

THE VOICE

FALL 2023



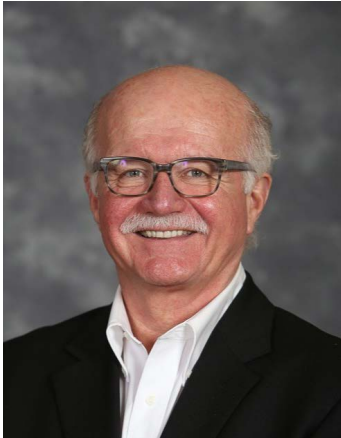
A quarterly publication produced by the
BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association
for its members and industry partners



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LETTER FROM PRESIDENT



Greetings,

I am pleased to share some exciting updates and reflections with you as we approach the end of 2023. We recently concluded our highly successful Fall Conference, an event that showcased an impressive lineup of conference speakers who provided invaluable insights into our industry's ever-evolving landscape. Their contributions enriched our collective knowledge and offered fresh perspectives on key challenges and opportunities.

This year has been nothing short of remarkable, marked by the unwavering commitment of our dedicated membership. The record-breaking wildfire season in British Columbia tested our fortitude, but once again, our members rose to the occasion, demonstrating the true spirit of unity and support that defines our association. In this issue, you will have the opportunity to read about one such inspiring story that exemplifies our membership's resilience and determination.

Looking ahead, we are excited to tell you more about The RoadShow program which is set to be both innovative and captivating, featuring simulators and VR technology within a 34-foot trailer designed to travel BC. This program aims to attract new talent to our industry through immersive experiences.

And finally, as we approach the holiday season, we look forward to welcoming you to our Annual General Meeting and Holiday Celebrations. This is a special occasion where we come together to celebrate the tireless efforts of our industry, and your presence will make it all the more memorable. We look forward to celebrating our collective achievements and expressing our gratitude for your ongoing support.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our organization. Together, we continue to thrive and make a positive impact on our industry.

Sincerely,

KELLY SCOTT

President

BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

BCRB ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Our Fall Conference was a dynamic blend of networking and enlightenment. The event featured a “Taste of Kelowna” affair, where local wine and cheese were savoured. Sports enthusiasts enjoyed a hockey game, while our members networked on the greens through two golf tournaments. A boat cruise on Okanagan Lake provided the perfect backdrop for connecting and unwinding.

Our Women in Road Building Committee’s panel, led by Vanessa Werden, featuring Tiffany Brebner, Teagan Burton, Saskia Huesing, and Paula Cousin produced an engaging dialogue on their experiences in the industry, and ways to attract and retain women in the industry.

Anona Kampe of the Penticton Indian Band shared a presentation of the true history of Indigenous peoples of Canada so we can continue a path of reconciliation and work towards a future built on respect, empathy and collaboration.

Assistant Deputy Kevin Richter from MOTI took us on an engaging journey through provincial projects in a spirited game of Jeopardy. The event also welcomed the seasoned perspectives of broadcast veteran Jas Johal and Matt Pitcairn for a comprehensive update on politics in BC. Additionally, BC Hydro and CCA offered industry insights to round out this enlightening and memorable conference.







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IN THE NEWS

UNDER FIRE: COLLABORATION KEEPS HIGHWAY WORK ON TRACK

When wildfires approached crews working to repair atmospheric river flood damage to Highway 1, the project's collaborative contract model was put to the test.

Crews had initially responded to damage from the November 2021 flood by installing a temporary one-lane bridge, after a culvert was washed out in the Fraser Canyon near Lytton. This summer, crews returned to build a new bridge and make other permanent improvements.

But rather than deliver the project under a traditional procurement model, the Province opted for an Alliance model, the first Alliance contract for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in decades. The team was dubbed the Falls Creek Alliance. The goal of an Alliance contract is to be a truly collaborative tool that aligns the interest of the parties through pain-share/gain-share provisions, which share risk and reward among the parties of the Alliance.

"The uniqueness of this is that we are all in a partnership," said Maike Schimpf, deputy project



director and Highway 1 corridor director for the ministry. "Our contract was built together and the risks and rewards are shared. For us it's very unique because the decisions are unanimous and there isn't one traditional boss."

The team was able to get a three-month head start on work while the final designs were being done and even began ordering steel girders early to mitigate long wait times. The team also agreed to work seven days a week to get the work done as fast as possible, and the design and planning reflected this approach.

