George and Quesnel in February in partnership with Spectra Energy, Kinder Morgan and Fortis BC.
- Delivered an ongoing speaker series to industry, community and associations regarding safe dig practice and underground safety.
- Hired a dedicated training contractor to lead Ground Disturbance Seminar and oversee quality assurance – Global Training.

- Held five large industry focused Ground Disturbance Seminars: Victoria and Kamloops in February and March, and two sessions in Surrey and one in Kelowna in November/ December.



- Attended a number of conferences and shows across the Province including PacificAg Show, The Construction Safety Expo, BC Water & Waste Water Conference, PWABC Annual Technical Conference and Trade Show, Construction Expo and Workshop and INAC 2017 Operators Conference.

The BCCGA will collect statistical information, disseminate safety information and develop initiatives to reach small contractors, homeowners, municipalities and First Nations communities.

- The Best Practice Committee supported the release of second version of the National Best Practices to members and ground disturbers.
- The BCCGA circulated over 1,000 our current Best Practices to various entities and individuals across the province.
- We had over 1,000 web visits to our best practice area on our website.
- Damage Prevention Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) – The BCCGA generated the third of its kind DIRT report in partnership with the Western Provinces.
- The BCCGA DIRT report is a statistical analysis of recorded hits to underground infrastructure that touches every aspect of damage prevention.
- With Special Project funding from WorkSafeBC, in collaboration with Fortis BC, Technical Safety BC and BC One Call developed a video outlining step by step the process of Ground Disturbance Around Gas Lines – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bol7QvcJgeQ>

The BCCGA will conduct government relations and advocacy activities designed to secure One Call legislation in BC as it relates to mandatory membership for owners/ operators of underground infrastructure and mandatory one-call for excavators/ ground disturbers.

- The BCCGA, in partnership with the Canadian Common Ground Alliance, worked to develop federal damage prevention legislation. As a result of these efforts, during the spring of 2015, Senator Grant Mitchell introduced Bill S-229, An Act Enacting the Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act and Making Consequential Amendments to Other Acts.
- The legislation will require that federally-regulated infrastructure be registered with a provincial notification centre where one exists. For provinces without notification centres, the legislation will allow the federal government to encourage the creation of notification centres through funding grants.
- While Bill S-229 will only govern damage prevention requirements for federally regulated underground infrastructure and underground infrastructure on federal lands, it is a positive and significant milestone for Canada and for the CCGA. It is our hope that Bill S-229 will become a model for similar initiatives in all provinces and territories across Canada.

The BCCGA will actively work to attract new members, generate resources and build partnerships with government and other relevant stakeholders to effectively carry out its mission.

Members:

- Gained 10 new member companies from a variety of stakeholder groups.
- Overall our network increased. Total membership now stands at over 400 members, with an excavation network of 10,000 ground disturbers. However, all but three of the new members were made up of excavators and vendors who pay nominal fees and therefore have little impact on overall revenues.
- It is important to note that member and partner in-kind contributions exceed all dollars contributed.

Resources:

- In 2017, revenues of \$241,350 are slightly higher than the projected budget of \$225,500.

Partnerships:

- Connected with various stakeholder groups on a monthly basis to ensure they are brought up to speed on current events and are engaged in Alliance activities.

- Participated in over 30 industry events such as AGMs, award ceremonies and workshops to promote safety and generate awareness of the Alliance, including the WorkSafeBC Bridging the Gap Conference, Day of Mourning, and other safety related events.
- Attended the BC One Call Board meetings as an ex officio Member.
- In September, the BCCGA delegates travelled to Ottawa to actively push for Bill S-229. A series of awareness events were held with Members of Parliament and Federal Senators. The Grey Cup was used as an engagement catalyst.



- These awareness events were followed by a private VIP reception in the Parliament buildings for Members of Parliament and Senators. This particular event was extremely well attended.



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