

SUMMER 2025
THE VOICE

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Kumi Arumugam (Mainroad Group); **Vanessa Werden** (JML LLP); **Honourable Mike Farnworth** (Minister of Transportation & Transit); **Peter Ashcroft** (Mainroad Group); **Kelly Scott** (BCRB)

| LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



There's something about the arrival of summer that always brings a renewed sense of motion. Whether it's families packing the car for a road trip or crews mobilizing for a season of construction, the roads of British Columbia come alive this time of year.

One major project worth highlighting is the work underway along Highway 1. Investments like this not only improve travel corridors and safety for the public, but also provide critical opportunities for our members—from paving and grading to traffic management and materials supply. These projects show the value of collaboration and the importance of a skilled, responsive industry ready to deliver.

While we focus on building infrastructure today, we're also working hard to invest in the next generation of workers who will carry this industry forward. This summer marks the final tour of the RoadShow program, which has brought interactive simulators, technology,

and career conversations directly into BC classrooms and communities. Its success is a clear sign that when participants get the chance to connect with our work firsthand, it makes a lasting impression.

That momentum continues with the launch of Honour the Work, an exciting new program that brings trades education into elementary schools. By pairing hands-on activities with the BC curriculum, we're helping young students discover the vital roles that construction professionals play in shaping their communities. Paired with the expansion of the Heavy Equipment Operator program, these efforts are helping students turn early curiosity into meaningful career paths.

Thank you to everyone contributing to the success of these initiatives. Whether you're mentoring students, managing crews, or driving innovation on-site, you're helping ensure that British Columbia's road building industry remains strong, future-ready, and built to last.

Sincerely,

MATT PITCAIRN

President

BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

RECAP: SUMMER GOLF TOURNAMENTS

We teed off the 2025 season in style with two standout events that blended competitive spirit and classic summer fun. Thank you to all those who attended the 54th Annual Spring Charity Golf Tournament and the BCRB Summer Roadshow Classic.

Once again hosted at the stunning Northview Golf & Country Club, this year's Spring Charity Golf Tournament brought together longtime members and new faces to support BC Children's Hospital and the Betty Spalton Scholarship Fund. Kamloops hosted the first-ever Summer Roadshow Classic, bringing the BCRB's signature energy to a brand-new format. Thank you to the member companies who made these events possible through sponsorships.

Congratulations to the winners:

Spring Charity Golf Tournament

Ridge Course

Score 62

Tyler Johnston-Watson

Jake Klassen

Troy Walsh

Matt Cote

Canal Course

Score 62

Kyle Stevens

Mike Hill

Scott Gogel

Rob Dial



BCRB Summer Roadshow Classic

Lowest Score Team

Sean Wutke

Brian Butzelaar

Harrison Clegg

54TH ANNUAL SPRING CHARITY

GOLF TOURNAMENT
NORTHVIEW GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
MAY 9, 2025



BCRB SUMMER ROADSHOW CLASSIC

GOLF TOURNAMENT
THE DUNES AT KAMLOOPS
JUNE 20, 2025

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WOMEN PAVING THE WAY



The Women in Road Building (WiRB) Committee hosted two inspiring events this season, continuing its mission to build a strong, connected community of women in the industry.



Virtual Breakfast Seminar

WiRB kicked off the spring with its inaugural Virtual Breakfast Seminar, welcoming Paula Cousins, Associate Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, as the keynote speaker. Paula shared her journey as a leader in the public infrastructure sector, offering insight into the unique challenges she's faced and overcome along the way. Her thoughtful remarks touched on:

- Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and anxiety in leadership
- Redefining success in a demanding industry
- Setting healthy boundaries to balance work and life
- Leading with authenticity
- Creating a lasting impact for the next generation of women in transportation

Over 180 individuals registered to attend this inspiring session. It was a promising start to what we hope will become an ongoing series of WiRB-led conversations.