However, this summer things became complex when wildfires began to approach. Following a period of dry weather, winds picked up and smoke drifted over the hills across the river and towards the site. Hours later, the fire had come over the ridgeline and embers were falling from the sky.

"We had people in traffic queues and 24-hour flagging so we started contacting the authorities about what to do. If the fire came over the river, we could potentially have people trapped in those queues as well as 10-15 traffic people," said Lyle Johnson, project director for the Falls Creek Alliance and a manager for Coquitlam Ridge Constructors.

Because the Alliance contract had drawn all the parties close together, crews were able to immediately begin coordinating with the ministry.

"On conventional projects you are left out there in the wilderness and you don't know what to do," said Johnson. "We knew exactly what the maintenance contractors were doing, we knew what the RCMP was doing, and BC Wildfire Service. Having that level of communication makes it a much better environment."

The site was evacuated and maintenance contractors shut down the highway. The fire came through the site and up the road, in close proximity to First Nations communities as well as local businesses. Several days later, Falls Creek Alliance crews were able to return while the fire was still active and help the ministry, maintenance crews and fire crews clear debris and assess the area. Crews were mobilized to remove tree debris and rocks, as well as carry out repairs to the cliff-face meshing adjacent to Highway 1. Traffic control measures also facilitated access for emergency vehicles through the one-lane detour that remained in effect.

"WE DID OUR BEST TO HELP THE MINISTRY AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS TO REOPEN THE HIGHWAY"

"We did our best to help the ministry and maintenance contractors to reopen the highway and make sure it wasn't the last piece of the puzzle," said Johnson.

In the days after the fire as the team looked to resume work, heavy smoke made respirators necessary, and project team members who had firefighter training due to the remoteness of the site worked to put out roughly a dozen flare-ups.

"It was a fairly volatile environment," said Jamie O'Farrell, construction manager for the project and a construction manager at Coquitlam Ridge Constructors. "You had extreme smoke unlike anything I had experienced. The readings were off the charts. You couldn't even see a couple hundred metres."

Within four days the team was able to get back to making project progress while BC Wildfire Services helicopters roamed the area, continuing to put out fires.

Johnson and O'Farrell noted that things have been progressing fast and by the end of the year, much of the peripheral work around the bridge will be wrapped so

the team can fully focus on the bridge itself. Currently, crews are erecting their main span girders. They recently completed the first two and have two more to go.

The Falls Creek Alliance team explained that in the coming months they expect there could be more challenges, but the collaborative process has given them confidence that together they can overcome anything that gets thrown at them.

Schimpf echoed this, noting that rockslides and avalanches could pose challenges in the future.

"From the ministry's perspective, our ability to address unforeseen circumstances is increased," she said. "We are going to have more bad things happen to us, but I know I can just send someone a text and they will respond and they are looking out for our shared interests."



FINNING CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF BUILDING



B.C.-based Finning celebrated its 90th anniversary this year. While the company has grown into a sophisticated global operation, it began with one man heading north with a dream.

In the late 1920s young Caterpillar Tractor salesman Earl B. Finning left California in search of bigger opportunities in B.C.

Right from the beginning, times were tough. The Great Depression hit and the resource sector struggled. Despite the challenges, Finning got a business loan and obtained the sole distribution rights for Caterpillar Tractor Co. products in the province and started his dealership in a shed near Vancouver's Canadian National railway station. On Jan. 4, 1933, the Finning Tractor & Equipment Company Ltd. was officially incorporated.

His Vancouver shop began by selling and servicing heavy equipment but what separated it from the

others was his firm belief in parts availability and repair services. "We service what we sell," was how he summed up his operating philosophy.

The company's first branch opened its doors in Nelson, B.C. in 1937, the first of many. Following World War II were several decades of economic boom. Industrial expansion in mining, forestry, hydroelectric developments, roads and pipelines created high demand for heavy equipment.

The company noted that this period reinforced its strategy of equipment service as they developed a comprehensive network of branches in even the most remote areas of the province.

Earl Finning died in 1965 but his family continued to steer the company. By the end of the decade, annual revenues reached \$78 million dollars and Finning had more than a thousand employees as well as a new headquarters and service facility in Vancouver.

But the Finning family was thinking even bigger. In 1969, the same year that they joined the BC Road Builders, they decided to take the company public. Its common shares began trading on the Vancouver and Toronto stock exchanges in September 1969 under the symbol FTT. The company noted that this was a rare move for a Caterpillar dealership, and to this day, Finning remains one of only a few publicly traded Caterpillar dealers.

