



Produced by the **BC Road Builders  
& Heavy Construction Association**  
for its members and industry partners

# The Voice

FALL 2019



## Upcoming Events

### AGM & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

December 5th-7th, 2019  
The Fairmont Empress, Victoria, BC

### BCRB GOES TO MAUI!

February 2nd-6th, 2020  
Wailea Beach Resort, Maui

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT THE DAWSON GROUP

The Dawson Group is a family-owned business, dating back to the founding of Dawson Construction in 1922. Since its inception, Dawson Construction has been involved in many of BC's iconic public infrastructure construction projects, including major projects like the Granville Street Bridge, UBC buildings and portions of the Coquihalla and Yellowhead highways.

Today, the Dawson Group provide highway and civil works construction and maintenance services across BC and Western Canada, with road maintenance contracts in the central Cariboo, the North-Peace and Bulkley-Nass regions of BC.

Ian Dawson, grandson of the original founder, now leads the Dawson Group, which includes Dawson Construction, Dawson Road Maintenance, Eagle Rock Construction, IRL International Trucks, IRL Idealease and DCM Transport. They employ more than 700 people across all their operations, with the corporate group located in Kamloops, BC.

In addition to construction and maintenance services, they also sell, lease and service heavy commercial vehicles, including for the forest industries, as well as working with mining companies in the provision of civil works construction, such as tailings dams.

### Dawson Group Chief Operating Officer Yves Lacasse Q&A

#### How does your organization support road building and/or heavy construction?

**Yves:** The Dawson Group is an active member of the BC Roadbuilders Association as well as the Southern Interior Construction Association.

We see great value in being part of the organizations, which serve as the voice for our industry. Our team members have been involved with BCRB committees and regularly attend BCRB conferences and meetings to ensure that issues related to construction and maintenance are brought to the attention of government and the public.

We also invest in training for our people, and we are always looking for new technologies to improve the efficiency of our road building and highways maintenance operations.

#### What current projects do you have underway?

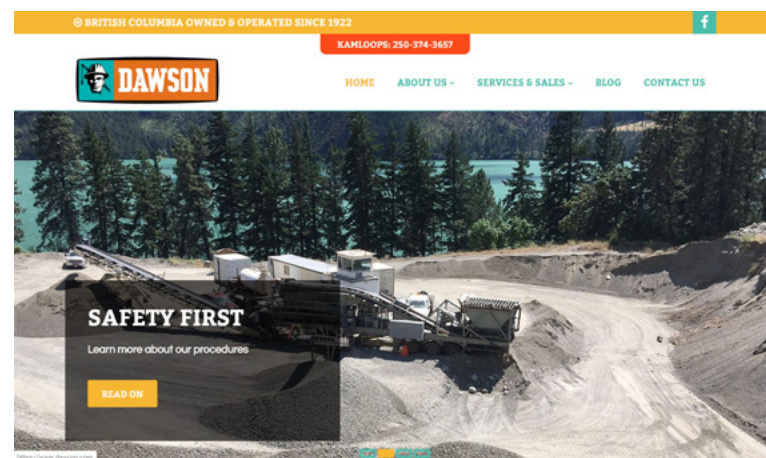
**Yves:** We just wrapped up significant paving projects around Kamloops and in the central Cariboo. We are currently getting ready for the winter maintenance season

in our four service areas, including by investing heavily in our fleet of equipment. This year, we spent more than \$34 million on new plow trucks, graders and other equipment, and are working to improve yards and depots in all our areas.

The new maintenance contracts specify new standards related to highways and snow clearing. Working to ensure that we meet and exceed those standards is an important goal for our organization.

#### What is a major accomplishment for your organization?

**Yves:** This past year, Dawson Road Maintenance successfully acquired new highways maintenance contracts in two new service areas, bringing our total from two areas to four areas. These are 10 to 15-year contracts. The new contracts effectively doubled the size of Dawson Road Maintenance, making the company one of the largest highway maintenance providers in BC.



Watch out for their new website at [www.dawson.ca](http://www.dawson.ca)

#### What makes you proud to be a part of Dawson?

**Yves:** The Dawson Group is a family-owned business that prides itself on family values. Our core values — People First, Integrity, Excellence and Respect — emphasize the need to treat our employees, customers and stakeholders as if they were family.

We know the work that we do provides critical service to BC families and we take pride in making our road networks safe for the travelling public. As well, we are heavily committed to safety and creating cultures of safety at all our worksites. Taking care of people is our first priority and most important concern.

The Dawson Group will celebrate its 100th year in 2022, and are planning an event to remember for friends, family and partners.

# THE BCRB FALL CONFERENCE

The BC Road Builders' annual Fall conference took place September 15 – 17 at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler. A welcoming ceremony was performed by ambassadors Brittani & Redmond of the Squamish & Lil'wat Nations. This was followed by our keynote address from Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure Assistant Deputy Minister Renee Mounteney, who spoke of the important services our members provide and future developments for the industry.