BrewPub Night - Kamloops

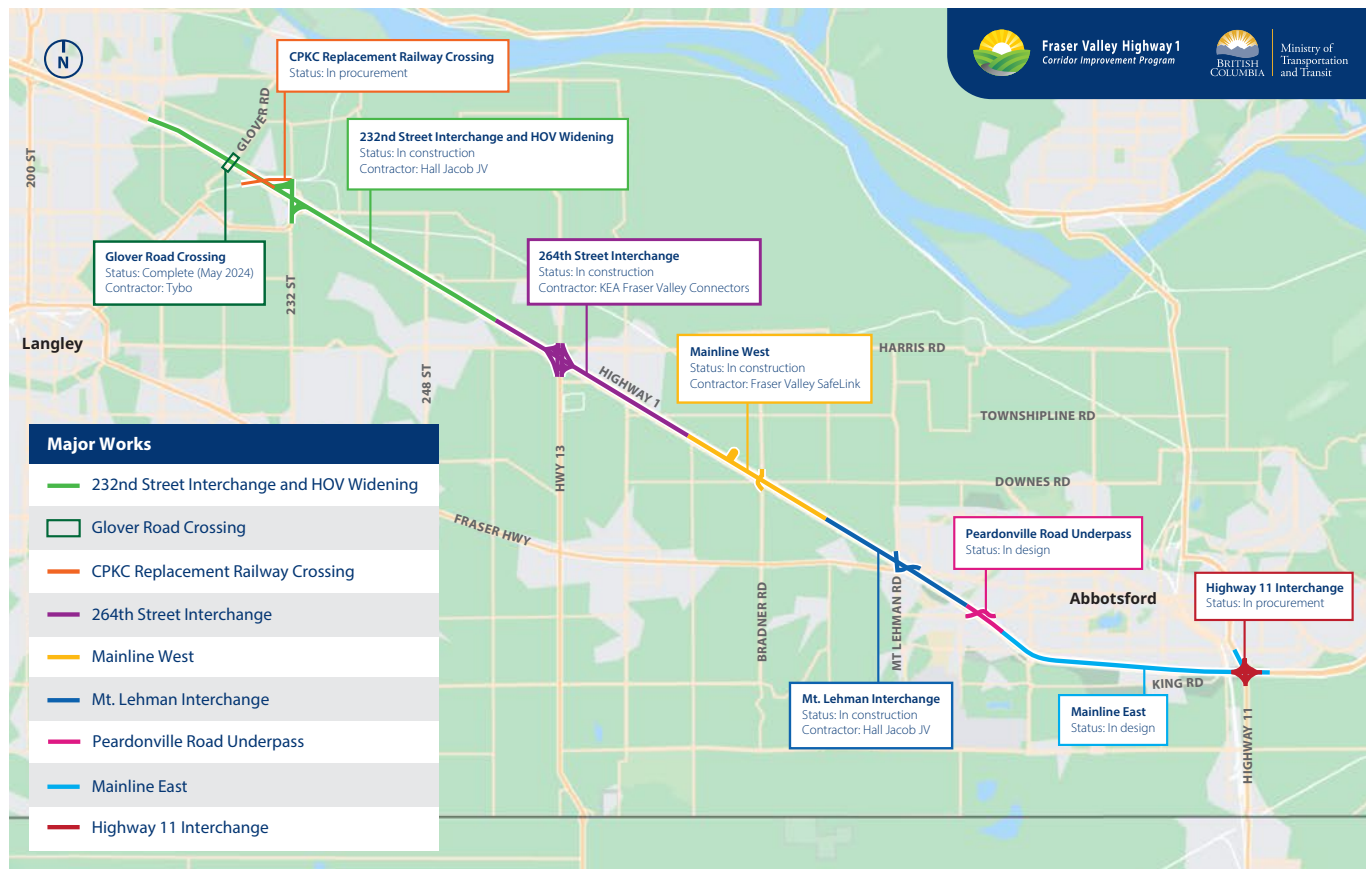
In June, the committee hosted the first BrewPub Night at Underbelly BrewPub in Kamloops. Attendees enjoyed an evening of good food, cold drinks, and great conversation, connecting with colleagues and celebrating community. The event was nearly sold out, with over 80 attendees. After such an exciting success, WiRB is already planning the next BrewPub night!

