

# SCREENINGS



The Publication of the **BC Stone, Sand & Gravel Association**

**SPRING 2020**

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**“A diamond is a chunk of coal  
that did well under pressure”**

**– Henry Kissinger**

**Aggregates Build BC**



## BCSSGA Mission Statement

**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA STONE SAND AND GRAVEL ASSOCIATION** is committed to affordable, sustainable development of BC's aggregate resources, providing information to the public, ongoing input to the province, and maintaining government regulations while fostering positive constructive communications with aggregate industry members and mining related associations across Canada.

## Executive Board 2019/2020

**Tyson Craiggs: President** (Terus Construction)  
**Derek Holmes: Past President** (Holmes Mining Consultants)  
**Dani Miller: Vice President** (Mainland Construction Materials)  
**Dan Allard: 2nd Vice President** (Allard Contractors)  
**Barry McLean: Treasurer** (Valley Gravel Sales Ltd.)

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**Nelson Tome** (Lafarge-Holcim), **Alternate Jeevan Wadhawa**  
**Jeff Adams** (FuelEx Energy Ltd.)  
**Kevin Tokarek** (Lehigh Hanson), **Alternate Mat Kavanagh**  
**Rick Kovach** (Kode Contracting Ltd.)  
**Trevor Isaac** (Westridge Rock Ventures Ltd.)  
**Richard Hannah** (Coast Mountain Resources Ltd.)  
**Brent Palmer** (Mountainside Quarries Group Inc.)

## Current BCSSGA Committees

COMMITTEE NAME	CHAIR
Government Relations	Tyson Craiggs gr@gravelbc.ca
Safety Committee	David Rogalsky safety@gravelbc.ca
Sustainability Committee	Mike McDonald sustainability@gravelbc.ca
Membership Committee	Richard Hannah membership@gravelbc.ca

## Upcoming Dates 2020:

**Details TBA soon**

Virtual AGM

**July 8th**

Coast Hotel, Langley (Pending COVID-19 restrictions)

**September 26th**

Victoria (Location confirmation pending)

**November 18th**

Vancouver, Fasken Offices



## President's Message

Dear Members,

We currently find ourselves in challenging and unprecedented times across the Province, in every community including working in our mine operations. As we face uncertainty, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Executive Director, Derek Holmes, our Office Administrator Victoria Holmes, all of our Committees and our Board of Directors. The hard work these Members are doing every day on your behalf has allowed us to have real influence and real conversation with our government partners on a regular basis. We were successful in having the Aggregate industry deemed an essential service in B.C. by showing not only that our industry is needed in times like these, but they are businesses that can operate efficiently while most importantly keeping workers safe. On behalf of the Board, I would like to also applaud the leadership being shown everyday by those Members in the field as we work through COVID-19 as a Province.

Although we may not be meeting face-to-face anymore to discuss industry issues and concerns with our Government partners, I assure you our Zoom, Skype and Teams meetings online have been very productive. We continue to hear from concerned Members and we are responding and raising their concerns with Government regularly and we will distribute the information to Membership as it becomes available.

While the details of this pandemic vary from Province to Province, one thing that we are finding consistent on the national level, in discussions at our Aggregate Producers Association of Canada meetings, is that here in British Columbia we are doing a good job of managing the crisis and also of continuing to work responsibly during these times so that when recovery comes we are here and ready to go. I encourage all of you to continue to operate safely and to follow the specific guidelines set out by our Chief Inspector of Mines and Chief Health Officer so we will come out of this stronger than we have ever been.

I know our Members are strong and have always been committed to their respective communities in the good times and the bad - that generosity is needed now more than ever.

The lives of numerous British Columbians from all walks of life have been lost to COVID-19 creating unspeakable heartbreak for families which we will never forget. The Virus has also taken a great toll on our economy, plunging many families and businesses into financial uncertainty. As we work to overcome this enemy, I am confident that unity, your tenacity and your courage will get us all through it.

There are many things I hope will change in our industry as we move forward but if there is one part of our old existence that we all must hold on to, it is "the spirit of British Columbians." It has seen us through troubled times before and it is serving us well through this one.