The 1970s saw even more growth for Finning. They began building their own line of equipment targeting

the forestry sector and diversified by acquiring smaller companies. But the 1980s would see Finning burst beyond B.C.'s and Canada's borders. In 1983, Finning acquired the rights to represent Caterpillar in western England, Wales and Scotland. Finning purchased two Caterpillar dealerships in the United Kingdom: Bowmaker (Plant) Ltd. and Caledonian Tractor and Equipment Co. Ltd., which were later merged into one operation as Finning Limited. Along with the acquisition of the overseas dealerships, revenue rose to \$450 million.

Despite this international expansion, Finning didn't lose sight of Canadian growth. In the late 1980s it acquired the R. Angus Caterpillar dealership in Alberta and the right to represent Caterpillar products in all of Alberta, and the Northwest Territories west of the Saskatchewan/Alberta border. Officials say this move positioned Finning as a key supplier to Canada's oil and gas industry.

Today, Finning is the world's largest Caterpillar dealer with operations in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. It also employs more than 13,000 people worldwide.

While its reach is global, Finning has stayed true to its roots. Its Canadian headquarters remain in western Canada.

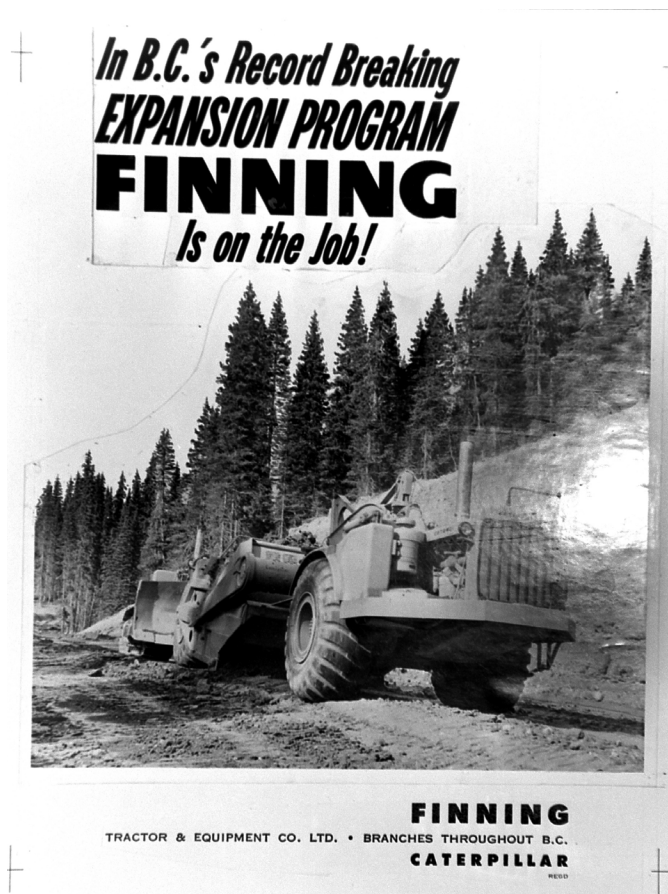
It's unlikely Earl Finning could have imagined how far his company and the heavy equipment industry would go. The machines used by road builders and other sectors have become a lot more complex since 1929. And Finning has risen to the challenge to make the heavy equipment sector more efficient and sustainable. They now offer renewable diesel, sustainability dashboards, automation and more. Despite what the company has built over the decades and the level of sophistication they have reached, their big message on their 90th was simple: "Our work is never done."



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COMMITTEE WORK ADVANCES RECONCILIATION

B.C.'s road building community is doing its part to advance reconciliation in the province and across Canada.

These initiatives are being led by the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association's Indigenous Engagement and Relations Committee, which was formed to clarify, coordinate and implement reconciliation efforts in the industry.

"We thought that we should start a committee to talk about Indigenous engagement and relations," said Shane O'Donnell, a principal and general manager at Tybo Contracting. "Let's come to the forefront as an industry and be leaders in providing opportunity and building capacity in Indigenous communities."

The committee started its work in 2020 by meeting with First Nations groups to gain a better understanding of how they viewed reconciliation, and how it has been written about by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to make sure that Road Builders could support Indigenous communities in a meaningful and valuable way.

Committee members began to further educate themselves on B.C.'s First Nations and their cultures. These discussions reinforced a key takeaway: that First Nations want to build relationships with trust and mutual respect before moving forward with any business opportunities.



