



Canadian Geotechnical Society
Société canadienne de géotechnique

2016 Annual Committee Report

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Committee Name: Professional Practice Committee

Section 1: General

Date of report: July 14, 2016

Prepared by: J. Suzanne Powell, Ph.D., P.Eng.

Committee Chair: J. Suzanne Powell, Ph.D., P.Eng.

End of Committee Chair's Term: December 31, 2017

Committee's CGS web page address: http://www.cgs.ca/committees_professional_practice.php?lang=en

Last time your Committee's CGS web page was updated: Fall 2015

If your Committee has a separate website please provide address:

Is there a link to the CGS website?:

1) What is the mission statement, or main purpose, of your Committee?

The Professional Practice Committee's current mandate as stated on our webpage is:

- A) To Highlight and Educate CGS Members on Professional Practice Issues Facing Geoprosessionals.
- B) Communicate CGS's views on issues relevant to "Geoprosessionals" belonging to the society, and
- C) To address other aspects of professional practice that are of interest or concern to society members.

However, the PPC's mandate as shown in the CGS Handbook is as follows:

- a) To liaise with professional bodies and report back to the society on the activities, and
- b) Communicate CGS's views on issues relevant to "Geoprosessionals" belonging to the society, and
- c) To address other aspects of Professional Practice that are of interest or concern to society members.

2) List one, or two or three (or more) specific things that your Committee will be working on, or wishes to accomplish, during the next CGS year (July 1, 2016 to June 31, 2017).

- Revisit and possibly revise the mandate of the PPC.
 - PPC is working to develop a survey to be sent out to the CGS membership. The survey will be used to determine if the PPC mandate reflects the current needs and interest of the CGS membership and whether any revision should be undertaken.
- Promotion and possible re-branding of the PPC.
 - The PPC has struggled in the past to attract members. Through informal conversations with CGS members we have found that many CGS members are not aware of the PPC or what its mandate is. The PPC is working towards developing initiatives to change this which may work in conjunction with a revised mandate.
 - In conjunction with this we are looking to add addition content to our webpage such as links to other processional bodies such as the Geo-Institute, ACEC, GBA (Formerly ASFE) and/or links to resources such as online case studies with other organizations that that CGS could benefit from and may not be aware of.
- Finalize sessions for the GeoVancouver Conference and plan for the 2017 conference
 - We currently have two sessions planned for GeoVancouver – we are just waiting for final confirmation of our slots from the GeoVancouver organizing committee to finalize the details:

- Neil Abbott (Gowlings LLP) is to give a talk entitled “Speak like an engineer; think like a lawyer.....how to write expert reports for all legal occasions”. Neil is only available on October 5th to give the talk so we are hopeful this can be accommodated by GeoVancouver.
- Our second session is a joint session with the Engineering Geology Division on Engineering Geology in Canada. The scope is to highlight Engineering Geology (Past and Present) and have invited speakers from academia and industry discuss their experiences.

Section 2: Current (as of June 30, 2016) Executive Committee Members and their Affiliations (employers or, if students, universities)

Chair: J. Suzanne Powell, Thurber Engineering Ltd.

Past Chair: Kent Bannister, TREK Geotechnical Inc.

Vice Chair:

Secretary:

Members: Yves Cormier, Roger Skirrow, James Blatz, Rodney McAfee, Bob Patrick, Pierre Boulanger, Paul Dittrich, Andre Bom, Olaide Ojomo

Section 3: Number of Committee Members (as of June 30, 2016)

Executive Committee Members: 11

Total members: 11

Comments (point form)

- New membership is always welcome.

Section 4: Committee is affiliated with which other organizations

National affiliates and names of CGS representatives:

- N/A

North American affiliates and names of CGS representatives:

- N/A

International affiliates and names of CGS representatives:

- N/A

Section 5: Committee Finances (as of June 30, 2016)

Account Balance: N/A \$

Comments:

- The professional practice committee does not have an operating budget.

Section 6: Committee Activities in past year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

- The PPC held two sessions at the GeoQuebec Conference. Overall the sessions were well received however due to the layout of the conference program a number of members were unaware of when the sessions were being held and as a result missed the sessions unintentionally. The two sessions were:
 - “Commission of inquiry on the awarding and management of public contracts in the construction industry: Lessons from the Quebec Experience” - The presentation was given by Stephane Bilodeau, Eng., Ph.D., FEC, a board member with Engineers Canada.
 - “Why don’t we learn from experience? A simple process for improving your process delivery and profitability” – This talk was given by Robert B. vanArsdall and Wilma Schreuders of XL Insurance.
- The PPC completed a review of the APEGBC’s Professional Practice Guidelines for Site Characterization for Dam Foundations in BC
 - Despite being placed on the initial list of reviewers, the PPC did not receive this document for review until after it had been approved by the APEGBC council. When we did receive the document we were given only a few weeks to provide our review. Two members of the PPC completed were able to

complete the review within the short time frame provided. Angela Küpper also provided some comments on the document. The comments were returned to APEGBC by Doug VanDine on behalf of the CGS.

Section 7: Additional information or comments

The current committee's chair term ends at the end of 2017. However due to the executive position being taken by the current chair beginning in 2017, a new committee chair may be required sooner. This is to be discussed with the current and incoming CGS executive and PPC Members.