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**Division for the Advancement  
of Women in  
Engineering & Geoscience**

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## **The EDGE Newsletter – August 2008 Issue**

**\* Equity and Diversity in Geoscience & Engineering \***

Dear DAWEG Members,

DAWEG's operating year (finances and outreach initiatives) runs from October – September and member of the executive Committee serve for a one year term. APEGBC collects dues in the fall for the upcoming year from EIT/GIT and P.Eng and P.Geo members.

This means two things:

1. The next few weeks are the perfect time to step forward and volunteer for a role on the DAWEG executive. Talk to fellow professionals (your co-workers and friends...men and women) about supporting DAWEG by selecting 'Join a Division' when paying the annual dues online. Please note the two 'Letters to the Editor' in the latest issue of Innovation magazine for words backing the contribution of the division to the professions.
2. Come to the Annual General Meeting on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> for an explanation of what DAWEG "membership" might look like in the months and year to come.

*Regards,  
DAWEG Executive Committee*

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### **IN THIS ISSUE**

#### **Executive Committee News:**

- 1. August Executive Committee Meeting Brief**
- 2. DAWEG Annual Report Submitted for APEGBC Annual Report**

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#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 3. DAWEG Annual General Meeting**
- 4. DAWEG ITE Coffee Talk**

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#### **Past Events**

- 5. Engineers Canada, Women in Engineering Advisory Group – Representative Update (Megan Leslie, EIT, LEED® AP)**
- 6. Engineer's Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group**

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#### **Others:**

- 7. YVR Project Manager Job Opportunity**
  - 8. UBC Engineering Tri-mentoring Program Seeks Volunteer Mentors**
  - 9. Online Voting for 2008/2009 Council Election and Bylaw Vote**
  - 10. Awards and Recognitions**
  - 11. Sponsors**
-

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEWS

### 1. August Executive Committee Brief

Recruiting for Executive Committee involvement has been a challenge lately. A handful of directors have come to DAWEG while in the midst of a job search, hoping the relationship will be mutually beneficial. But understandably and predictably within mere months their commitment to volunteering is quickly eclipsed by the demands of new and challenging employment. As chair, I have exhausted my personal contacts I have in the profession. Additionally, since I am a mechanical engineer currently working in heavy equipment and manufacturing field, I have no women engineering coworkers/suppliers/vendors/clients of any kind. I'm putting forth a "call out" via this newsletter. I believe the ideal individual is a practicing professional in early stages of her career or a junior faculty member. It could be that you are looking to move into a new stage of career, for instance business development. The skills you would hone serving as a coordinator on the executive committee are invaluable and surprisingly versatile.

Options for volunteering have been carved out into two half-year roles. Both call for generous engagement with the engineering and geosciences community and lots of personal freedom to enact your own ideas.

#### **Coordinator of Events**

- Help organize registration details and oversee welcome table for DAWEG AGM on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>
- Plan venue, menu and advertisement for Holiday Social and Memorial on December 6<sup>th</sup>
- Select date, send electronic invites and order/pick up food for Advisory Council Dinner in January

This is a coordinator role that serves the executive committee between August and January (half year only). You will work with volunteers to ensure the few events open to the membership are well planned and hosted.

#### **Coordinator of Outreach**

- Arrange (exclusively via email), or personally fulfill, judges and award presenters for BC Science Fairs
- Plan for a one-day booth at E-fest during National Engineering Week
- Organize a team to enter the PMC Sierra Fun Run held each May

The role is half year term starting in January and ending in June.

Send you contact info to [daweg.chair@gmail.com](mailto:daweg.chair@gmail.com) if you are interested in being involved.

### 2. DAWEG Annual Report Submitted for APEGBC Annual Report

In 2008, DAWEG underwent a streamlining of initiatives and ongoing programs. A new website showcasing the division is hosted by APEGBC at <http://apeg.bc.ca/daweg>. The newsletter added an 'acknowledgment' section to recognize awards and achievements of deserving individuals from the membership. The Green Bricks program, for which DAWEG secured seed funding, has now launched independently. DAWEG also provided support to the Women in Engineering in Vancouver Region (WIEVR) group; a grass roots initiative which will continue to host networking and speaker events that focus on fun and friendship. Through participation in public events such as E-Fest (during National Engineering Week) and the PMC Sierra Annual Fun Run (held each May) our division raised the profile of female engineers and geoscientists and helped put a diverse face to the professions. Female role models encouraged girls to study science and promoted the professions by offering DAWEG awards and acting as judges for BC Regional Science Fairs and Math Challenges competition. A special event DAWEG honours and is keen to see develop greater attendance by APEGBC members, is the Dec 6<sup>th</sup>

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Social and Memorial – a tasteful evening to celebrate the lives of the 14 women from École Polytechnique de Montréal.

