

# Report to the BC Common Ground Alliance Membership





### **Executive Director's Message**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present the BCCGA 2013 Report to Members. This report summarizes some of our many accomplishments of 2013 in response to the five-year strategic priorities approved on October 16, 2013.

This year, we continued to provide valuable education and awareness initiatives to improve the culture of safety in British Columbia. We increased our educational sessions, hosting or partnering in three contractor breakfasts and hosting three successful DigSafe sessions. These educational sessions provide a valuable link with the construction community, where we are able to increase safe practice in the field while also gathering feedback to bring back to industry and regulators.

In October 2013, the Board voted to pursue an exploration into mandatory One Call legislation in British Columbia. As concluded in the recently released 2013 DIRT Report for 2012, increasing uptake of BC One Call is one of the most valuable things we can do to improve worker safety, public safety, and damage prevention around underground infrastructure in our province. Mandatory One Call legislation would set a new standard for damage prevention in BC, and we are eager to work with our members and stakeholders in exploring this exciting opportunity.

It has been a successful year and we have much to celebrate. We look forward to continuing to improve the culture of safety around underground infrastructure in 2014. Thank you, our generous and committed members, partners, volunteers and Board members, for your continued dedication and support.

*Dave Baspaly,*  
Executive Director



### Strategic Priority 1:

Minimize member attrition and increase revenue by 2015 by a minimum of 10% through increasing membership and/or project sponsorship, securing a government partner, and/or by securing other long-term sustainable forms of revenue. Review possible funding sources on an ongoing basis.

- In 2013 revenues of \$231,000 are slightly over the projected budget of \$215,000.
- 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 revenues.
- Other notable one-time funding sources contained within the 2013 summary include:
  - \$13,000 Special project funding from BC Gaming
  - \$15,000 Special project funding from WorkSafe BC.



## Strategic Priority 2:

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

To increase member engagement, the BCCGA:

- Formed a new task force to explore mandatory One Call legislation.
- Supported nine standing committees, two project committees and two liaison positions.
- Gained nine new member companies from a variety of stakeholder groups.

To increase stakeholder engagement, the BCCGA:

- Partnered with BC One Call to sponsor electronic billboard advertisements at the PNE during the summer dig season.
- Presented the 2013 City of Excellence award to the City of Surrey and the Communication Award to the City of Burnaby
- 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 25 industry events such as AGMs and award ceremonies to promote safety and generate awareness of the Alliance, including the WorkSafe BC Bridging the Gap Conference and an ICBA golf tournament.
- Sponsored the PBIBC Annual General Meeting and a CLAC golf tournament to promote awareness of the BCCGA.



### Strategic Priority 3:

Refine and report quarterly on this 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 at the BCCGA board meeting on June 12, 2013.
- This process culminated in the development of a draft of a new Five-Year Strategic plan, approved October 16, 2013.
- Annual strategic priorities based on the Five Year Strategic Plan by the Performance Review Committee were developed collaboratively by staff, the Board and the greater membership and were then formally approved.
- A corresponding operational plan was developed by staff to interpret the strategic direction determined by the Board. Staff report monthly on the status of these priorities.
- The 2013 budget was based on the strategic objectives and operational plan and included financial projections. The Board approved the budget on February 7, 2013.



### Strategic Priority 4:

Produce an Annual 'Report to Sponsors'. This shall be a document speaking to the success of the BCCGA, that would showcase a reduction in overall damage provincially with evidence of how the BCCGA influenced this improvement, and a positional statement striving to yield ongoing support from each of these Member 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:
  - Created a set of tools to help stakeholders report damage events.
  - Increased reporting stakeholders from 2011.
  - Publicly released the 2012 DIRT Report.
  - Created a distribution plan to increase circulation and use of the DIRT Report.
2. This formal "Report to Members" highlighting achievements made against the strategic priorities was sent to all members of the Alliance in December 2013.
3. A monthly e-blast format was created and implemented.



## Strategic Priority 5:

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

- Secured resources from BC Gaming to support the DigSafe sessions.
- Held a large contractor breakfast in April in Surrey, BC.
- Partnered with Spectra Energy and Kinder Morgan on contractor breakfasts in Quesnel and Prince George in April.
- Delivered ongoing speaker series to industry, community and associations regarding safe dig practice and underground safety.
- Held a DigSafe session on October 8, 2013 in partnership with the Christian Labour Association of BC (CLAC) in Langley, BC.
- Held a DigSafe session on October 23, 2013 in Fort St. John, BC.
- Held a DigSafe session on November 6, 2013 in Kamloops, BC.
- Commenced preliminary work to explore the possibility of a DigSafe session in Victoria in 2014.
- Commenced preliminary work to explore the possibility of a more portable DigSafe/Ground Disturbance Level 2 course.
- 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.
- Secured Continuing Education Units (CEUs) through the Environmental Operators Certificate Program (EOCP) for the DigSafe sessions.
- Completed a successful damage prevention month campaign in April, including promotional pieces and proclamations to mayors and councils.



### Strategic Priority 6:

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

- Sessions were held in Kelowna, Vernon, Delta, and Kamloops, reaching approximately 40 participants total in 2013.
- The Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) is currently pursuing technical trade status for the course on the Alliance's behalf.
- The training providers have developed a course calendar for 2014 and there is active promotion of the course throughout the province.



### Strategic Priority 7:

Every 3 years create a Best Practices version 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.

- On March 27, 2013 a composite draft of Best Practice v3.0 was approved by the Best Practices Committee and sent to members and stakeholders for review.
- In July, a technical writer edited Best Practice v3.0 for clarity and consistency.
- The Best Practice Committee made important changes to the layout, binding, cover and overall feel of the Best Practice, to better appeal to excavators in the field.
- A graphic designer was employed to produce the Best Proactive in digital and hardcopy versions.
- In December 2013, Best Practices v3.0 was released to the board and posted on the BCCGA website.



### Strategic Priority 8:

Strategic Priority 8: Work with our members to achieve Mandatory One Call legislation in BC. Develop a comprehensive multi-stakeholder strategy, scope of focus 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 October 16, 2013 the BCCGA Board heard a presentation from Ontario One Call on the process of achieving mandatory One Call legislation in Ontario.
- 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.
- On October 16, 2013, the BCCGA Board voted to go forward with an exploration of mandatory One Call legislation in BC.
- In November, the BCCGA applied for special project funding from WorkSafe BC to fund the exploration of mandatory One Call legislation in BC.
- A task group was established and a consultant was identified to lead the exploration process.