A special thank you to event sponsors Cutting Edge Consulting, Mainroad Group East Kootenay, Okanagan Aggregates, and ARGO Road Maintenance for making the night possible.

From thoughtful discussions to casual connections, WiRB is creating more space for women in the industry to share, grow, and support one another. We look forward to many events to come!



FRASER VALLEY HWY 1 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: BUILDING BETTER, TOGETHER



As the Fraser Valley continues to grow at a record pace, the need for critical highway infrastructure is more urgent than ever. To meet this challenge, the Province of British Columbia launched the Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Program—a multi-phase initiative aimed at expanding capacity, improving safety, enhancing goods movement and supporting long-term mobility on Highway 1.

Meeting the Needs of a Growing Region

This project stretches more than 40 kilometres—from 216th Street in Langley through to Highway 11 in Abbotsford and on to Chilliwack. With an estimated total investment of over \$5 billion, the program is designed to address the needs of one of the fastest-growing regions in the province, where more than 80,000 vehicles travel the corridor daily, including \$1.5 billion worth of goods moved every day.

The program spans four major phases and includes extensive highway widening, upgrades to interchanges, new structure construction, and transportation infrastructure improvements, including multi-modal. Work is being delivered through multiple contracts with contributions from local, regional, and national construction firms, supported by subcontractors and suppliers across British Columbia.

The need for these improvements is driven by four key priorities: reducing congestion, improving safety, supporting economic development, and accommodating rapid population growth. With the Fraser Valley's population expanding and traffic volumes steadily increasing, the corridor has seen growing pressure. The upgrades will not only improve safety and reliability but also strengthen the region's economic backbone by enhancing the movement of goods. In addition, the program includes investments in climate resiliency, active transportation options, and integrated development to support the creation of more connected, livable communities.



A joint venture between two of BC's well-respected construction firms, Hall Group of Companies and Jacob Bros Construction (HJJV), has taken on two major Program contracts: the 232nd Street Interchange and HOV Widening Project and the Mt Lehman Road Interchange Project.

A BC-Built Partnership

Rooted in the same values of integrity, innovation, and community, Hall and Jacob Bros found natural synergy as partners. As both companies bring decades of experience delivering complex infrastructure projects in British Columbia, their alignment on culture and execution has allowed the joint venture to thrive.

"This partnership works because we're both committed to building smarter, safer, and stronger communities," says Chad Tenney, Executive Vice President and COO of Hall Group of Companies. "Our combined people power, experience, and fleet make us uniquely equipped for this scale of work—and we're proud it's happening right here in BC."

Scott Jacob, President of Jacob Bros Construction, agrees. "The trust between our teams has enabled us to move quickly, adapt when needed, and lean into each other's strengths. That's why this joint venture has worked so well—it's built on respect and results."



Engineering Success under Pressure

The 232nd Street Interchange and HOV Widening Project has been technically demanding, with work that includes culvert and pavement removals, extensive roadworks and drainage, EPS lightweight fills, wildlife crossings, and the construction of a significant 2.7m x 2.1m concrete box culvert. Critical highway features such as noise walls, overhead signage, temporary detours, and precast barriers add complexity to the schedule.



Despite early challenges, including unseasonably wet weather, complex deep pile conditions, and tight preload removal timelines, HJJV hit the ground running and has consistently delivered on aggressive schedule milestones. Early risk identification and a bold mitigation strategy—developed in close partnership with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT)—were pivotal in maintaining momentum.

“We worked hand-in-hand with the Ministry to develop a practical plan that respected both the project timeline and technical constraints,” says Bryan Hall, President and CEO of Hall Group of Companies. “That kind of collaboration is what makes projects like this possible.”

