

British Columbia

BCCGA

Common Ground Alliance





2020 Report to the BC Common Ground Alliance Members and Partners

Executive Director's Report

2020 has been an unprecedented year for the BC Common Ground Alliance for obvious reasons. The global pandemic that is affecting our communities is perhaps the greatest challenge of our generation.

From March of this year, we have demonstrated an unyielding commitment to stand with our members and to provide support where we can. We must also manage the unexpected and address emerging challenges while maintaining continuity of our core programming.

In spite of the pandemic, the BCCGA made great strides in engagement, advocacy and service delivery. For the first time ever, this was done virtually through various online platforms.

We continue to be strong and united. You can be proud of your Common Ground Alliance – by reflecting on our response and how we have pulled together as an organization, we know we are making a difference and delivering on our mission.

This document lays out the high-level success we have had in 2020 in regards to the fourth year of our five-year strategic plan. I encourage you to take the time to review its contents.

The BCCGA will continue to grow and evolve in 2021, maintaining a clear provincial voice for improved safety and damage prevention in connection with underground infrastructure throughout the Province.

We would be remiss not to thank our Board for their strong leadership and our volunteers for their dedication and heroic efforts during this most extraordinary time.

Most importantly thank you for being our member. Our priority is — and will always remain — with you.

Dave Baspaly

Executive Director

Cheryl Hogg

Chief Operating Officer

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

1

The BCCGA will work with its members, stakeholders and regulatory partners to increase awareness of BCCGA and BC 1 Call.

- Supported 8 standing committees, 1 project committee and a One Call Taskforce.
- Continued to advocate for One Call legislation in BC.
- Targeted organizations that have not yet joined the BCCGA or BC 1 Call.
- Reached out both members and nonmembers to determine creative solutions and proposals for non-member companies and large non-member municipalities to join our respective organizations.
- Conducted 4 media interviews One on TV with Global News and three articles were published in various province-wide circulated newspapers.





The Province

THE VANCOUVER SUN



STRATEGIC PRIORITY

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.

- Partnership with Preventable the largest awareness campaign in BC
 Common Ground history. The objectives of the campaign were to:
 - Educate homeowners and the general public about the dangers of hitting a buried utility line when digging during gardening, landscaping, or renovations;
 - Educate foremen, supervisors, workers and contractors about the dangers of hitting a buried utility line when digging during gardening, landscaping, or renovations; and
 - Drive online visits and phone calls to BC 1 Call.
- Prior to mid-March, delivered 6 in-person DigSafe sessions in Abbotsford, Vancouver, Saancich, Nanaimo, Courtney and Kamloops, with over 300 attendees.
- Delivered a damage prevention session in late March for the Punjabi community.











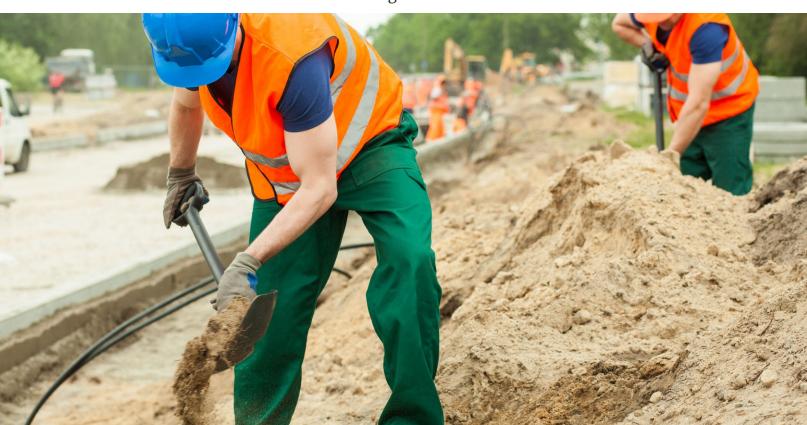




STRATEGIC PRIORITY

cont'd

- Successfully promoted Ground Disturbance 201 training in BC, in partnership with the Alberta Common Ground Alliance, Global Training and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.
- Through the Pipeline Safety Committee, we designed the first ever dedicated First Nations ground disturbance session to the Ktunaxa Nation.
 The session will be delivered in March 2021.
- Continued to promote the locating curriculum developed in partnership with WorkSafeBC, Kwantlen College, the BC Municipal Safety Association and Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC). In this respect, locator training sessions were held across BC, reaching hundreds of participants in 2021.
- ASTTBC maintains an official technical trade status for certification and are actively seeking candidates. A number of our BCCGA locating experts now serve on the ASTTBC oversight Board.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY

3

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 campaign in April and October, including promotional pieces and proclamations to mayors and councils.
- Had a proclamation read out by an MLA in the BC Legislature.
- 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.
- Prior to mid-March, delivered 6 in-person DigSafe sessions in Abbotsford, Vancouver, Saancich, Nanaimo, Courtney and Kamloops, with over 300 attendees.
- Delivered a damage prevention session in late March for the Punjabi community.
- Awarded the City of Excellence Innovation Award to the City of Surrey in partnership with BC Municipal Safety Association.















STRATEGIC PDIODITY

4

Strategic Priority Four – 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 review and update its publication.
- Over 1,000 web visits to our best practice area on our website.
- Damage Prevention Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) The BCCGA generated the fourth of its kind DIRT report in partnership with the other Canadian Common Ground regions. The DIRT report is a statistical analysis of recorded hits to underground infrastructure that touches every aspect of damage prevention.





STRATEGIC PRIORITY

5

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.

- Actively worked with government to secure Annual Safety Proclamation and educate MLAs about the importance of our mandate.
- Virtually attended the annual Budget Lockup and submitted advocacy document to the Select Standing Committee on Finance.
- In partnership with BC 1 Call, conducted a letter writing campaign to Minister Farnworth, Public Safety & Solicitor General, Minister Ralston, Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Minister Robinson, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer to address the dramatic increase in homeowner ground disturbance activities due to the public health lockdown.
- Requested a meeting with Maja Tait, Chair of UBCM to discuss the need for universal support of municipalities for Click or Call Before You Dig.
- Created a damage prevention corporate policy template in partnership with BC 1 Call.



Maja Tait, Chair of UBCM

In partnership with BC 1 Call, submitted a briefing note to Minister Farnworth,
 Public Safety & Solicitor General, to explore possible One Call legislation in
 2021.





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

Members:

- Gained 8 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.
- It is important to note that member and partner in-kind contributions exceed all dollars contributed.

Resources:

• In 2020, revenues of \$227,200 are slightly higher than the budget of \$214,200.

Partnerships:

- Partnership with BC 1 Call our best year ever in regards to a truly integrated and supportive partnership.
- Partnership with Preventable largest awareness campaign in BC Common Ground history (detailed above).
- 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 20 virtual industry events such as AGMs, town halls and workshops to promote safety and generate awareness of the Alliance.
- Served on the Board of the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) in the capacity of Treasurer, to ensure BC issues of importance are incorporated into the national agenda







ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE BC COMMON GROUND ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP AND PARTNERS

