

Blog

B.C. consulting engineers honour excellence at annual awards

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The 26th annual Awards for Engineering Excellence Gala, held Friday night at the Vancouver Convention Centre West, honoured the innovation and technical excellence of Association of Consulting Engineering Companies British Columbia (ACEC-BC) member firms.



ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING
ENGINEERING COMPANIES
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"This year's winners represent the best and brightest that our industry has to offer, and are a testament to the amazing work of B.C.'s consulting engineers that we have been showcasing on this stage for 26 years," said Keith Sashaw, president and CEO, ACEC-BC.

The theme was "Countdown to Excellence." Special guest Lieutenant Governor of B.C. Judith Guichon was in attendance to present the Lieutenant Governor's Award for Engineering Excellence to Buckland & Taylor for the design and construction engineering of the Champlain Bridge Superbeam and Modular Truss project (Montréal, Québec). The project also won in the Transportation and Bridges category.

An emergency situation arose when a major flexural crack was discovered in one of the post-tensioned girders of the Champlain Bridge. Within 48 hours the bridge was fixed by installing a stabilizing component – the superbeam – until the winter weather subsided. A steel truss was later installed as a permanent solution, allowing the removal of the temporary superbeam.

"Buckland & Taylor's innovative approach, responsiveness and expertise played a critical role in the safe completion of such a large and complex project," said Sashaw. "Minimal impact was made to commuters and the flow of commercial goods on the bridge, despite the challenging winter working conditions."

Awards were given in five categories: buildings, municipal and civil infrastructure, transportation and bridges, energy and industry, and soft engineering. ACEC-BC also recognizes the outstanding contributions of two individual members.

The Buildings category award at the ACEC-BC gala went to Fast + Epp for the Kin Centre Complex, and the Municipal & Civil Infrastructure Award went to Urban Systems Limited for their work on the Kamloops Sewage Treatment Centre Upgrades project.

The Soft Engineering Award went to Morrison Hershfield Ltd. for their Building Envelope Thermal Bridging Guide.

The Meritorious Achievement Award is presented annually to an individual for significant lifetime contributions to engineering, the industry and the community. This year's award was handed out to John Collings, P.Eng. of Collings Johnston Inc. Collings has been a leader in the transportation industry and has also served on advisory and technical committees of national boards including the Transportation Research Board, Vancouver Board of Trade, and Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada.

The Young Professional Award recognizes an individual for achievements in the first 10 years of their career. The Young Professional Award was given to Mark Byram, P.Eng. of Levelton Consultants Ltd. Mark has served as Chair of ACEC-BC's Young Professionals' Group and as an ex-officio member of the ACEC-BC Board of Directors. In 2013, he was selected and sponsored by the ACEC-BC Board to travel to Barcelona to attend the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) Centenary Conference.

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