

# Engineering Leadership Council

## *Vancouver Executive Dialogue White Paper*

---

### **Vision**

Our vision is to be the foremost organization that develops and promotes infrastructure engineering practices that lead to thriving communities and social and environmental sustainability.

### **Mission**

The Engineering Leadership Council is an organization that identifies and promotes leading principles and practices of social and environmental stewardship in the engineering profession, and supports the professional development of leaders in this context.

### **Business Plan**

The ELC is a learning community. By investing in cutting edge best practice aims to empower designers and builders to ensure their projects lead to thriving communities and environmental sustainability.

Donation partners are contributing to the creation and dissemination of best practices.

Tax deductible donations will be solicited from individuals who seek to improve the construction of communities.

The ELC is a bridge between sustainability principals and the construction site realities. It aims to support leaders to develop the knowledge, skill, tools, processes and confidence to advance the social and environmental outcomes of infrastructure projects.

Work is planned in three phases of development:

#### *Phase 1*

Seek out best practices and build an organization/association framework.

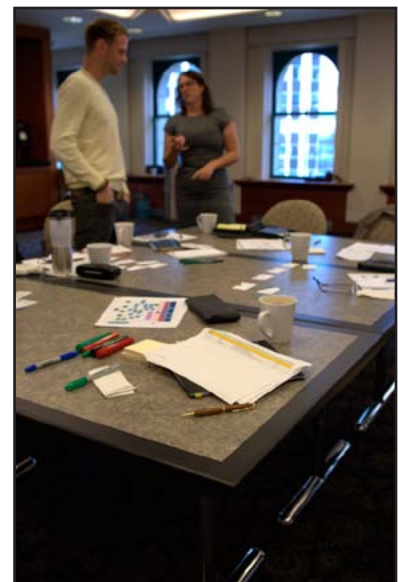
Facilitate conversations between thought leaders who specialize in improved social and environmental outcomes of large infrastructure projects.

#### *Phase 2*

Facilitate the development of a learning community of leaders in social and environmental change. Establish the ELC as the leading organization for learning and sharing of best practices in social and environmental outcomes of infrastructure projects.

#### *Phase 3*

As a best practices hub, identify opportunities for improved social and environmental outcomes on infrastructure projects where there is unmet market demand. These may include: collaborative writing of social and environmental outcome specifications and measurements, developing and facilitating a training and internship program, sharing best practices through white papers, online learning systems, training courses for professionals, and collaboration with academia.



### **Measurement**

The ELC will track progress through each phase by holding ourselves accountable to measurable goals. The goals will be developed and baselined as part of phase 1 and re-measured in each phase.

The ELC was founded in Vancouver, B.C. and is dedicated to developing and sharing best practices related to improving the social and environmental outcomes of infrastructure projects internationally.



## Vancouver Executive Dialogue:

The Engineering Leadership Council's first Executive Dialogue was convened with several Vancouver Sustainability and Engineering Executives and Academics for a one day session. The following white paper summarizes key points of the conversation and is meant as a starting point for further discussion.

### *Q: Who needs professional development?*

A: Professional engineers must constantly be learning to maintain their accreditation. Just as engineers have come to embrace new computer technology and improved safety outcomes in their professional practice, so too can they work to improve social and environmental outcomes in infrastructure development. We do not need to wait for the next generations.

### *Q: Should project teams undergo professional development together, or independently as functional groups?*

A: PD curriculum must have unique content based on the individuals' roles but there must also be some overlapping curriculum between functional groups.

### *Q: Is it critical that different functions are fluent in common language and literate in the basic principles of each other's disciplines.*

A: Common language is especially important at early stages in a project. Improved team communication around project impact will drive the best outcomes at the lowest cost. It is expensive and ineffective to make changes later. Literacy in the principals of different disciplines becomes even more important at implementation. Team members can contribute greatly if they understand the reasons behind other disciplines' choices. For example, if I only know that I shouldn't cross a creek, I still might take that shortcut when no-one is looking. Where I know why I shouldn't cross a creek, I myself will become an advocate for not doing so.

### *Q: How to decide what Professional Development has the most impact?*

A: When considering what training needs to be done for specific project roles, the driving consideration is that it be directly applicable to project work.

### *Q: How can we learn and grow best Social and Environmental Sustainability Practices in Industry?*

A: A peer reviewed journal is a time-tested method of bringing forward the best new ideas to share with a wide audience. The ELC will evaluate the opportunity to create a peer reviewed industry journal.

A summary of a dialogue is by its nature a collaborative publication, and special thanks go to participants Leslie Beckman, Dave Gallagher, Nick Hawley, Vivian Neal, Ateesh Roop, Rob Sianchuck, however, the contents of this paper will not represent every participants point of view.