BCRB members then enjoyed three days of activities and networking opportunities, including a golf tournament on one of Whistler's most beautiful golf courses, hockey, and a trip up Blackcomb with lunch on the mountain.

The Kal Tire Reverse Draw at the Fall Banquet was a great success for Jon Futer from O.K. Industries and Mike Ladd from Brandt Tractor who split the grand prize of \$5,000.

The Fall Conference featured Sector Meetings for Maintenance, Construction, and Service and Supply, while the Rapid Fire Workshops introduced attendees to new developments in technology, safety, education and how to predict, manage and how to mitigate workplace issues.

Past BCRB President Jack Davidson represented BCIT and industry education in his presentation "What Can BCIT Do For You?" while Todd Cumiskey from ICBA presented the Construction Industry Training workshop, giving members an overview of education and training in the sector.

Grayson Doyle and Jeff Davis from Peter Kiewit Sons ULC delivered a workshop on Leading Edge Fall Protection and Cory Bass and Manley McLachlan from EHS Analytics showed members how safety performance in the workplace can be improved by enabling companies to capture real-time environmental health and safety data.

Pamela Bragg from Sarkany Management presented Generational Crossroad (Millennials at Work), discussing the working habits, strengths and weaknesses of different generations and how to navigate a multi-generational workplace.



BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association  
**2019 FALL CONFERENCE**  
September 15 – 17, 2019 | Whistler, BC



*Fairmont*  
CHATEAU WHISTLER

# THE BCRB FALL CONFERENCE



# #CONSTRUCTION4CDNS

## SUPPORT THE CANADIAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) wants the voice of the industry heard by government on a local and national level. Launched during the lead-up to the recent federal election, the #Construction4CDNS campaign asks Canadians to stand up for construction and make sure action is taken on the issues affecting the industry and its workforce.

The CCA is the national voice for the construction industry in Canada representing over 20,000 member firms in an integrated structure of some 63 local and provincial construction associations. Construction employs close to 1.5 million people and generates about \$140 billion to the economy annually.

You can write your local MLA with the click of a button using CCA's #Construction4CDNS website. Simply enter your postal code, and the site will provide you with the candidates in your riding and automatically connect you to their emails, sending out a letter of support for the construction industry.

#Construction4CDNS is promoting four main construction industry issues:

**STRENGTHENING INVESTOR CONFIDENCE:** Urging the federal government to remove any further regulatory delays to the Trans Mountain expansion project.

**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING:** Encouraging the Government of Canada to commit to a 25-year plan for infrastructure spending in Canada.

**SUPPORTING INNOVATION:** Asking the federal government to become a partner in innovation with the construction industry.

**ATTRACTING A SKILLED AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE:** asking the federal government to increase funding for career and technical training programs.

To learn about the issues facing the construction industry, and to show your support for the Canadian construction industry, visit <https://www.construction4cdns.ca/>



# DON'T WORRY, BEACH HAPPY!

## ROAD BUILDERS OF THE WEST MEET IN MAUI

When the first frosty days of winter hit, sunny beaches and palm trees are in our daydreams – and this February the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association is offering a break from the cold. Soak in some vitamin D, and enjoy an opportunity to network with road builders from the Western Region of Canada in Hawaii this winter! BCRB is heading to Maui for the Road Builders of the West Conference, taking place at Wailea Beach Resort, February 2–6, 2020.

Kicking off with a Super Bowl party, Maui 2020 delegates will enjoy a variety of fun island activities. The conference features three unforgettable signature events, the Rooftop Welcome Reception, the Hawaiian Ho'olaule and the Super Bowl Tailgate Party, as well as the Golf Tournament and Pool Party, breakfast and lunch conference sessions, and a special Resort Luau.

Wailea Beach Resort, an oceanfront Marriott hotel, is a newly designed space that embraces the spirit of relaxation and the culture of Maui.

Registration for Maui 2020 is still open, don't get left behind! Visit <https://www.meetinmaui.com> for more information on the event, accommodation and to purchase tickets.