Keep well,



### **Tyson Craiggs**

President, British Columbia Stone Sand and Gravel Association

Aggregate Resource and Lands Manager at Terus Construction

[president@gravelbc.ca](mailto:president@gravelbc.ca)





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# Meeting Recap and Highlights

**March 5th, 2020**

Guest Speaker: Matt McLean, Ministry of Energy and Mines – Matt updated the group on a new initiative in the Ministry headed up by Regional Director, Heather Cullen. Heather will be working on standardization within the Ministry between mining regions. This means that processes, policies and procedures in each area will be the same once complete. As an Association we applaud this effort and look forward to supporting Heather and Matt in this important project. Matt also outlined his efforts with respect to overhauling the 5 year mine plan updates and took questions and comments from the group on what they hoped to see as a result from this initiative.

Guarding was a major topic of discussion coming out of the Committee updates. As the Safety Committee presented their work on the safe work practices project which has now gone live, guarding standards and standardization emerged as the new effort within the group. This will be led by the Safety Committee with assistance by Ed Lingel from Daequip.



*Matt McLean and Tyson Craiggs - Coast Hotel and Convention Centre, Langley*

Our efforts in Membership recruitment and retention were outlined and discussed. We have made significant headway with a strong turnout at the Fort St. John meeting in January and have a number of new Members in the North and on Vancouver Island. Thank you to all that have been spreading the word and helping in this regard.

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# Ministry of Energy and Mines Update

## Message from Hermanus Henning, Chief Inspector of Mines

Throughout history, during tough times many a leader came up with inspirational quotes and speeches. For just that moment, the world seems small and we can conquer everything in life. Unfortunately, that feeling doesn't last and we must stare life squarely in the eyes again, and the tough continues.

It is during times like these that the words of my favorite movie character, Captain Jack Sparrow, comes back to me. When he was faced with an almost impossible situation, he told his first mate: "the problem is not the problem – the problem is our attitude towards the problem."

We need to change our attitude and view about what is going on in the world. We are confined and limited currently, but it does not mean that we must sit back and do nothing. We need to strategize for the anticipated change that will come. COVID-19 is a fact, and it will not go away right now, but eventually it will blow over and then the world will return to a new normal. It is for this "return to a new normal" that we must prepare now. At the end of the COVID pandemic, there will be some hardship and economic turmoil. What we do now is going to determine how we will go through the "new normal" period.

## Are we going to follow, or are we going to lead...?

The Premier has announced a new Economic Recovery Task Force to help ensure that the province's economic response to COVID-19 is effective and responsive.

The work of this task force includes plans for a long-term economic recovery after the crisis has passed. More details can be found in the link: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020PREM0013-000545>

For more information about all aspects of the province's response to COVID-19, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19). Additionally, information specific to the mining sector may be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/mineral-exploration-mining/health-safety/covid-19>

## Hermanus Henning

Chief Inspector: Health & Safety

*Always follow your heart,  
But remember to bring your brain along.....*



“We haven’t compromised on anything; why should you?”



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## Message from Karina Sangha, Director, Mine Audits and Effectiveness

The Mine Audits and Effectiveness Unit (the Audit Unit) is an independent team in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (the Ministry). The Audit Unit conducts audits to ensure mining regulation in B.C. is effective and aligned with global best practice.

The Audit Unit is currently conducting an audit to assess whether Ministry requirements and actions are protecting workers in mobile equipment cabs at mines from undue risk to their health and safety. The Audit Unit is interested in understanding industry perspectives on this topic and will be distributing a voluntary, anonymous survey to BCSSGA members in April/May 2020. For more information about the audit, please click [here](#).

The Audit Unit is also in the process of picking its next audit topics. The BCSSGA has been asked to submit two priority topics for the Audit Unit's consideration by May

8, 2020. The BCSSGA executive welcomes your ideas, and we also encourage you to submit topics directly to the Audit Unit. For more information, please click [here](#).