Overcoming Mountains

With Mt Lehman Road Interchange Project, the joint venture is delivering a complete widening of the underpass from three lanes to five, while also undertaking seismic retrofits of multiple key structures including Fraser Highway East and West underpasses.

The scope here also includes Fishtrap Creek bridges, multi-use pathways, storm drainage and environmental controls, site restoration, and the installation and removal of extensive temporary detours.

Once again, day and night work has been required to meet demanding deadlines—and again, the weather

has made things difficult. In particular, February 2025's record rains challenged crews working around sensitive ecosystems and third-party utility protections. Further complexity has come from elongated settlement periods on preload embankments and rigorous specification enforcement from MOTT representatives.

Yet even amid these constraints, the HJJV team continues to find a path forward.

"The Ministry has held us to a high standard—and rightfully so," says Jacob. "We've worked hard to meet those expectations while also communicating openly when a design or spec simply isn't feasible in the field. That mutual respect is what leads to long-term project success."

A Model for Collaboration

Hall-Jacob JV has proven that two companies working in lockstep can accomplish more than either could alone. The partnership has not only generated significant employment for the region, it has also driven local economic benefits, procured from BC-based suppliers, and engaged community stakeholders to

keep the public informed and supported throughout construction.

And none of it would be possible without the strong working relationship with the province's transportation leaders.

"We want to acknowledge the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the regional project teams," adds Tenney. "They've been responsive, collaborative, and open to solutions. Projects of this magnitude don't get built without alignment—and this has truly been a team effort."

Building Legacy Infrastructure

The work being delivered by Hall and Jacob Bros is laying the foundation for a safer, more efficient Highway 1, while showcasing the power of local expertise, joint venture collaboration, and public-private alignment. The Fraser Valley Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Program is a complex undertaking, but it's setting a benchmark for how local companies can work together to tackle major public infrastructure and build the future of BC.



BETTER BENEFITS. SMARTER RATES. WE ENSURE YOU GET THE BEST VALUE.

Great benefits attract and keep top talent, which is why we offer an excellent package to our member companies.



WHY BCRB BENEFITS?

- Pooled benefits
- Protection from high claims
- Fully customizable plans
- Expert third-party administration
- Negotiating power and expert advice
- Retirement plans for owners and employees

We partner with ICBA Benefits to ensure you get the best value for your money while taking care of your workers and their families. Unlike other industry group benefits, we provide personalized broker representation, reinvestment in member programs, and industry advocacy and support.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Group health, dental, and retirement benefits at competitive rates
- A dedicated Wellness Coordinator
- Performance reviews of existing benefits plans to find cost-saving solutions

Invest in your people and in your association. Join the BC Road Builders Group Benefits Program to give your team access to competitive group benefits, expert support, and long-term value while strengthening your industry.

"The team at ICBA Benefits continues to exceed our expectations - our decision to work with them has been very prudent."

**-Scott Jacob, President and CEO,
Jacob Bros Construction**



THE NEXT GENERATION

Across British Columbia, the construction industry is tackling a growing challenge: the need to inspire and train the next generation of skilled tradespeople. Fortunately, industry leaders and educators are coming together to take action. Programs like Honour the Work, the Heavy Equipment Operator Program, and The Roadshow are offering meaningful opportunities for young British Columbians to discover trades careers early, gain practical experience, and build confidence in their future.

Early Exposure through Education

This spring, a new initiative called Honour the Work is bringing skilled trades into the spotlight for BC's youngest learners. Designed for elementary students in grades one to six, the program uses hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activity kits to connect classroom learning with real-world applications in the skilled trades.

Each STEAM kit includes instructional materials, building supplies, lesson plans, and videos aligned with the BC curriculum. They offer teachers an easy and engaging way to introduce students to careers in construction through problem-solving, technical skills, teamwork, and creativity.

Angela Coldwell, a former teacher and founder of Honour the Work, designed the program to foster career awareness early and to ensure students of all backgrounds could see themselves contributing to their communities through meaningful, skilled work.