DAWEG representatives attended the Canadian Coalition of Women in Science, Trades and Technology Conference in Guelph, Ontario. DAWEG's chair presented a topic explaining how gender issues are subsiding and individual concern regarding advocacy is lowering as the inclusion of women in Engineering and Geoscience fields becomes tangible. DAWEG as an organization should adapt, rather than expend energy unnecessarily. A new focal goal of the division is working to eliminate any 'division' between men and women. Men have always been welcomed and encouraged to support and participate in DAWEG, and a fair number have joined as members and event participants.

The division continues to promote leadership and relationship-building opportunities through involvement with the APEGBC. In looking for ways for women to have an even greater impact, previous DAWEG executive committee members are strongly encouraged to take on roles with association committees and branch executives or run for council. Through communication and collaboration the value of and respect for the professions will grow.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 3. DAWEG Annual General Meeting

**Date:** September 25, 2008

**Time:** 5:30 -9:00 pm

**Details:** DAWEG Annual General Meeting

Networking and Dinner

Review of DAWEG Initiatives and Finances

Margaret Li, candidate for APEGBC Council President, will speak about "Professionals in Society".

Outlook for DAWEG's Future by the Chair of the Executive Committee

**Location:** Science World, "The Boardroom", 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver

**Registration:** Online- Early bird (Aug 20 – Sept 14), Regular (Sept 15 – Sept 24)

<http://www.apeg.bc.ca/event>

### 4. DAWEG ITE Coffee Talk

After a few months "recruiting" people interested in networking with internationally trained engineers and engineers looking for work, we regret to inform that the number of answers we received was shy of a handful. In the meanwhile, the Women In Engineering, Vancouver Region (WIEVR) started hosting fun and friendly networking events – and we decided to join them, instead of promoting separate events.

So, if you are interested in grooming your professional network, consider attending the WIEVR events and meeting DAWEG Committee members there. We will be delighted to meet you!

For information about the upcoming events, check our website at

[www.apeg.bc.ca/services/divisions/daweg](http://www.apeg.bc.ca/services/divisions/daweg)

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## PAST EVENTS

### 5. Engineers Canada, Women in Engineering Advisory Group – Representative Update (Megan Leslie, EIT, LEED® AP)

In June 2008 I attended Engineers Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group (WIEAG) meeting in Guelph, ON as APEGBC's representative. Women representatives from most of the provincial and territorial associations were also present.

It was announced that Engineers Canada is launching a three year, \$5 million dollar advertising campaign on the value of P.Eng. If you missed Engineers Canada's special information supplement in the Globe & Mail in May, you can see it here:

[http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/files/globe%26mail\\_2008.pdf](http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/files/globe%26mail_2008.pdf)

Have you heard about the new Canadian Engineering Leadership Forum (CELFF)? CELFF partners include Engineers Canada, the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC), the Canadian Academy of Engineers (CAE), the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC), the National Council of Deans of Engineering and Applied Sciences (NCDEAS), and the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES). The CELFF is an information-sharing body, not a decision-making body. More information is available here: [http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/pub\\_ceo\\_jan\\_feb\\_07.cfm](http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/pub_ceo_jan_feb_07.cfm)

In my last update I mentioned the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO). The Women in Engineering and Technology (WiE) Standing Committee has been developed. Take a look at this PowerPoint presentation for a full update:

[http://www.wfeo.org/documents/download/Committee%20on%20Women%20in%20Engineering%20\\_Presentation.ppt](http://www.wfeo.org/documents/download/Committee%20on%20Women%20in%20Engineering%20_Presentation.ppt)

The WFEO-WiE Strategic Plan can be viewed here:

[http://www.wfeo.org/documents/download/Comiittee%20on%20Women%20in%20Engineering\\_%20Strategic%20Plan.doc](http://www.wfeo.org/documents/download/Comiittee%20on%20Women%20in%20Engineering_%20Strategic%20Plan.doc)

More information of the WFEO is available on their website: [www.wfeo.org](http://www.wfeo.org)