The committee has also embraced Section 92 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's calls to action. It urges the corporate sector in Canada to build meaningful relationships and receive informed consent from First Nations groups before proceeding with economic development projects. It asks that companies ensure that Indigenous peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Indigenous communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.

Section 92 also calls for companies to provide education for management and staff on the history of Indigenous peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools and major developments in Indigenous rights.

"We started using those as our guiding principles ... to strengthen our relationships with First Nations groups," said O'Donnell.

The committee is currently working to bring First Nations leaders to Road Builders conferences and committees so they can speak and educate members. This includes a presentation during the Road Builders' Annual Fall Conference by Anona Kampe, from the Penticton Indian Band, on the true history of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

"Part of the calls to action is education: educating our staff, our managers and the community on the challenges that First Nations people have faced in our society and economy over the years," he said.

O'Donnell noted that the road building sector in B.C. has made significant progress when it comes to Indigenous participation. Roughly 5% of Canada's population is Indigenous according to census data and nearly 6% of B.C.'s population is Indigenous. But B.C.'s road building workforce is about 11% Indigenous.

"I think we are a leading industry in this regard, and I think that is a reflection of the work we are doing in the committee in bringing awareness to our members," he said.

The group's work is also going beyond B.C.'s borders. The committee is currently assisting with the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business that is being created nationally and for the province of B.C.

"YOU HAVE TO BUILD THAT FRIENDSHIP, TRUST AND RESPECT"

"We are working with them right now to understand what would work best for Indigenous-owned businesses in that regard," he said. "We are waiting for it to come out so we can really dive in and dissect it and see if it aligns with what industry is saying and what needs to happen, or if it needs some tweaks."

During his long career in the road building industry, O'Donnell has seen firsthand what it takes to work with First Nations communities. One of the biggest lessons he learned is that relationships with First Nations groups have to start with respect.

"You have to build that friendship, trust and respect before you can start to have those meaningful conversations about business partnerships," he said. "If you come in and say you are going to do something, promise a bunch of things and then don't deliver, that doesn't make for a relationship built on mutual trust and respect."

For the entire road building community, O'Donnell encouraged association members to familiarize themselves with Section 92. "The road to reconciliation is a long one and it isn't going to happen overnight," he said.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



APLIN & MARTIN GEOMATICS

Aplin & Martin Geomatics is a leading civil engineering and land development consulting firm known for its innovative solutions. With a commitment to sustainability and community enhancement, they excel in transportation and land development projects. Their expertise and dedication to excellence make Aplin & Martin Geomatics a trusted partner in shaping resilient, forward-thinking communities. contractor with locations in Kamloops, Kelowna, Cranbrook, and Vancouver.



ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING

Associated Engineering is a prominent engineering and consulting firm with a strong presence in Canada. They specialize in providing innovative solutions for infrastructure projects, including water resources, transportation, and environmental engineering. Their commitment to sustainability and technical excellence makes them a trusted partner in delivering successful, resilient projects.



DENBOW

Denbow is a leading company in landscape, erosion control, and soil management solutions. With a commitment to sustainability, they specialize in providing innovative products and services for landscaping, agriculture, and environmental projects. Their expertise and dedication to responsible land management make Denbow a trusted choice for clients seeking sustainable solutions.



FILL CONNECT INC.

Fill Connect Inc. is a premier online platform connecting construction and excavation contractors with available fill dirt and other construction materials. Their user-friendly platform streamlines the process of sourcing and disposing of materials, facilitating efficient and sustainable construction practices.



FIREBALL EQUIPMENT LTD.

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FRASER VALLEY AGGREGATES

Fraser Valley Aggregates is a leading supplier of quality construction aggregates in British Columbia. With a focus on providing high-quality materials for various construction projects, they contribute to the region's infrastructure development. Fraser Valley Aggregates is committed to sustainability and offers a wide range of aggregates to meet diverse project needs.



GLEN TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS

Glen Traffic Solutions is a reputable traffic management company, specializing in providing safe and efficient traffic control services for construction, events, and road maintenance in Western Canada. With a strong commitment to safety and professionalism, they ensure smooth traffic flow and safety at work sites and events.



INTEGRIS CONSULTING LTD.

Integris Consulting is a trusted firm offering comprehensive engineering and environmental consulting services in British Columbia. Their expertise spans environmental assessments, geotechnical engineering, and materials testing, providing solutions for sustainable and safe development projects. With a focus on quality and innovation, Integris Consulting is a valuable partner for infrastructure and environmental initiatives.