COURTESY BCCA – **Chris Atchison**, president, BCCA, (left), **Heather Elliot**, acting vice-principal of career education, School District #33, and **Matt Pitcairn**, president, BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association

"Honour the Work is about exposing both students and educators to career pathways they've never seen or considered before," says Coldwell. "The program demystifies skilled trades and helps position them as the STEAM-based, essential careers they truly are."

Honour the Work not only makes trades visible to young students, but also helps counter outdated perceptions of construction careers. When elementary students learn about community helpers, they often think of first responders but rarely consider the skilled tradespeople who build and maintain the spaces those workers rely on. Honour the Work aims to highlight these behind-the-scenes heroes and show that trades careers are not "alternatives" to college or university—they are viable, respected, and rewarding career paths in their own right.

"Our goal is to normalize skilled trades and apprenticeships as equal, respected post-secondary options," Coldwell says. "In ten years, I hope to see Honour the Work aligned with every provincial curriculum and industry members supporting classrooms across the country."



Program Success in Chilliwack

School District 33 in Chilliwack became the first in BC to pilot Honour the Work, and the program has been off to a strong start.

"Teachers have been extremely positive, seeing the program as a supplement to make things better in their classroom and provide different opportunities for kids," says Heather Elliott, District Coordinator for ADST & Career Transitions K-12 for Chilliwack School District 33. "In one lesson, you can cover multiple content areas—hands-on learning, social studies, and literacy connections. And the kids are excited—I actually just got some pictures this morning from a classroom teacher, and the kids all look pretty excited wearing their little hard hats."

While the pilot is still underway and will conclude at the end of the school year, the early response from both educators and students has been encouraging. Classroom teachers and administrators have welcomed the opportunity to integrate trades education into their curriculum, and feedback collected at the end of the term will help inform next steps.

The British Columbia Construction Association, in collaboration with the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association, has already started planning a fundraising campaign to support a broader rollout, with the goal of expanding the program to 500 classrooms and reaching over 21,000 students province-wide. The momentum is there, and with continued support, Honour the Work is well positioned to grow.

From the Classroom to the Cab

For high school students, the Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) program provides an opportunity for training and an early start in construction careers. Initially offered through the Abbotsford School District and supported by BC Road Builders member companies, the program includes classroom instruction on equipment safety and operation, followed by hands-on experience with excavators, loaders, and other heavy machinery.

"What brought me to the program was some teachers and my advocates around the school who brought this program to light," says Keenan, a program participant. "And now that I'm in it, I realize how good of an opportunity it is."

Building on its success in the Fraser Valley, the HEO Program is now expanding into Kelowna through a partnership between School District 23, Thompson Rivers University, and Emil Anderson Construction. This new offering brings the same proven mix



of classroom learning and hands-on equipment training to students in the Okanagan, giving them access to real machinery, certified instruction, and a direct pathway into the industry.

"It's not straight from the high school learning process to a post-secondary learning process," Keenan shares. "It's kind of like a good wedge in the middle to get you transitioned over into real life and real-life scenarios."

Students graduate with a deeper understanding of what it takes to work in construction and are well-positioned to pursue apprenticeships or post-secondary training in road building or civil construction.

Bringing Opportunities Across BC

If Honour the Work is where the conversation begins and the HEO Program is where hands meet controls, the RoadShow is where the excitement comes to life.

Launched as a mobile outreach experience, the RoadShow is a custom-designed 34-foot trailer that travels to schools, career fairs, and community events across British Columbia. Its goal is to connect with individuals where they are, bringing the construction industry directly to them.

Inside the RoadShow trailer, participants step into an immersive learning environment featuring high-tech simulators and virtual reality experiences that replicate real-world road building scenarios. Students can test their skills on heavy equipment controls, explore interactive displays, and gain a firsthand feel for careers in construction.

Throughout its year-long tour, the RoadShow has received enthusiastic responses from students, educators, and parents. For many young people, it is the first time they have experienced the possibility of a career in construction. The hands-on format removes the guesswork and makes the trades feel both real and attainable. It also supports inclusion by reaching students in remote or underserved communities where opportunities for career exploration may be limited.

