

# Report to the BC Common Ground Alliance Membership



## Strategic Priorities Summary for the Year Ending 2012



### Executive Director's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present the British Columbia Common Ground Alliance (BCCGA) 2012 Report to Members. This document lays out the high-level success we have had in 2012 in relation to the two-year strategic priorities set on February 17th, 2011.

Dave Baspaly

This year the BCCGA has made great strides in visibility, engagement, and service delivery. In addition to continuing our education and awareness programs, we have launched the first annual Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report. This represents the first attempt to quantify all damage to underground infrastructure in British Columbia. In addition, our drive for WorkSafe funding support provided valuable gains in visibility and awareness. While an assessed industry levy may not be the answer, this process has initiated the dialogue concerning alternative core funding models. We remain confident that the BCCGA is well positioned to extend our safety and damage prevention message further in 2013.

For the BCCGA, worker safety, public safety, and damage prevention are central to our mission. With these important guideposts, we are seeking practical strategies to provide BC with access to high quality programs and services while remaining fiscally vigilant in tough economic times. 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 2013, maintaining a clear provincial voice for improved safety and damage prevention in connection with underground infrastructure throughout the Province of British Columbia.

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

Dave Baspaly, Executive Director



## Strategic Priority 1:

Minimize attrition and increase revenue by a minimum of 10% by 2015 by increasing membership and/or sponsorship and/or by securing other forms of revenue.

- In 2012 revenues of \$230,000 are slightly under the projected budget of \$237,000. This does not include a one-time segregated donation from Kinder Morgan of \$100,000 for safety awareness and education activities.
- Overall membership increased significantly. Total membership now stands at over 400 members, with an excavation network of 2,500 ground disturbers. However, these new members are primarily made up of excavators and vendors who pay nominal fees and therefore have little impact on overall budget revenues.
- The BC Safety Authority and National Energy Board reduced their annual sponsorship contributions principally due to economic conditions and internal cost cutting measures. This had an appreciative effect on the budget, as resources received from these entities were significantly lower than anticipated.
- Other notable one-time funding sources contained within the 2012 summary include:
  - \$30,000 Special project funding from BC Oil and Gas Commission.
  - \$6,000 Canada Summer Jobs funding to hire one summer student.
  - \$5,000 contribution from the BC Municipal Safety Association.



## Strategic Priority 2:

Investigate alternate funding through dedicated WorkSafe BC payroll assessment.

In order to achieve this strategic priority, we:

- Initiated an educational campaign targeting over 120 subsectors (CUSs) that relate to excavation activity to promote the value of the Alliance and to assess support for the funding initiative.
- Completed a comprehensive application for WorkSafe BC levy funding. The budget target was developed based on a review of other Common Ground Alliances across North America and their respective operating models.
- Conducted discussions with the BC Construction Safety Alliance to establish a joint working model and explore cost savings.
- Secured a formal Board motion on June 20, 2012 to proceed with levy funding application.
- Received 25 letters of support from companies, associations, and nonprofits supporting the Common Ground.
- Posted the levy application and supporting materials on the Members Area of the BCCGA website to ensure transparency.
- Developed over 30 custom briefs and met with over 70 individuals and boards to present the levy materials.
- Submitted a preliminary WorkSafe BC levy funding application for review on September 2012.
- Developed a 'Plan B' for WorkSafe BC funding in 2013 to ensure continuity of the current five-year grant funding.

After careful review, a Board motion was passed on October 18, 2012 not to proceed with the levy funding application due to the potential of destabilizing the governance model through member attrition. As a result, staff have been directed to explore other core funding options.



### Strategic Priority 3:

Increase member and stakeholder engagement to further advance the mission and vision of BCCGA with a focus on sectors physically engaged in ground disturbance.

To increase member engagement, the BCCGA:

- Added a new committee to aide in the implementation and use of the Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT).
- Supported nine standing committees, two project committees and two liaison positions.

To increase stakeholder engagement, the BCCGA:

- Partnered with BC One Call to sponsor electronic billboard advertisements at the PNE and roadside in Chilliwack throughout the summer dig season.
- Presented the 2012 City of Excellence award to the City of Victoria and honorable mention to the City of Nanaimo.
- Connected with 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 industry events such as AGMs and award ceremonies to promote safety and generate awareness of the Alliance.
- Sponsored the USA 811 spokesperson to present at the Professional Builder's Institute of BC's AGM in September.