LAFRENTZ ROAD MARKING

Lafrentz Road Marking is a leading provider of road marking and traffic safety solutions in Canada. With decades of experience, they offer innovative road marking technologies, signage, and pavement marking services to enhance road safety and visibility. Lafrentz Road Marking plays a vital role in improving traffic management and safety infrastructure.



PERPACIFICA HOLDINGS

Perpacific Holdings is the parent company of Luxton Construction, a well-established construction firm based in Canada. Specializing in commercial, industrial, and residential projects, they are known for their commitment to quality, safety, and sustainability. With a strong track record, Perpacific Holdings continues to contribute to the growth and development of communities.



PETROVALUE PRODUCTS

PetroValue Products is a reputable provider of fuel management solutions, specializing in the delivery of bulk fuels and lubricants across Western Canada. They cater to various industries, ensuring reliable access to high-quality fuels, oils, and greases. PetroValue Products' commitment to efficiency and service excellence makes them a preferred choice for businesses.

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Siemens Financial Ltd. is a subsidiary of Siemens Canada, a global technology company. They offer innovative financial solutions, including leasing and financing options, to support businesses in acquiring Siemens' cutting-edge technologies. With a focus on sustainability and technology-driven solutions, Siemens Financial Ltd. empowers organizations to thrive in a rapidly evolving market.



TOKIO MARINE CANADA LTD.

Tokio Marine is a leading insurance company with a strong presence in Canada. They offer a wide range of insurance products, including property and casualty, marine, and specialty lines. With a commitment to excellence and financial strength, Tokio Marine provides reliable insurance solutions to protect businesses and individuals across Canada.



UNITED EARTH CONTRACTORS

United Earth Contractors, a division of the United Group of Companies, is a prominent construction company based in Canada. Specializing in earthworks and excavation projects, they deliver high-quality services to diverse industries. With a focus on safety and environmental responsibility, United Earth Contractors contributes to sustainable development and infrastructure improvement.



ROBERTSON MANUFACTURING LTD.

Robertson Manufacturing Ltd., operating under the brand Core Boxes, is a leading supplier of core boxes and storage solutions for the mining and exploration industries. Their high-quality products, including core trays and accessories, are trusted by professionals worldwide. With a commitment to durability and innovation, Robertson Manufacturing Ltd. supports efficient geological research.

| BETTY SPALTON SCHOLARSHIP

Betty Spalton was an industry and Association leader who made important contributions to our sector. The Betty Spalton Scholarship provides financial support to individuals obtaining an education in fields associated with the road building and heavy construction industry.

In 2023, thanks to generous funding from our donors and the large number of incredible applicants, we're proud to report that the scholarship was awarded to three promising students!

A couple of the potential future pioneers of road building in BC are profiled below.



KATIE SHERWOOD

Age: 22

School: UBC Okanagan

Academic Study:

Civil Engineering

(Bachelor of Applied Science)

Q: What led you to a career path in civil construction?

Growing up, I always thought that bridges and buildings were fascinating, hence my choice to pursue civil engineering. The civil construction industry is very hands-on which I like. The problem-solving skills, logistics, and creativity that go into civil construction projects are amazing. It is also a field of work that will always be needed.

Q: How did you hear about the Betty Spalton Scholarship?

I heard about the Betty Spalton Scholarship through my co-op job with Emil Anderson Construction.

Q: Tell us about your studies. In what way do you aspire to work in the civil construction industry?

I am currently in my third year of civil engineering at UBCO. I hope to one day work for a consulting or contracting firm and work on bridges or major roadways. My goal is to be a project manager.

Q: What excites or inspires you the most about the civil construction and road building industry?

What inspires me the most about the civil construction industry is the opportunity to be a part of the creation of vital infrastructure and make a difference in the community. The civil construction industry is constantly evolving, and the innovation is endless.



BROOKLYN SUTHERLAND

Age: 25

School:

UBC/UNBC Joint Program

Academic Study:

Environmental Engineering

Q: What led you to a career path in civil construction?

I began working in civil construction by means of infrastructure development at the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA). I was assigned to the Portside-Blundell Road Improvements project (PBRI). After developing a working relationship with the general contractor on the project, Ledcor, I joined their team upon completing my co-op terms with VFPA.

Q: How did you hear about the Betty Spalton Scholarship?

Adam Person, a project manager at Ledcor, let my co-op colleagues and I know about the Betty Spalton Scholarship opportunity.

Q: Tell us about your studies. In what way do you aspire to work in the civil construction industry?

