

BC Society of Engineering and Geoscience

Letter from the Chair

December 23, 2024

Dear Community Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As the Board Chair of the BC Society of Engineering and Geoscience (“BCSEG”), I am excited to take this opportunity to update you on our progress, share some of our achievements, and offer a glimpse into what the future holds for our society.

How We Got Here

- **Introduction of BCSEG:** BCSEG is a newly established independent advocacy organization for the engineering and geoscience professions in British Columbia. Its creation was driven by the enactment of the Professional Governance Act (“PGA”) on February 5, 2021, which introduced a regulatory framework for self-regulating professions, including engineering and geoscience. The PGA clarified that the regulatory body, Engineers and Geoscientists BC (“EGBC”), should focus solely on professional regulation, rather than activities such as advocacy or member benefits.
- **Rationale for Establishing BCSEG:** In 2022, the EGBC Board of Directors recognized the need for a dedicated advocacy body to assume responsibility for advocacy and member benefit programs, which would otherwise be discontinued. This initiative was supported by initial seed funding of \$250,000 from EGBC and the formation of a volunteer inaugural Board of Directors, selected by an independent steering committee.
- **Formation of the BCSEG Board:** The BCSEG Board was officially formed in October 2023 and immediately set to work on establishing the foundational framework for the new society. The society was formally incorporated on April 25, 2024.
- **Independence and Ongoing Collaboration with EGBC:** While BCSEG received initial seed funding from EGBC, it operates as an independent entity, governed by its own bylaws and membership categories. Although BCSEG is autonomous, it remains committed to collaborating with EGBC in advancing excellence within the engineering and geoscience professions in British Columbia.

Our Shared Values

- **Expert:** We have the experience to elevate others, providing people with the training to achieve career excellence. We apply scientific principles to address real-life challenges from climate change to the housing crisis. We provide insight that empowers people to make meaningful contributions in their communities.
- **Bold:** We are here to be loud. To make change. To lead on behalf of the professionals we represent, actively engaging in public dialogue and advocating for progress. We highlight the diverse people to ensure our collective voice is heard. Our presence is felt through action as we consistently push the industry forward.
- **Passionate:** We are a confident group of highly trained professionals. Fueled by a purpose to drive positive societal impact, we bring dedication to each aspect of our society. Our care and curiosity breeds creativity and we are motivated by new ideas and their potential to improve systems and elevate standards.
- **Approachable:** We are accessible to those looking for support or camaraderie because inclusivity is paramount. We welcome people from any background, equity-deserving group and discipline. Our Society is a connection point, where we translate topics across different audiences and remind people of our common motivations.

Key Milestones

Since our launch, we have made significant strides toward fulfilling our mission. Some of our key accomplishments include:

- **Secured Funding:** In addition to the initial seed funding of \$250,000 provided by EGBC in 2023, BCSEG received a further \$500,000 in October 2024. This funding was allocated following the approval of Motion 2 at the 2023 EGBC Annual General Meeting, which requested that the EGBC Board consider providing a larger seed fund to support the new advocacy body. The funds are designated for reasonable expenses associated with the transfer of existing programs and for budgeting initial staffing requirements. The motion was carried.
- **Brand Development:** BCSEG has partnered with WILL Creative, a Vancouver-based creative agency specializing in developing visual identities and launching brands for new organizations. Recognizing the significance of a strong initial impression, BCSEG engaged WILL Creative to ensure that our launch would effectively convey our professionalism and establish a compelling visual presence from day one.

- **Program Evaluation:** BCSEG conducted a comprehensive evaluation of EGBC programs identified for transition. The results of this evaluation, combined with insights from engagement surveys, were used to propose key focus areas and future program initiatives for BCSEG.
- **Bank accounts and Investment Strategy:** BCSEG has established an independent banking system, enabling us to process client payments and prepare for future membership transactions. Additionally, we have conducted thorough research into various investment strategies to optimize returns on our income and strategically leverage interest to support our financial planning and establish our fiscal responsibility.