**Karina Sangha**

Director, Mine Audits and Effectiveness

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources



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## Welcome New Members!

On behalf of the BCSSGA we want to extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have recently joined the Association. Membership gives the Association a stronger voice and we appreciate your support.

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# Committee Updates

## Government Relations Committee

We continue to advocate on behalf of all Members, by Skype, Zoom and Teams. Over the last month, on your behalf, the Government Relations committee has:

- Petitioned for (and been granted) essential service status.
- Met with the Hon. Bruce Ralston, the Minister of Mines regarding Aggregates importance in the recovery of our economy following COVID-19, and the work you each do every day to keep your staff employed safely (working and paying taxes, not, consuming them). Weekly update calls with the Minister and his staff have been scheduled and we continue to advocate for Aggregate as a foundational industry in BC and for swift infrastructure spending to lessen the economic blow to BC.
- Met with the Executive Director and, Director of the newly formed 'audit' division. Discussed 'audit goals and objectives' – we continue to encourage the ministry to audit their internal processes / data first as, this is the only way to give a foundation to measure and understand where Code changes may actually be warranted and what, if any, beneficial effect those changes may have. The Ministry has, already began the process of inspectorate-wide training on the Compliance and Enforcement strategy in response to our concerns. We are hopeful we can continue to inform their activities such that the outcomes are 'worth the time, effort and tax dollars' they are spending on this endeavour.
- Continued with the Code Review process. The first (2019) round of changes to the code are expected to go into effect in the next few months. Generally, our effort focused on preventing 'unintended consequences' such as over-prescribing or over-applying complicated, detailed "Major Mines" style processes to our much simpler, smaller pits and quarries. To date, it has been successful. While most of the proposed changes are minor in nature, none are detrimental and a few should make for better clarity, and a shorter read. Expect to see more from the Ministry around mid-year.
- The City of Abbotsford has finalized their expropriation of land for right-of-way over the Sumas Mountain truck haul route. This secures the truck route by which millions of tonnes of aggregate passes through each year to serve jobsites in the Lower Mainland.
- The Ministry of Energy and Mines continues to work on strategies for the 5 year mine plan updates. To date, your Association has advocated for faster response to applications, minimization for the need to refer applications that don't warrant it and a notification process outside of Front Counter to update mine "plans" rather than the current process that looks like a new application. This project is top of mind for the GR committee and continues to be a priority project for the Ministry.
- Participation in the Mine Standardization initiative within the Ministry under Heather Cullen.



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# Committee Updates

## Safety Committee

The Safety Committee had committed to making more resources available to smaller operations this past year. The primary project being the BCSSGA Safety Toolkit which is geared towards helping operators create policies or procedures and to fill gaps in their Health and Safety Programs. The committee is very grateful to ASGA for their assistance into getting this put together. This is a great project and will bring good value.

For the first part of 2020 we have been working on a few initiatives, bringing some clarity to the guarding regulations of the HSRC is a primary one, updating the Safety Section of our website is another. With some help from our partners at BCCSA there is also a great opportunity for training and sharing of resources. There is a ton of possibilities for the year ahead. If you have any ideas or items that you think would be helpful feel free to contact us. We are always open to new ideas or information that would help us bring value to our membership.

The first annual BCSSGA Safety Award was planned to be awarded at our AGM in May. Great thanks to Jeff Adams at Fuelex for sponsoring the award and to everyone else that helped. With the current situation and the postponement of our AGM we will have to roll this out on a later date, most likely at our rescheduled AGM. The last few weeks have been tough for everyone and shows how quickly situations can change, however, we will adapt to whatever comes and look forward to bringing value to the Membership in the coming year.

### David Rogalsky

Chair

Safety Committee

## Sustainability Committee

The BCSSGA has engaged CGC Educational Communications to prepare a grade 5 level curriculum package that will be presented to BC teachers as an optional module in the science curriculum. The package will consist of 3 modules with two lessons each, and activities for students and teachers to complete together in order to understand each of the module lessons. The modules focus on The Rock Cycle, Local Types of Earth Resources, and Sustainable Practices. The first two modules are completed in draft form and the third is on its way shortly for final review.