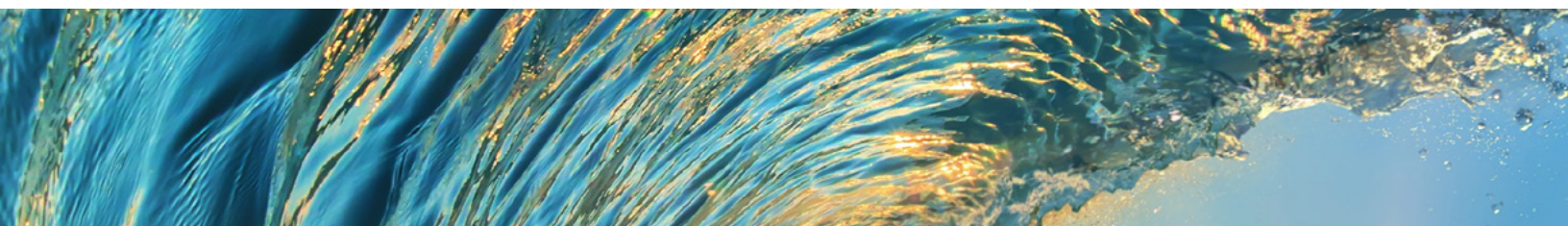


**February 2 – 6, 2020**  
**Wailea Beach Resort**  
**MAUI**

For more information and to register,  
please visit [www.meetinmaui.com](http://www.meetinmaui.com)  
Contact [bcroadbuilders@evoque.ca](mailto:bcroadbuilders@evoque.ca) or  
call 604 952-5507 with any questions.



Join the BC and Alberta Road Builders in **Maui in February 2020** for meetings, presentations, tradeshow and networking at the Wailea Beach Resort.



# RAIN, SNOW & ICE – OH MY!

## THE 11TH ANNUAL SHIFT INTO WINTER



As the seasons change, so do driving conditions. October 1st, 2019 marked the first day passenger vehicles driving on designated highways in BC are required to have four matched winter tires, and the official beginning of **Shift Into Winter**, the annual campaign from the Winter Driving Safety Alliance reminding motorists and employers to plan ahead and drive safely in winter conditions.

Winter means different things in different parts of the province. From rain and fog in the south, to snow and ice in the north. Winter conditions – such as colder temperatures, rain, snow, black ice, reduced visibility and fewer daylight hours – can present serious hazards for all drivers, professional and otherwise. The chance of being injured or killed in a motor vehicle crash in British Columbia increases dramatically in winter. **Shift Into Winter** offers helpful tips and information for driving in winter conditions to promote safety on the roads. For those who drive for work, about a third of all work-related crashes resulting in injury and time-loss claims occur in November, December and January.

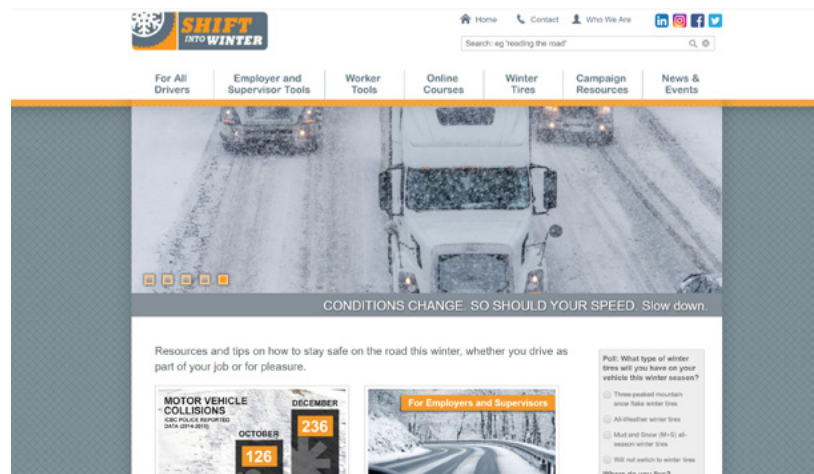
The launch of **Shift Into Winter 2019** coincided with the law requiring passenger vehicles driving on designated highways in B.C. to have four matched winter tires (three-peaked mountain and snowflake, or mud and snow) with at least 3.5 mm of tread depth starting on October 1, while commercial vehicles must be equipped with chains.

The **Shift into Winter** website provides information for motorists and employers on how to stay safe on the road this winter, whether they are driving for work or pleasure, as well as bite size tips, messages and images that can be shared on social media, blogs and newsletters.

### The Winter Driving Safety Alliance offers the following tips for motorists:

- Install a set of four matched winter tires.
- Give your vehicle a pre-season maintenance check-up.
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.
- Conditions change, so be prepared and plan ahead:
  - Check current road and weather conditions on **DriveBC.ca** – If possible, postpone your plans and avoid driving when road and weather conditions are poor.
  - Plan your route ahead of time – Tell someone where you're going and when you expect to arrive and avoid any roads that may become dangerous during bad weather.
  - Slow down – The posted speed limit is the maximum speed under ideal driving conditions. If inclement weather hits, slow down and drive with extra care.
  - Maintain a safe following distance – Look ahead and keep at least four seconds of distance between you and the vehicle in front.
  - Invest in winter driving training – Learn how to brake safely, get out of a skid, and how your car handles in winter weather.