Building a Stronger Workforce

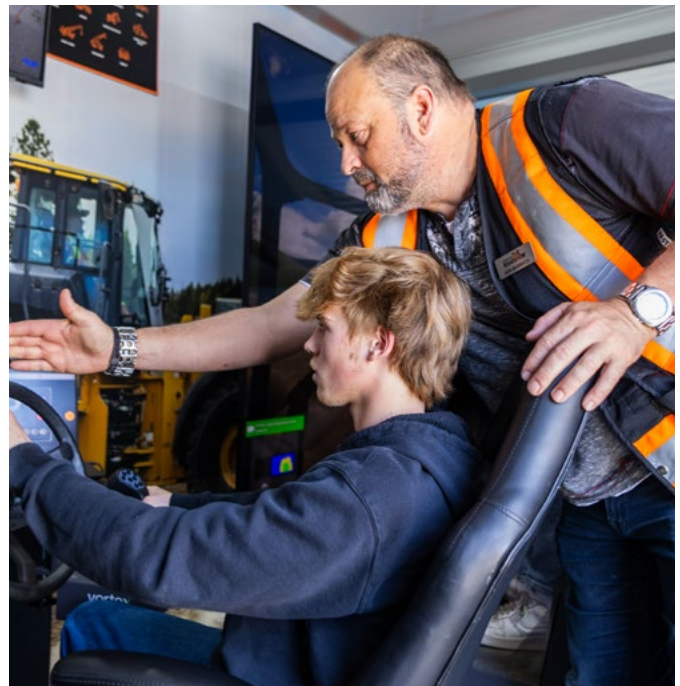
Together, Honour the Work, the HEO Program, and the Roadshow form a comprehensive strategy for engaging young people and introducing them to careers in construction.

These initiatives are also the product of extensive collaboration. The BCCA, BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association, educators, employers, and local governments have worked together to create a full continuum of learning and development, from primary school to post-secondary training and employment.

