

Report to the
BC Common Ground Alliance
Membership And Partners

2015



2015 Report to Members

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Minimize member attrition and increase revenue

Strategic Priority 2

Increase member and stakeholder engagement

Strategic Priority 3

Refine and report quarterly on this Five Year Strategic Plan

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Produce an Annual 'Report to Sponsors'

2015 Report to Members



Cheryl Hogg
Chief Operating Officer

Dave Baspaly
Executive Director

We are once again pleased to submit this year's 'BCCGA Report to our Members and Partners' on behalf of our Board of Directors. This report provides a summary of the main successes that have taken place throughout the 2015 calendar year in relation to our strategic priorities. From our perspective, 2015 has been another extraordinary year of advancement for the Common Ground Alliance in terms of profile, engagement and service delivery. A priority focus of our existing strategic plan is to build capacity in our organization to meet the needs of the BC excavation community. We do this by concentrating effort in three main areas: (1) raising the awareness of risk when individuals and companies are conducting ground disturbance of any kind; (2) educating excavators of their obligations under the law and their responsibility as it pertains to the rules set by utilities and underground facility operators; and (3) the educating and promoting of the best practices that excavators should employ in order to reduce the number of hits to underground infrastructure and to keep workers and the general public safe. In all of these areas, we feel that we made a significant difference. We would like to highlight a few notable examples:

First, we were able to generate the first ever Damage Prevention Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report in partnership with the Western Provinces. The BCCGA DIRT report is a statistical analysis that touches every aspect of damage prevention. The program collects critical information, analyzes the numbers and produces targeted recommendations to damage prevention stakeholders about how to best protect buried facilities. This is the first joint report of its kind and it illuminates clearly where the damage prevention focus needs to be targeted for

Strategic Priority 5

Expand and deliver the Communication and Education Program

Strategic Priority 6

Further enhance the Locator Certification program delivery model

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Every 3 years create a Best Practices version suitable for use by the excavator

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Work with our members to achieve One Call legislation in BC

the near term.

Second, we provided a robust educational campaign across the Province to communities identified in the DIRT Report. These sessions included a series of breakfast sessions (in partnership with Fortis BC), targeted speeches at industry/ community events, and the successful delivery of our large scale DigSafeBC session in Surrey in October of this year (again in partnership with Fortis BC).

Third, we established a first of its kind 'ground disturbance training standard' for BC, in partnership with the Alberta Common Ground Alliance. To obtain Common Ground endorsement and to be an approved BC ground disturbance training provider, curriculum will need to incorporate best practice, regulatory expectations, and the rules set by utilities and underground facility operators. This standard alone may single handedly help to make BC a safer province by creating a common expectation for all stakeholders receiving ground disturbance training.

In regards to our life blood, our members, we continue to address their needs through a multitude of engagement opportunities through our standing committees and task groups. This member lead activity has made the BCCGA relevant and a recognized leader in safety in 2015. We can assure you that the BCCGA will continue to evolve throughout 2016, providing a clear provincial voice for improved worker and public safety in connection with underground infrastructure throughout the Province of British Columbia.

On behalf of our Board, we appreciate the everyone's contribution and thank our members for their critical contributions of time, resources and knowledge.

Dave Baspaly,
Executive Director

Strategic Priority 1

Minimize member attrition and increase revenue

We are pleased to report that the BCCGA is stable from both a membership and financial perspective.

- In 2015 revenues of \$206,500 are slightly lower than the projected budget of \$210,000.
- Overall our network increased significantly. Total membership now stands at over 400 members, with an excavation network of 10,000 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 revenues.
- Other notable one-time funding sources contained within the 2015 summary include \$15,000 Special project funding from WorkSafe BC.
- Its important to note that member and partner in-kind contributions match all dollars contributed.



Strategic Priority 2

Increase member and stakeholder engagement

To increase member engagement, the BCCGA carried out a number of activities. Including:

- Supported 8 standing committees, and 2 liaison positions and a One Call Taskforce.
- Gained 6 new member companies from a variety of stakeholder groups.
- Presented the 2015 City of Excellence Awards. The City of Excellence Award was created in 2010 to recognize local governments for activities that improve ground disturbance, safe excavation techniques and best practices at or around underground infrastructure, in the year previous to the award. Any BC local government - including City, Village, Township, District, Municipality, Regional District, First Nation community and Tribal Council – is eligible to be nominated for the award. The winners for 2015 included the Capital Regional District and the City of Surrey.
- Connected with various stakeholder groups on a monthly basis to ensure they are brought up to speed on, 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 functions.



Strategic Priority 3

Refine and report quarterly on this Five Year Strategic Plan.

While this is primarily an internal activity, the BCCGA is committed to a strategic approach. Example includes:

- Staff, the Board and the greater membership have developed strategic priorities (based on the existing long-term Five Year Strategic Plan) through an iterative consultation process.
- The Board approved the updated Five-Year Strategic plan on February 5, 2014.
- A corresponding operational plan was developed by staff to interpret the strategic direction determined by the Board.
- Staff report monthly to the Board on the status of these priorities through a standing operations teleconference and at face to face Board meetings.
- The 2015 budget was developed on the basis of strategic objectives, the corresponding operational plan, and included financial projections.
- The Board approved the budget on February 4, 2015.