More tips for employers and motorists on how to prepare themselves, their coworkers and their vehicles for winter can be found on [ShiftintoWinter.ca](http://ShiftintoWinter.ca)



Paving the way for future of road builders and heavy construction workers and supporting the industry as it grows in British Columbia is a key part of BCRB's mission as an Association, and the Betty Spalton Scholarship is one way in which we support the future of the workforce.

The Betty Spalton Scholarship provides financial support to individuals obtaining an education in fields associated with the road building and heavy construction industry. It honours Betty Spalton, an industry and Association leader who made important contributions to our sector. Argo Maintenance and the BC Ministry of Transportation generously donated the funds to establish the scholarship, and each year the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association raises money for the scholarship at our annual Ivan Hanchard Charity Golf Tournament.

This year's Betty Spalton Scholarship recipients are 31 year-old Okanagan College student **Gabriel Pitman**, and 18 year-old **LeeAnn Zaitsoff**, a first year student at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan Campus.)

## **Betty Spalton Recipient Profile: Gabriel Pitman**

Gabriel Pitman is currently in his final year of the Construction Electrician program, a four year program that he is completing in his hometown, Penticton, BC.

### **How did you find out about the Betty Spalton Scholarship?**

**Gabriel:** I found out about the scholarship after a number of web searches, and finally through BCIT's website under "external awards." It's a downloadable PDF.

### **What aspects of road building and heavy construction are you interested in?**

**Gabriel:** All large scale projects are interesting to me, I'd love to participate in as many as I can. It's great to be a part of projects and see them through from beginning to end.

### **How has the scholarship helped with your education?**

**Gabriel:** The scholarship has meant tuition, and additional certificate training. It's certainly something that helps keep my skills and training up to date.

### **What was it like to find out you had been awarded this scholarship?**

**Gabriel:** It was a huge sense of accomplishment to receive an award like this, it's a kind of acknowledgment for your effort, one that doesn't come along all that often.

### **Do you have a favourite BC highway, road or bridge?**

**Gabriel:** Good question, there have been a couple of projects that I would have liked to have worked on. That would have made them favourites for sure. Maybe I'll just give a shout out to the Red Covered bridge outside of Keremeos for the time being, I noticed it has its own stamp now, and it was in a really not so great Nicholas Cage movie that was filmed around the Oliver BC area.

### **What future career in road building/construction are you pursuing?**

**Gabriel:** I currently have my eye on renewable energy training. It would be great to pair that with some large scale infrastructure projects like a bridge or tunnel project. As far as work goes, I will keep an eye out on what projects are underway or becoming underway in the near future.



## Betty Spalton Recipient Profile: LeeAnn Zaitsoff

UBCO student LeeAnn Zaitsoff is in her first year, pursuing a degree in management with an aim to specialize in human resources and arbitration.

### How did you find out about the Betty Spalton Scholarship?

I found out about the scholarship through the Stanley Humphries Secondary school scholarship program and the "Grant me" program.

### You're in your first year of the Bachelor of Management program at UBCO, what career are you working towards?

After the completion of my degree my goal is to pursue a career in law with hopes of becoming a lawyer.

### What aspects of road building and heavy construction are you interested in?

I had the privilege of growing up around heavy equipment and the industry because my dad is an owner of a road building and logging company. Ever since I was young, I've had an interest in running the equipment. As a little girl they were just larger and more exciting versions of toys; however, as I got older I liked how you could start a project/ job in one condition, but with the use of equipment you could turn it into a totally different condition — essentially like an art project.

Running the equipment gave me a sense of empowerment because I was working alongside skilled operators as well as my dad. Although I'm still interested in operating the equipment, I've now taken more of an interest in the business aspect of road building, such as contracts and negotiations, site planning, and job proposals/job prospects.

### What was it like to find out you had been awarded this scholarship?

I was extremely overwhelmed with excitement and accomplishment and I was also very grateful because out of all the applicants I was chosen, it meant a lot to me.

### Do you have a favourite BC highway, road or bridge? Tell us why it's special to you!

One of my favourite highways is Highway 3 because of its scenic views during the fall, however my favourite road is Mount Sentinel forest service road in Castlegar. It's my favourite because it's the first road where I learned how to drive a 30 ton rock truck, and the location of my first ever job running the rock truck.

*The Betty Spalton Scholarship is merit-based financial award open to any student entering or continuing studies leading to a career in road building, road maintenance, or heavy construction. To learn more about the scholarship and how to apply visit <https://www.roadbuilders.bc.ca/news-events/scholarships/>*



# SAVE THE DATE 2019 AGM & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

**The BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association's** 53rd Annual General Meeting and Holiday Celebration is fast approaching and will be taking place in Victoria at the beautiful Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre from **December 5 – 7, 2019.**

**Join us** for our fantastic networking and social events, including the Royal BC Museum Grand Reception and the Jingle Bell Ball Annual Gala Christmas Dinner & Dance. These events provide great opportunities to mix and mingle with colleagues, industry partners and influential members of government.