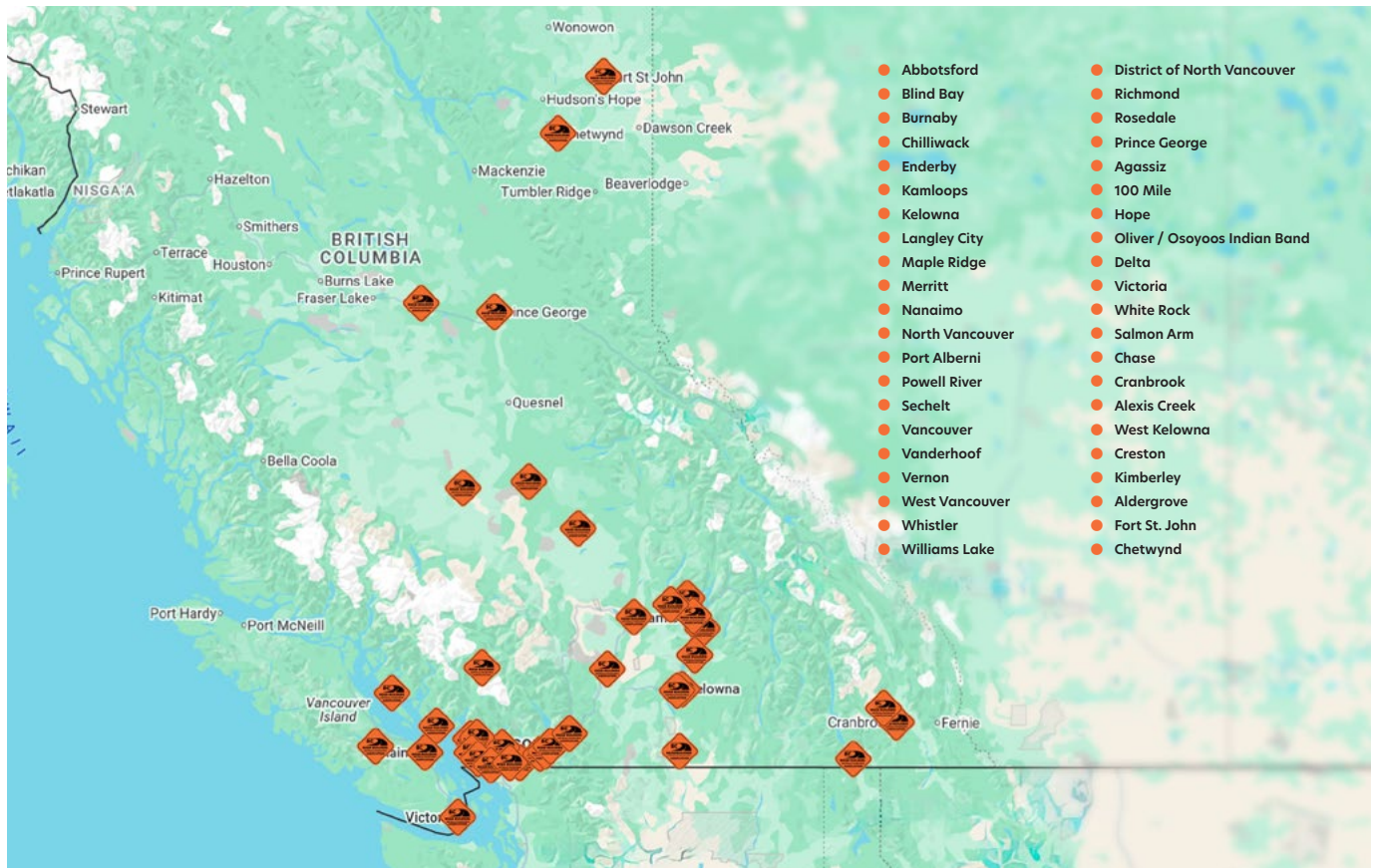
"We're thrilled that students can engage with the road building industry during their educational years," said Matt Pitcairn, President of the BC Road Builders. "One of the major goals of the RoadShow program is to bring more young people into the industry, and these initiatives pave the way for a new generation of skilled operators."

With tens of thousands of construction and trades workers expected to retire in the coming decade, British Columbia needs a skilled, diverse, and motivated workforce to meet future infrastructure needs. Programs like these are proving to be effective in addressing the challenge.

Students are discovering that the skilled trades offer purpose, opportunity, and a real chance to shape the world around them. From the classroom to the construction site, these programs are ensuring that BC's next generation is ready to build the province's future.



ROADSHOW RECAP: MAPPING OUR PROGRESS ACROSS THE PROVINCE





CANADIAN CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION INNOVATION AWARD



Enviro-Ex Contracting Ltd. has been recognized with the Canadian Construction Association's (CCA) 2024 Excellence in Innovation Award for their outstanding work on the Highway 97 Cottonwood Hill Phase Two Slide project. This project addressed significant geotechnical challenges, setting new benchmarks for efficiency, safety, and environmental responsibility in heavy civil construction.

The Cottonwood Hill project, located 18 kilometres north of Quesnel, BC, is part of the Cariboo Road Recovery Projects. Enviro-Ex was awarded a \$12.6-million contract to realign a section of Highway 97 and remove material from the top of an active landslide area, with the goal of stabilizing the road on this historic landslide site.

To tackle the project's complexities, Enviro-Ex integrated advanced technologies, including Propeller Aero's DirtMate GPS system and drone-

enabled monitoring. This approach allowed for real-time tracking of earthworks and equipment, enhancing decision-making and safety. Drones equipped with high-resolution cameras provided aerial imagery and 3D modelling, offering critical insights into slide behavior and earthwork progress.



William Hoban, President of Enviro-Ex, stated, "Working in geotechnically complex environments along vital corridors like Highway 97 and the CN Railway demands precise, real-time hazard monitoring. By integrating DirtMate and drone technology with conventional survey methods, we were able to convert live data into informed, immediate decisions—significantly enhancing both worker and public safety."