In light of the stay-at-home orders issued by the Province during COVID-19, we are fast-tracking and adapting a few of the exercises to get them into the hands of parents and students who are looking for educational activities that are easy to do from home. If there is interest in your community please let us know and we can forward the documents so you can share them directly with those in need.

In order to put out the best resource possible, we also would like to add photographs and video clips to the materials, so if you have any photographs of your operation in action that might catch the attention of up-and-coming equipment operators, please forward them to us at your earliest convenience.

Inquiries and photos etc. can be sent directly to the project coordinator, Dan Allard, at [dan.allard@gmail.com](mailto:dan.allard@gmail.com).

### Dan Allard

on behalf of Chair, Mike McDonald.

## Awards

The deadline for award applications and nominations has been extended until May 29th, 2020. Awards will be presented at the virtual AGM, the details of which are still under consideration.

**Paul Allard Award** - Recognizing an outstanding volunteer in the Association over the course of many years. This is a new award that will be presented for the first time at our AGM by our former Executive Director and honorary life member, Paul Allard. Please send your nominations to [victoria@gravelbc.ca](mailto:victoria@gravelbc.ca)

**Deputy Minister's Award** - This award honours the outstanding contribution the aggregate industry provides to communities across the province, showing that the industry in our province that our companies do impactful work that helps people all across the region in multitudes of ways. Please see the website <https://gravelbc.ca/empr-community-service-award/> for the application form and submit to [victoria@gravelbc.ca](mailto:victoria@gravelbc.ca)

The award recognizes that contribution takes a variety of forms, from volunteering labour and equipment for

community projects and events to supporting local organizations.

**BCSSGA Safety Award** - This is a new award recognizing exemplary safety in an aggregate operation and will consist of awards in two categories:

### Categories:

Small Operator: 10 or less employees

Prize: Plaque and gift cards by FuelEx

Large Operator: 11 or more employees

Prize: Plaque and gift cards by FuelEx

**Eligibility** - Producer Member in good standing for 2019 and has no previous record of fatalities. Applications should be in by May 29th and we will use the same injury frequency rate graph for time loss accidents as the Ministry of Energy and Mines.



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## About the Association and Benefits of Membership

The BC Stone Sand and Gravel Association (BCSSGA) is a professional Association that represents all of the Aggregate Producers in British Columbia. Our members are Aggregate Producers, Associates who work with and supply to Producers, and we focus our efforts on issues that matter most to our members: government relations, sustainability and safety/training.

The aggregate industry is highly regulated with legislation and government policy developing quickly. Our strength is in our direct line of communication with the various levels of government who consult with our association whenever changes are considered in the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) affecting mining in the province. We also engage with local governments on behalf of our members to help municipalities understand the challenges our industry faces and lobby for regulations that work for Producers.

Sustainability is not a new concept in the BCSSGA but has been re-branded to reflect how we are perceived in public and push initiatives that build a grassroots knowledge of the value of aggregates in our schools. The Sustainability Committee also manages the Deputy Minister's award that recognizes outstanding community relations by aggregate producers in the Province.

Safety and training are foundations of the aggregate industry and the Association makes sure that we inform our members about changes to the Health Safety and Reclamation Code for Mines in BC. We have a seat at the table of the Code Review Committee to ensure that the Code works for all mines in BC, not just the large metal mines which only account for a small number of overall provincial permits. The safety committee is also dedicated to providing resources for small operators to ensure their business has the latest and most up to date information available for their safety program.

Becoming a member in the Association ensures we have the numbers and resources to stay relevant with government and non-government entities. Producers benefit by having a strong industry voice advocating for them so they can stay focused on their business and regular updates and meetings to share and learn from others. We have government representatives attend and speak at every one of our meetings. Associates benefit from the networking opportunities and meetings hosted by the BCSSGA during the year with access to key decision makers in the organization and the ability to advertise their business.

For more information please contact [victoria@gravelbc.ca](mailto:victoria@gravelbc.ca) or 778-571-2670.





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