Specific connections established in the Construction community include:

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| • Independent Contractors and Business Association | • BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction  |
| • Council of Construction Associations             | • Canadian Home Builders Association of BC |
| • BC Construction Association                      | • Mining Association of BC                 |
| • Vancouver Regional Construction Association      | • Professional Builder's Institute of BC   |
| • BC Construction Safety Alliance                  | • Public Works Association of BC           |
| • BC Municipal Safety Association                  |  |



### Strategic Priority 4:

Refine and report quarterly on the Five Year Strategic Plan. Include in the plan: mission statement and goals, revenue stability, achievable priorities and objectives (both financially and operationally), projections for growth, and identification of target markets.

- A comprehensive Board and staff strategic planning process was conducted over a three-month period. This process culminated in the development of a draft of the Five Year Strategic Plan that was ratified by the Board on Feb 7, 2012.
- Annual strategic priorities based on the Five Year Strategic Plan by the Performance Review Committee in collaboration with staff, the Board and the greater membership were developed and formally approved Feb 7, 2012.
- A corresponding operational plan was developed by staff to interpret the strategic direction determined by the Board. Staff reported monthly on the status of these priorities.
- The 2012 budget was based on the strategic objectives and operational plan and included financial projections. The Board approved the budget on Feb 7, 2012.



### Strategic Priority 5:

Produce an annual "Report to Members". This shall be a document speaking to the success of the BCCGA, that would showcase a reduction in overall damage provincially, and a positional statement striving to yield ongoing support from each of these membership organizations.

To achieve this strategic priority, two separate documents were prepared and circulated to the membership:

1. The BC Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report was created to quantify levels of damage in the province. To this end, the BCCGA:
  - Established a Damage Information Reporting Committee to determine a methodology for annual statistical reporting.
  - Purchased a Virtual Private DIRT from the CGA.
  - Publicly released the First Annual BC DIRT Report September 18, 2012.

The 2012 DIRT Report set the baseline by highlighting overall damage to infrastructure provincially. Future reports will show year-over-year trends.

2. This formal "Report to Members" highlighting achievements made against the strategic priorities was sent to all members of the Alliance in December 2012.



## Strategic Priority 6:

Expand and deliver the DigSafe BC series. Establish self-sufficiency for the Dig Safe BC sessions with the goal to lessen the volunteer requirements from Board members and/or stakeholders for organizing, promoting and planning the sessions.

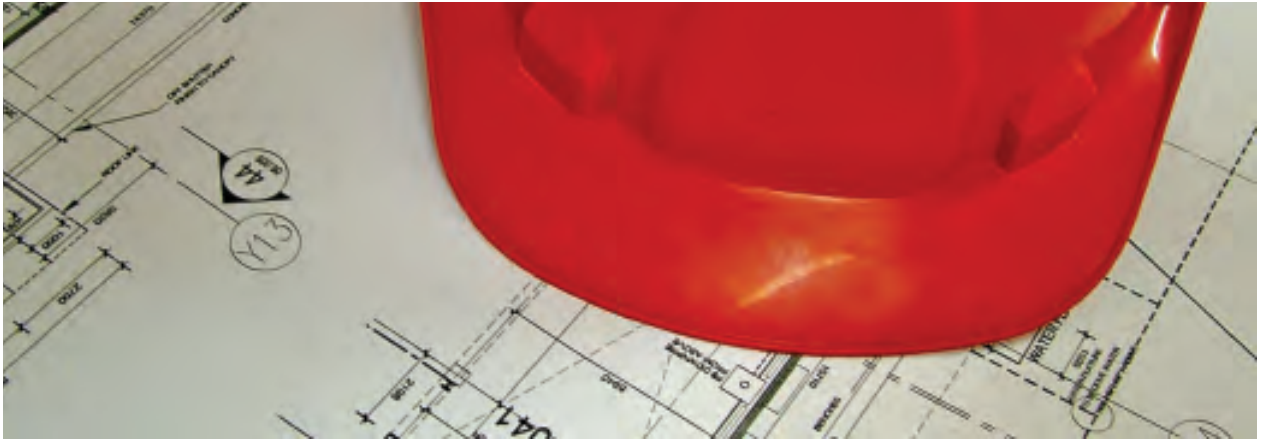
- Secured resources from BC Direct Access to support the DigSafe sessions.
- Held a large contractor breakfast in April in partnership with a coalition of transmission pipeline operators in Surrey, BC.
- Delivered ongoing monthly speaker series to industry, community and associations regarding safe dig practice and underground safety.
- Held a DigSafe session in October in partnership with the Christian Labour Association of BC (CLAC) and Kiewit in Langley, BC.
- Commenced preliminary work to explore the possibility of a DigSafe session in Victoria in 2013.
- Commenced preliminary work to explore the possibility of a DigSafe session in Dawson Creek in partnership with Enform.
- Developed, under the auspices of the Communication and Education Committee, collateral materials and strategies to stabilize and sustain the DigSafe series and to reduce the burden on volunteers.
- Received a one-time donation from Kinder Morgan of \$100,000 for safety awareness activities for 2012.
- Secured Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the Environmental Operators Certificate Program (EOCP) for the DigSafe sessions.