Enviro-Ex takes pride in leading innovation in civil construction. "Our team's ability to identify, adapt, and apply technologies like DirtMate in the field enabled us to maintain safety, stay on schedule, and deliver exceptional project outcomes," said Hoban.

The project not only improved operational efficiency but also minimized environmental impacts by reducing unnecessary material movement and optimizing resource use.

"Receiving the CCA Award for Innovation is a tremendous honour and a meaningful recognition of our team's forward-thinking approach," said Hoban. "This award is a testament to the entire team—those who sourced the technology, brought it into practice, and made it work on the ground."

Enviro-Ex's achievement exemplifies the transformative impact of integrating advanced technology into construction practices, paving the way for safer, smarter infrastructure development across Canada.



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS



Bank of Montreal - Equipment Finance

For those companies that need a fast, and experienced financing partner to help acquire or refinance equipment, BMO Equipment Finance provides credit facilities to finance equipment for businesses in various Canadian industries, including manufacturing, construction, agriculture, food processing, transportation, medical and technology, among others.



DWB Consulting Services Ltd.

Since 1990, this BC-based firm has delivered engineering, environmental, and forestry services through a trusted team of multidisciplinary professionals. With a team of PAGs, RPFs, RFTs, CPESCs, ASCTs, and RBTechs, they bring diverse expertise to every project.



Green Infrastructure Partners Inc.

Green Infrastructure Partners Inc. brings more than 50 years of experience and one of the most diverse infrastructure portfolios in the country, as well as a reputation for delivering vertically integrated solutions for projects of every scale.



JCB

Founded in 1945, JCB changed the game with the invention of the backhoe loader. Now with 22 plants, 750 dealers, and over seven decades of experience, they're a global force in manufacturing.



Nucor Rebar Fabrication

Nucor Corporation is North America's largest steel producer and recycler. With over 50 years of industry leadership, Nucor has transformed the steel landscape through innovation and a commitment to excellence. Their pioneering use of electric arc furnace technology and dedication to sustainable practices have set new standards in steel manufacturing.



Stuart Hunt & Associates

Stuart Hunt & Associates Ltd. specialize in radiation safety services, including training, equipment calibration, and regulatory support, serving various industries across Canada.



Van-Ed Equipment

Van-Ed has been known as "The Contractor's Friend" since 1987, offering a wide range of heavy-duty excavator attachments and specialty equipment. With over 150 years of combined industry experience, their team provides top-tier solutions for construction, demolition, and recycling projects across BC.



2025 FALL CONFERENCE

The 2025 Fall Conference will be held September 14-16 2025, at the Westin Resort & Spa in Whistler, BC. Delegates can look forward to developing professional relationships while gaining a better outlook and understanding of industry trends. The conference provides excellent opportunities for networking, golf, and relaxation.

The conference kicks off on Sunday, September 14, with the BCRB Fall Open Golf Tournament at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler Golf Club, followed by an "Experience Whistler" Welcome Reception. On Monday, September 15, delegates can look forward to several keynote sessions with topics from the Women in Road Building Committee and Ministry of Transportation and Transit, followed by the BC Road Builders' Fall Classic Golf Tournament at Nicklaus North. The day concludes with the ever-popular Reverse Draw, where one person will walk away with \$5,000!

The conference concludes on Tuesday with a keynote session from BC industry leaders, moderated by Jas Johal with Keith Baldrey, with panelists from BC Hydro, Infrastructure BC, MOTT, Port of Vancouver and TransLink.

[Registration is open now.](#)

2025 AGM & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

December 4-6, 2025

The BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association's 59th Annual General Meeting & Holiday Celebrations will once again be held at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, December 4-6, 2025.

We continue the great tradition of once again hosting: the Leaders Luncheon, BC Museum Grand Reception, MOTT's Contractor of the Year awards, the Gala Jingle Bell Ball and of course, a visit from Santa for the Family Brunch.

Stay tuned for more details!





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