The Engineering and Technology Labour Market Study is a two year study sponsored by Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC). The demand forecast is being developed based on employer survey results. The 2008 National Survey of Engineers and Engineering Technicians and Technologists has now been launched and professional engineers are encouraged to take part. The survey will provide important information on trends that affect the engineering profession, such as how engineers are faring in today's economy, what trends are shaping engineers' careers, what kind of professional development training provides the most benefit, and what skills are in short supply. Completion of the survey should take approximately 20 minutes, and survey results are anonymous. To take the survey, visit: [www.engineeringemployeesurvey.com](http://www.engineeringemployeesurvey.com). More information on the study is available here: <http://www.engineerscanada.ca/etlms/index.cfm>

Data on enrolment and degrees awarded will be available later this summer for 2006 and 2007. 2005 data is available now on the Engineers Canada website. The delay has been caused by some inconsistencies in the data.

The 2008 Engineers Canada Awards recipients can be viewed here:

[http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/files/globeinsert\\_2008\\_final\\_awards.pdf](http://www.engineerscanada.ca/e/files/globeinsert_2008_final_awards.pdf)

The recipient of The Young Engineer Achievement Award is Stella Chiu, P.Eng., M.Eng., LEED® AP. Ms. Chiu also recently won APEGBC's inaugural APEGBC Young Professional Award.

The next teleconference will likely be sometime in late 2008. Please feel free to contact me at [megan.leslie@jacqueswhitford.com](mailto:megan.leslie@jacqueswhitford.com) if you have any questions about WIEAG.

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WIEAG Meeting, Guelph, ON- June 2008



BC Group in CCWEST

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## 6. Engineer's Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group

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From the office of the Chief Executive Officer / Du cabinet du chef de la direction

July 24, 2008

Christine Plourde, P.Eng.  
 Chair, Women in Engineering Advisory Group  
 c/o Conestoga-Rovers and Associates  
 466 Hodgson Road  
 Fredericton, NB  
 E3C 2G5

Dear Ms. Plourde:

**SUBJECT: Engineers Canada's Women in Engineering Advisory Group**

At a recent workshop, the Engineers Canada Board of Directors discussed the major trends, factors, and forces shaping the environment for the engineering profession in the coming years. Their discussions revolved around five interconnected themes, including equity and diversity in the engineering profession.

The Board agreed that if engineering is to join the ranks of other professions which benefit from the full engagement of Canada's human resources, there is an urgent need to address the barriers and impediments to the full participation of women and other minorities in the our profession.

I am pleased to inform you that Engineers Canada will be stepping up its commitment in this area. A first step in achieving this objective will be to establish a Task Force with representatives from the Engineers Canada Board of Directors, the Women in Engineering Advisory Group, and members of Engineers Canada staff, to determine priorities, actions, and resource requirements, as well as to review the governance and reporting structure of the group. We will be in contact with you shortly to set up the first meeting of this new Task Force.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Yours truly,

Chantal Guay, P.Eng., ing., M. Env.

cc Members of the Women in Engineering Advisory Group

engineerscanada.ca  
 ingenieurscanada.ca

Engineers Canada is the business name of the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers.  
 Ingénieurs Canada est le nom commercial utilisé par le Conseil canadien des Ingénieurs.

1100-180, rue Elgin Street      Tel./Tél. 613.232.2474  
 Ottawa (Ontario) K2P 2K3      Fax./Télec. 613.230.5759

Engineers Canada is the national organization of the provincial and territorial associations and ordre that regulate the practice of engineering in Canada.  
 Ingénieurs Canada est l'organisme national regroupant les associations et ordre provinciaux et territoriaux qui réglementent l'exercice du génie au Canada.

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## OTHER

### 7. YVR Project Manager Job Opportunity

#### **PROJECT ENGINEERING MANAGERS – YVR Project Management Permanent Full Time**

With a reputation for delivering projects on time and on budget, YVRPM is looking for talented, results-driven **Project Engineering Managers** to join the team. Drawing upon experience in managing large scale projects, this role will successfully plan, define and deliver project goals based on an in-depth knowledge of clients' objectives. 7 to 10 years of experience in building design and construction for commercial/industrial buildings and heavy civil works, along with a professional engineer designation (Civil or Mechanical preferred) are required. Experience with creating contracts, project tendering, pricing and contract administration, along with site safety operations, scheduling, budgeting/costing, project documentation and contractor site coordination is also required. You are a determined selfstarter, having experience managing design consultants and reviewing drawings and specifications from all disciplines to drive results and to ensure projects are delivered on-budget and on-schedule. Having strong computer skills, complimented by excellent oral and written communication skills is important. A willingness to work flexible hours to suit project conditions will set the incumbents up for success in this role.