### Strategic Priority 7:

Further enhance the Locator Certification program delivery model to define program responsibilities, annual program frequency and locations, educators, establishing locator certification and long term program sustainability.

- Worked with the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) and the BC Municipal Safety Association (BCMSA) as training providers to deliver the BCCGA Locator Certification curriculum in course form.
- Identified experienced, professional trainers and, in partnership with our training providers, developed a fee-for-service model.
- Delivered, in partnership with our training providers, five sessions in Keremos, Vancouver, Abbotsford, and Kelowna (2).
- The training providers have developed a course calendar for 2013 and there is active promotion of the course throughout the province.
- The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) is currently pursuing technical trade status for the course on the Alliance's behalf.



### Strategic Priority 8:

Create a condensed Best Practices 2.0 suitable for use by the excavator. Establish a review panel, and facilitate a terms of reference for reviewing proposed Best Practice changes and new legislation.

- The Best Practice Committee held a set-up meeting on June 14, 2012. A comprehensive Best Practice Process was designed to ensure maximum participation and engagement.
- Staff created a harmonized draft, integrating new proposals drawn from ORCGA Best Practices.
- The Best Practices Committee was divided into subcommittees on September 12, 2012 to propose changes and additions to individual sections of the Best Practice Draft.
- Toolbox Meeting Guides have been developed in partnership with WorkSafe BC.



### Strategic Priority 9:

Maintain a comprehensive strategy to ensure Committee alignment with BCCGA objectives and priorities and provide a summary of tangible achievements featured for all members at year-end.

This strategic priority was addressed through five different operational activities:

- Membership meetings are designed around engagement and transparency. Conscious attention is given to ensure BCCGA priorities are in alignment with member goals.
- A Five Year Strategic Plan was created and ratified by the Board on Feb 7, 2012.
- The Performance Review Committee, in collaboration with staff, the Board and the greater membership have developed annual strategic priorities, formally approved Feb 7, 2012.
- A 2012 budget, including financial projections, was approved by the board on Feb 7, 2012.
- A formal "Report to Members" highlighting achievements made against the strategic priorities was sent to all members of the Alliance in December 2012.



### Strategic Priority 10:

Work with our members to achieve Mandatory One-Call legislation in BC. Develop a comprehensive multi-stakeholder strategy and a dedicated committee to address this priority.

- Ontario achieved mandatory one-call legislation with the passing of Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 (Bill 8).
- On June 20, 2012 the Board voted to endorse the CCGA White Paper. This paper highlights a national goal to achieve mandatory One-Call legislation across all jurisdictions in Canada.
- The CCGA White Paper Damage Prevention Legislation Elements Required for Canada was presented to government and was released publicly on August 1, 2012.
- The BCCGA is currently reviewing the effects of legislation change in Ontario, evaluating tactics and practice, with the goal of implementing a similar strategy in BC.