



FOUR BRITISH COLUMBIANS RECOGNIZED FOR EXTRAORDINARY SAFETY LEADERSHIP DURING PANDEMIC

Awards honour province's best as part of BC Construction and Skilled Trades Month

Victoria, B.C. (April 29, 2021) – B.C.'s construction community honoured four individuals for their leadership and contributions to COVID-19 safety in the industry, closing the fourth Annual Construction and Skilled Trades Month on a high note. The awards are an annual opportunity for industry to acknowledge its leaders, and this year they provide the appropriate closing to a month of recognition and appreciation for construction's role in keeping B.C. operating safely during the past pandemic year.

The winners are:

Cori Coutts & field staff - Knappett Projects (Victoria)

Cori is the safety manager at Knappett Projects Inc., overseeing the field team's creation, implementation, and maintenance of safe job sites during the pandemic. To date, Knappett has had no COVID-19 cases on its sites. As Kathy Price, Contract Administrator at Knappett, and Cori's nominator, put it, "For the first time in history, Knappett's field staff were essential workers, and they were proud of it!" Cori and the team bought into new procedures immediately, streamlining and documenting as they went, and diligently maintaining and promoting the practices to all trades on site. They went above and beyond the public health orders, even building hot water wash stations that will remain in place well after COVID. They wore their masks every minute, did the paperwork every single day, and made their sites COVID free. "Without compliance, it is just policy on paper. These workers deserve recognition as a team, because their community-minded efforts made it a success." Thanks to the efforts of Cori and the field team, Knappett was able to keep building important community projects, including homes for vulnerable people and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Matthew Goffinet - Kinetic Construction (Surrey)

Matthew was nominated by Mark Liudzis, Executive Vice President and Director of Operations at Kinetic Construction, who praised Matt's exemplary leadership at the onset of this pandemic and throughout the past year. His attention to global pandemic information, provincial guidelines, local outbreaks, and community concerns made it possible to swiftly roll out clear instructions and ensure workforce safety without creating further anxiety. Matt's efforts served everyone at Kinetic, from the front-line staff to the CEO, and he extended his efforts to support trade partners by sharing processes and information on safe site protocols. His commitment to communication continues to ensure that workers feel informed and empowered and able to continue their day with confidence in their own safety and that of others. Matt describes this past year as the most challenging he has ever faced. By putting others first, he balanced his challenges as a dad, a friend, and a trusted colleague.

Shayna Helal - Mott Electric (Burnaby)

Shayna was promoted to Chief Safety Officer at Mott Electric after only a short time as a Safety Project Coordinator, and she stepped up to manage the extraordinary challenges of COVID-19 with "integrity, emotional intelligence, and impeccable safety education, implementation and management". Her nominator, Mott VP Elisha Mott, praised Shayna for her work in overseeing the implementation of protocols that were changing almost daily, keeping Mott's large high residential and industrial projects open during the entire lockdown and pandemic experience. Shayna supported the entire field staff, led the unique challenge of creating safe office reopening plans, and proactively submitted their plan to WorkSafeBC prior to formal guidance being published. "WorkSafeBC said it was one of the most progressive and thorough plans they had seen," according to Mott, enabling the company to keep 80 people working in three office locations full-time. "We had no options but to get this right, and without Shayna it would have been nearly insurmountable." Thanks to Shayna's efforts, Mott was able to keep building across all its five divisions, including wireless and fiber optics infrastructure, tenant improvements, and major commercial, residential, industrial, and institutional projects.

Mathew Kinney – Turner Construction Company (Vancouver)

When COVID hit, Mat was responsible for a major project constructing a new power plant within the existing Lions Gate Hospital while the hospital was tasked with caring for all the COVID patients in the area. According to his nominator Alistair McIntyre, Health and Safety Manager at Canadian Turner Construction Company, Mat engaged the hospital's infection control experts to discuss the controls the hospital had in place to prevent the spread of COVID and got answers to worker's questions about their safety. Mat led the way in preparing site safety, introducing signage, safety protocols, screening protocols, disinfecting, room occupancy limits, and one-way systems, all on a construction project in the midst of a hospital dealing with COVID-19 patients in the early days, when little was known for sure about transmission and safety. Mat gave Turner's team the confidence they needed to come back to work and do their jobs safely, and Mat's model became the template for other Turner sites.

"Congratulations to these deserving winners for their achievements in protecting the construction workforce," said Chris Atchison, President, BCCA. "These awards showcase just a few of the thousands of individuals that kept our industry going through the pandemic, workers who understand the importance of both mental and physical safety and have acted under extreme pressure with integrity and professionalism. BCCA is a recognized champion of the health and well-being of BC's construction workforce, as shown through our long-serving BCCA Employee Benefits Trust and Builders Code conduct standard program and is very proud to co-sponsor these awards."

The awards are sponsored by BCCA and LNG Canada as the Platinum sponsors of Construction Month 2021. Visit <https://www.constructionmonth.ca/2021Awards/> for more information. The Month celebrates the many contributions B.C.'s construction industry makes across our province, in every community, every day. It also highlights construction's status as No. 1 employer in B.C.'s goods sector, and this year especially, the important role that construction played in keeping our economy going throughout the pandemic.

Although construction employers continue to face significant skilled workforce shortages, based on a recent BCCA Industry Survey, construction workers overall have had a relatively good year, reporting increases in overall job satisfaction and income. Women in particular are making major inroads in this traditionally male-dominated industry, with 65 per cent reporting they are better off financially now compared to the previous year. Over 80 per cent of employers surveyed reported having HR policies that support diversity and the equal treatment of all employees on the job site.

ABOUT BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

The British Columbia Construction Association (BCCA) works with four Regional Construction Associations (NRCA, SICA, VICA and VRCA) to serve more than 10,000 employers in the provinces industrial, commercial, institutional (ICI) construction industry. BCCA's programs and services include employee benefits (BCCA Employee Benefits), technology tools for bid and project management (BidCentral), Employer services through the Builders Code, which strives to improve workplace culture, and employment programs (Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP), Integrating Newcomers, LNG Canada Trades Training Fund, LNG Canada & Coastal GasLink Connect). BCCA advocates on behalf of all employers to ensure British Columbia's construction sector remains productive and resilient. For more information about BCCA, please visit: <https://www.bccasn.com/>

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CONTACTS:

BC Construction Association
Greg Descantes
604-646-3564
gdescantes@pacegroup.com