I am in my final semester of a Bachelors of Applied Science in environmental engineering. Once I graduate, I intend to first travel, and then return to the PBRI project with Ledcor. My career plans include focusing on coastal-environmental engineering. Port infrastructure falls into this category, so I would be happy to see the project through before considering a transition.

Q: What excites or inspires you the most about the civil construction and road building industry?

Protecting the natural world, especially the ocean, inspires me to continue working in civil construction and road building.

| THE ROADSHOW

CAREER DRIVE: “THE ROADSHOW” TAKES SHAPE AS BCRB’S TALENT ATTRACTION PROGRAM

In the ever-evolving landscape of career choices, we are excited to formally unveil our brand-new talent attraction initiative, “The RoadShow.” This dynamic three-year program is set to spotlight careers in the highway maintenance and road building sector like never before, touring communities across British Columbia and offering first-hand heavy equipment simulations to participants.

Funded through a three-year government grant to the BCRB&HCA, The RoadShow emerges as an innovative endeavor within the broader context of the grant program aimed at addressing critical workforce shortages in the sector. Recognizing the pivotal role this industry plays in maintaining the province’s extensive road network, the program strives to inspire individuals to steer their careers toward these exciting avenues.

The new program was introduced to members who attended the Annual Fall Conference in Kelowna. BCRB’s Vice President, Matt Pitcairn, spoke of the program’s opportunity to not only attract talent through the use of immersive technologies but also advance inclusivity within the sector. “We’ve been very proactive in promoting and exhibiting diversity as an industry,”



said Matt. “The RoadShow gives us the opportunity to deepen our connection within communities across BC by showcasing how these jobs are attainable to anyone with the right ambition, and how they can play an important role in maintaining and growing the economic health of the province.”

With a customized 34’ trailer outfitted with simulators and virtual reality technology, The RoadShow will offer a hands-on opportunity to experience a day in the life of a plow truck driver or heavy equipment operator. Simulator technologies offer a wide range of benefits: they replicate the controls and movements of the equipment, and provide users with experience in realistic and safe training environments. Attendees will also receive a participation certificate that recognizes involvement and engagement in the program.

The inspiration behind The RoadShow’s logo design was drawn from the empowering principles of

the program and the proud tradition of the BCRB. At the centre of the wordmark is a pair of H's that underscore the brand's meaning. The stacked nature of the double-H quite literally resembles a road or bridge, symbolizing infrastructure and the program's commitment to the upkeep and expansion of the province's vital transportation networks. However, the workmark also takes on the form of a career ladder, symbolizing opportunity. This emphasizes the program's central objective: to empower individuals to take control of their careers within the road building

and maintenance industry. It serves as a visual representation of the pathways to professional growth and advancement offered by The RoadShow.

The integration of these two symbols demonstrates the program's ability to build a bridge between the road building and maintenance sector and the talented individuals seeking to drive their careers forward. As The RoadShow gets ready to embark on its journey in 2024, it invites all aspiring individuals to join in, explore exciting job opportunities, and take the wheel of their career path.



Wellness is more than just physical, and BCRB is committed to supporting our people in every area of life. That's why we offer a mental wellness program—available free-of-charge to all BCRB & HCA member companies. Our program is designed for the sector, so it delivers actionable information in easy-to-access and relatable ways. With a proven track record in supporting our members, we have extensive and highly-relevant expertise.

The program delivers monthly digital resources with theme-specific materials, including:

- Multiple short educational pieces
- Multiple toolbox talks
- Site posters
- An engaging, self-paced online course, delivering informative multimedia content, including practical tips and links to other resources.

When it comes to mental illness and mental health struggles, we know it isn't always comfortable to speak up. But no one has to suffer alone. We want all our people to have the support they need to be healthy and safe both physically and mentally. If you're curious about learning more or want to sign up, contact us at wellness@roadbuilders.bc.ca, call 604.436.0220, or [visit the webpage](#).

UPCOMING BCRB & HCA EVENTS

WINTER AGM AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

December 7 - 9, 2023

Hosted in Victoria at the beautiful Fairmont Empress Hotel and Victoria Conference Centre from December 7 - 9, 2023.



MEET IN MAUI 2024

February 3 - 9, 2024

Join us in Maui for the BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association Meet In Maui Conference February 3-9, 2024, and experience the perfect blend of business and pleasure in paradise. Following the wildfires in August, respectful travel to the accessible areas of Maui is welcomed and encouraged, now more than ever.



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