We offer a competitive compensation package and a great professional opportunity. We are committed to employment equity and welcome application from everyone, including women, Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities. Please forward a résumé and covering letter, quoting reference no. 08-03-PM, to Human Resources, PO Box 23750, APO, Richmond, BC, V7B 1Y7; fax 604-232 6008; e-mail [careers@yvr.ca](mailto:careers@yvr.ca).

### 8. UBC Engineering Tri-mentoring Program Seeks Volunteer Mentors

The Engineering Tri-mentoring Program at the University of British Columbia is looking for professional engineers to be mentors to UBC engineering students. The program will help students begin to see engineering in the bigger picture and develop the skills they will need for a successful career. The Engineering Tri-mentoring Program brings together a professional working in industry or academia as the senior mentor, a senior undergraduate or graduate student, and a first- or second-year student in a tri-mentoring format. Students and professionals alike will find a support network amongst their colleagues and those who have gone before, resulting in a more committed and knowledgeable profession. The program provides participants with a structured relationship from which to learn, access to UBC support for mentoring/career coaching, two or three events to connect with all program participants, and ongoing alumni resources.

There will be 50 mentor placements, aiming for a 1:1 ratio of men-to-women. As a participant in the program, your activities are encouraged and recognized by APEGBC as a contribution towards your professional development. The time commitment for mentors is roughly 15 hours, including the two or three events, from October through March.

The program is currently accepting applications from industry/academic mentors. The deadline for submission is September 19, 2008. For application forms, a calendar of events, and participant specific information, please visit [www.cpsd.apsc.ubc.ca/mentoring](http://www.cpsd.apsc.ubc.ca/mentoring). For more information or to submit an application form, contact Amy Vozel, Program Coordinator, at [amy.vozel@ubc.ca](mailto:amy.vozel@ubc.ca), or by phone at (604) 822-8579.

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## 9. Online Voting for 2008/2009 Council Election and Bylaw Vote

On April 30, 2008 the Engineers and Geoscientists Act was amended to allow electronic voting. This year, APEGBC will carry out the 2008/2009 Council election and bylaw vote by electronic ballot. This medium of delivery is more environmentally friendly and provides the benefits of cost savings and ease of distribution. Votes will be handled by a third-party-ensured system and will have an interface that prevents duplicate votes and mismarked ballots. Members will be sent an e-mail in late August with instructions on the electronic voting procedure.

## 10. Awards and Recognitions

Our celebrations of successes continue with warm congratulations to DAWEG's past Executive Member, Megan Leslie, P.Eng., of Jacques Whitford, for her achievements in several areas. Recently obtaining her Professional Engineer designation, Megan is the 2008 recipient of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Andrea Award in recognition of her quiet and faithful support, raising funds and awareness for this disease. Indeed, "you are a gentle ripple that has made a big difference." Megan has also been recognized for making a difference in the lives of young people, receiving a 5-Years of Participation Certificate from the YWCA High School Mentorship Program.

We also celebrate the appointment of Christine Patterson, P.Eng of Earth Tech, as Vice Chair of the Consulting Engineers of BC's Young Professionals Group. The group's mission is *to promote and empower the development of Young Professionals' careers in the Consulting Engineering Business*. One of the group's main goals is putting on events to engage and educate young engineers in the business of consulting and provide networking opportunities within the industry.

Another warm congratulations goes to Catherine Roome, P.Eng., Chief Operating Officer with BC Safety Authority, for being selected as one of 230 out of 2,500 cross-Canada applicants to take part in the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference. Her Excellency Michaële Jean had charged the Conference participants with a mission: to use their talents to look at Community and Leadership, and to break down solitudes and remove indifference. According to Catherine, "it was a powerful, moving experience, which has profoundly changed my sense of being Canadian and a leader."

[www.leadershipcanada.ca](http://www.leadershipcanada.ca)

DAWEG is also pleased to congratulate the 35 APEGBC recipients of the Engineers Canada Fellowships, including Kathleen Kompauer, P.Eng., Linda Thorstad, P.Geo., and Janet Benjamin, P.Eng. The Fellowships were created to identify and recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of the profession of engineering.

We celebrate your successes with you!

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## 10. Sponsors

To support DAWEG or for further information please contact Svetlana Levitskaia, Finance Director at: daweg.sponsorship@gmail.com OR (604) 930-4592.

### Title Sponsor:



### Gold Sponsors:



### Silver Sponsors:



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