These milestones mark the beginning of our journey, and we are proud of the progress we have made with the support of our community, volunteers, and early members.

What's Coming Next

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future and the potential to grow and make an even greater impact. Here are some initiatives we are focused on:

- **Hiring of Executive Director and Support Staff:** BCSEG formed a working group, which engaged the services of Leaders International to lead the search for a qualified Executive Director. The position attracted a strong pool of highly qualified candidates, and after a thorough interview process, we are in the final stages of extending an offer to a candidate who we believe will bring the necessary skills, energy, and passion to drive BCSEG's success.
- **Adoption of Branches:** Following ongoing engagement with EGBC and Branch representatives throughout 2024, BCSEG has established a Branches Working Group and is preparing for the official launch of Branches within BCSEG in January 2025, contingent upon the finalization of membership bylaws. BCSEG is collaborating with EGBC to facilitate the transfer of remaining funds from each existing Branch account to BCSEG. During this transition period, a provisional budget has been allocated to ensure the continuity of Branch events with minimal disruption. Branch leadership representatives will be invited to actively contribute to the creation of a dedicated profile page for their respective Branches on the BCSEG website, ensuring visibility and engagement within the broader BCSEG community.
- **Transfer of Affinity Programs:** The majority of affinity programs previously managed by EGBC have now been transferred to BCSEG. Members can visit our website to explore the latest offerings, including those from Marsh and other partners. Additionally, BCSEG is actively exploring potential new partnerships to expand and enhance the services available to our members.

- **Launch of Membership Platform & Fee Structure:** BCSEG is collaborating with a strategic partner to launch our enhanced public-facing website and member portal in early 2025. The finalization of membership categories and pricing is underway, with the intention to offer broader membership opportunities compared to EGBC.
- **Development of Continuing Education Platform:** BCSEG has engaged in discussions with several groups and providers to develop our Continuing Education Program (CEP), including external organizations with established geoscience and engineering content. The platform to host this program is currently under active development, with plans to introduce the first content in Q1 2025 and continue expanding the offerings throughout the year.
- **Transfer of Career Advertising:** BCSEG is developing the platform and infrastructure to support a job board for our members. We are working closely with EGBC to facilitate the transfer of this function in the first half of 2025.
- **Building of Communications Strategy and developing what BCSEG's advocacy role will be:** As previously mentioned, BCSEG has partnered with WILL Creative design group to develop a professionally designed, branded website. Once operational, we plan to gather input from our members to help shape and refine our advocacy strategies moving forward.

These efforts will not only help us expand our reach but will also empower us to create lasting change in the areas we care most about.

How You Can Get Involved

Our work would not be possible without the support of individuals like you. We invite you to become part of our journey by:

- **Become a Member:** As BCSEG continues to grow, your participation as a member will be crucial in providing support and influencing the future direction of the organization. We are expanding our membership categories to include a broader range of individuals connected to the fields of engineering and geoscience.
- **Volunteer:** As we continue to execute our programs and projects, BCSEG will rely on the support of passionate volunteers. Whether you can contribute a few hours or are interested in a more substantial role, there will be opportunities for you to make a meaningful impact. Volunteer opportunities will be posted on our website beginning in early 2025.
- **Spread the Word:** BCSEG is establishing its social media presence, including posts on platforms like LinkedIn which can then be shared. Our success will be driven by the active participation and engagement of our members.

Thank You

As we reflect on the progress we've made so far, we are immensely grateful for the support and trust of our engineering and geoscience community.

We look forward to achieving even greater things in the year ahead and hope that you will be there with us, supporting and participating in this exciting journey.

On behalf of the BCSEG Board of Directors, we wish you all the best for the holidays and the new year,



Andrew Randell, P.Geo

Board Chair

BC Society of Engineering and Geoscience

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