Strategic Priority 4

Produce an Annual 'Report to Members'.

To achieve this strategic priority, three separate documents were prepared and circulated to the membership over the course of the year:

- 1) **Damage Prevention Information Reporting Tool (DIRT)** - The BCCGA generated the first ever 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. The program collects critical information, analyzes the numbers and produces targeted recommendations to damage prevention stakeholders about how to best protect buried facilities. This was the first joint provincial report of its kind and it helped illuminate clearly where the damage prevention focus needs to be targeted for the near term.
- 2) **Newsfeed** - Our regular newsfeed was established to provide safety updates to members and partners. The BCCGA newsfeed is an electronic transmission of safety news to members of excavation network that have registered to receive information.
- 3) **Report to Members** - This formal "Report to Members" highlighting achievements made against the strategic priorities will be shared with all members and other stakeholders of the Alliance at the end of the calendar year.



Strategic Priority 5

Expand and deliver the Communication and Education Program

The BCCGA generated a lot of activity in regards to communication and education over the course of the year. Highlights include:

- Delivered a successful safe digging month campaign in April, including promotional pieces and proclamations to mayors and councils.
- Delivered a large regional BCCGA contractor breakfast in April in Burnaby, BC.
- Delivered targeted contractor breakfasts throughout the province in partnership with Fortis BC.
- Delivered an ongoing speaker series to industry, community and associations regarding safe dig practice and underground safety.
- Hired a dedicated contractor to lead DigSafe BC Sessions and oversee quality assurance.
- Held a large industry focused DigSafe BC session October 2015 in Surrey, BC.
- Commenced preliminary work to explore the possibility of a DigSafe BC session in Dawson Creek in 2016.
- Secured Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the Environmental Operators Certificate Program (EOCP) for the DigSafe sessions.
- Though the Pipeline Safety Committee we established the first of its kind 'ground disturbance training standard' for BC, in partnership with the Alberta Common Ground Alliance. To obtain Common Ground endorsement and to be an approved BC ground disturbance training provider, curriculum will need to incorporate best practice, regulatory expectations, and the rules set by utilities and underground facility operators. This standard alone may single handily help to make BC a safer province by creating a common expectation for all stakeholders receiving ground disturbance training.
- In partnership with our Western counterparts, we launched a Western Canada – Quarterly Damage Prevention Magazine - with our sister Alliances (through Infrastructure resources). To date we have released two editions with more on the way. The first edition focused on articles regarding the BC Landscape and Nursery Association and BC One Call. The second edition focused on articles pertaining to Nanaimo Public Works. The third edition will focus on Debbie Clyne, long-time BCCGA member and Communications Education & Committee Chair.

Strategic Priority 6

Further enhance the Locator Certification program delivery model

Throughout the year, we were successful in delivering our marquee locator certification program in partnership with the BC Municipal Safety Alliance:

- 10 Sessions were held across BC, reaching approximately 100 participants total in 2015.
- The BC Municipal Safety Association, BC Construction Safety Alliance (in partnership with the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association) have actively promoted the 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) are in the final stages of approving the course for technical trade status on the Alliance's behalf.



Strategic Priority 7

Every 3 years create a Best Practices version suitable for use by the excavator

In terms of our three-year cycle to produce industry best practices, we are currently in a development phase. That being said, the BCCGA had a number of successes in this area.

- The Best Practice Committee contributed to the first ever, national Best Practice - version 1.0 and remains an important contributor at this table.
- We circulated 1,000 our current best practice to variously entities and individuals across the province.
- We had over 500 web visits to our best practice area on our website.



Strategic Priority 8

Work with our members to achieve One Call legislation in BC

Throughout the course of the year the BCCGA supported a number of high-level initiatives designed to make BC a safer province. Highlights include:

One Call Provincial Legislation - The BCCGA applied for special project funding from WorkSafeBC to explore One Call legislation in BC. Activities included the completion of a survey of BC One Call. The results of which clearly demonstrate that members over whelming value the service. A primary focus of this year's initiative was also targeted at removing barriers to organizations that have not yet joined BC One Call. In this regard, the consultant conducted a number of targeted interviews with key individuals, both members and non-members, to determine creative solutions and proposals for non-member Telcoms and large non-member cities to join BC One Call.

CSA Standard - The BCCGA, in partnership with the Canadian Common Ground Alliance, supported the work to develop a Canadian national standard (through the Canadian Standards Association or CSA) for Damage Prevention. This Standard involved the largest number of stakeholders in CSA history. Early this year the standard was formally adopted and is now available for industry and regulators to use.



Perhaps our greatest achievement this year occurred in regards to federal legislation. 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-233, An Act Enacting the Underground Infrastructure Safety Enhancement Act and Making Consequential Amendments to Other Acts.

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In its current form, the Bill reached second reading before parliament ended for the 2015 federal election. Senator Mitchell intends to re-introduce the legislation to the new government in its current form or as an amended version of the original early next year.