

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Vincent Castonguay, Young Professionals Editor



Vincent Castonguay

*Last year, as the CGS Young Professionals Representative, I recommended to the Board of Directors that the society establish a Young Professionals Committee. This year, I'm pleased to report that such a committee has been formed. For this issue, I have asked the inaugural Young Professionals Committee Chair, **Kshama Roy**, to write an article on the new committee. Below, Kshama presents the mission, vision, and future plans for the new committee. He also suggests how you, as an experienced professional or a young professional, can support this initiative.*

*L'an dernier, en tant que Représentant des jeunes professionnels de la SCG, j'ai recommandé au Conseil d'administration que la Société établisse un Comité national des jeunes professionnels. Je suis enchanté d'annoncer que ce comité a été officiellement formé cette année. Pour cette édition de Géotechnique Canadienne, j'ai demandé au Président inaugural du Comité des jeunes professionnels, **Kshama Roy**, d'écrire un article à propos de ce nouveau comité. Kshama présente ci-dessous la mission, la vision et les plans à venir du comité. Il propose aussi comment vous, tant les professionnels d'expérience que les jeunes professionnels, pouvez supporter cette nouvelle initiative.*

À la prochaine, Vincent

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GEOTECHNICAL LEADERS

Kshama Roy

"We agree that the geotechnical landscape is rapidly changing and, for geotechnical professionals to survive and thrive, a solid vision of the future is necessary."

The Canadian Geotechnical Society is founded on the idea that it represents Canadian geotechnical professionals both nationally and internationally, and we are all responsible for the safety of our community, country, and world. When we look at the future of our organization, especially with the changing professional landscape, we see the necessity in investing in young professionals.

To bring together the young professionals (YPs) of our community in an organized forum, the CGS has taken a bold step in forming a new committee called the "CGS Young Professionals Committee". Established in 2022, this committee is a group for early-career individuals in the geotechnical profession. The profession is an integral part of Canada's infrastructure, and the committee is committed to building the next generation of geotechnical leaders for the profession. The committee wishes to expand the CGS offerings for younger members by promoting collaboration between interested parties within and outside the CGS, and by acting as a "think tank" to propose new and innovative ways to interact with YP members.

The vision of the Young Professionals Committee is simple: building the next generations of geotechnical leaders. Based on that vision, our mission is supported by five pillars:

- 1) Network,
- 2) Knowledge,
- 3) Development,
- 4) Collaboration, and
- 5) Impact.

through COLLABORATION with industry, academia, government, and other young professional groups outside CGS; and create an IMPACT by articulating a vision for the future within the changing geotechnical landscape.



The next generation of leaders

The inaugural committee for 2022-2024 is led by myself the Chair, with support from a Vice-Chair (the CGS YP Representative), a Secretary, five leads for five pillars and several members-at-large. Some of the committee members currently in place are the current CGS YP Representative, **Leanne McLaren** (Thurber Engineering), **Silvia Nobre** (Dillon Consulting), **Rajith Dayarathne** (C-CORE), **Naveel Islam** (University of Alberta), **Intisar Farhan Ahmed** (Thurber Engineering), **Kamelia Atefi** (York University), **Chelsea Burdon** (Klohn Crippen Berger), and **Brennan McMullin** (BGC Engineering). We have a diverse committee representing 1) young professionals from industry, academia (including professors and students), 2) both men and women and 3) almost all provinces in Canada.

We agree that the geotechnical landscape is rapidly changing and, for geotechnical professionals to survive



Leanne McLaren, Vice-Chair of the CGS YP Committee, initializing geotechnical instrumentation.

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and thrive, a solid vision of the future is necessary. To tackle this, the committee will prioritize four focus areas: 1) Climate change, 2) Sustainability, 3) Innovation, and 4) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

We want to be the future building blocks of the CGS membership by bringing together new perspectives and creating a place where students and young professionals can acquire information, training, and advice from experienced engineers, and personally connect with the geotechnical community. We want to promote community awareness of the geotechnical profession and develop interest and enthusiasm in this field.

With that being said, as a new committee, we need your help!

To the experienced geotechnical professionals: The committee needs your help both in terms of support, guidance and assistance in developing avenues where we can do amazing things together! In return we can offer to bring the following to the table:

- New ideas that you might not have thought of!
- Current knowledge of technology, a fresh look at the existing processes and future businesses.
- A good dose of new energy.

Think of the Young Professionals Committee as a giant think tank that will bring in new mindsets. The dividends we will bring will grow exponentially the longer you support us.



Intisar Ahmed, a young professional at work

To the young professionals: The committee needs your help in terms of volunteering support and spreading the word. Understanding how the future geotechnical landscape will develop will allow you to grasp the importance of forming an incredible network early in your career.

Please reach out to me or any other committee members if you want to contribute to this exciting new CGS initiative. We envision that this committee will start a conversation where Canadian geotechnical professionals consciously think about the future of the profession and how YPs continue to hold an important place in a society that relies on the integrity and functionality of its infrastructure.



Kshama Roy

Kshama Roy (kshama.roy@dnv.com) is a Principal with DNV Canada Limited in Calgary. He is also an Adjunct Professor at both the University of Manitoba and Memorial University of Newfoundland and is a Sessional Instructor at the Pipeline Engineering Centre at the University of Calgary.



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