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Chair's Message and 2011 Update

Rishi Gupta, Ph. D., P.Eng., *Chair*

First of all, I would like to wish all the members of the Burnaby/New West branch a very happy new year! We have many events planned in the new year and would like to see our members get engaged in our branch activities as participants, volunteers and sponsors for various events. Please feel free to contact me by email (bn@apeg.bc.ca) to discuss this further. We are currently seeking corporate sponsors to host our breakfast seminars and the various Engineering month activities planned in March 2012.

The past few months have been very busy for all volunteers at the branch. Since September, we have organized the Winery tour in Richmond and the very well attended annual seminar for foreign trained professionals at the Burnaby Public Library in October. Our branch volunteers also set-up an APEGBC booth at BCIT's annual "Big Info" on November 2nd, where the record turnout of people exceeded 3,500. In October, along with the Vice Chair of our branch, I attended APEGBC's annual conference in Kelowna and got to meet the representatives of other branches. In a meeting with other branch reps, the possibility of hosting collaborative events with other branches was discussed for the benefit of the members. The branch has already hosted the Vice President's dinner visit on Thursday, November 17th. Along with APEGBC's VP, we invited a senior engineer from the City of New Westminister. Thanks to BCIT's School of Construction and the Environment and the School of Energy for cosponsoring this event.

We are working on organizing breakfast seminars and site tours in January and February this year. Many other exciting events are being planned including the popsicle stick bridge competition during engineering month in March. So, stay tuned and



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remember to read our newsletters and also visit the Burnaby/New Westminister Branch website www.apeg.bc.ca/bn for up-to-date information.

Branch Events (recently concluded)

Lulu Island Winery Tour

Saturday, September 10, 2011

The once-in-a-year social event – Winery Tour took place on September 10 at Lulu Island Winery, Richmond. It was a nice, sunny Saturday and more than 30 members participated in this event. It started with a video clip about the art of making of ice wine, followed by a tour to the winery garden and facility. The most exciting part was the free wine tasting! The winery hostess brought out four types of wine: red table wines, white table wines, fruit wines and Canadian ice wines, and taught everybody how to taste them. While enjoying the wine tasting, our participants took this opportunity to network and interact with the incoming President, Jeff Holm. Volunteers for this event included Rishi, Mike, Naimesh, Stanley, Jean, and Gary.



Top left: Branch volunteers and APEGBC President.

Top right: Participants and tour guide

Bottom left: Participants visiting the inside of winery

Bottom right: Stainless steel fermentation vessels at the Winery

For more event pictures, please visit our branch's [online album](#) or at the following link:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/bn.apegbc/LuluIslandWineryTour20110910#>



Seminar for Foreign Trained Professionals
Monday, October 24, 2011

On October 24th, APEGBC's Burnaby/New Westminister branch organized its annual Foreign Trained Professionals Seminar at the Metrotown branch of Burnaby Public Library. Registrations had to be closed as there were more than 40 participants at the seminar. APEGBC's speaker Mr. Ray Filipiak gave an informative presentation on the process of obtaining professional accreditation for internationally trained engineers. Jean Zhou from S.U.C.C.E.S.S. introduced the



settlement programs and services that immigrants can benefit from.

*Top left: Ray
Filipiak from
APEGBC*

*Top right: Jean
Zhou from
S.U.C.C.E.S.S.*

*Bottom (from
left to right):
Mike Samilski,
Jean Zhou, Ray
Filipiak and
Rishi*

*For more event
pictures, please
visit our
branch's [online
album](#) or at the
following link:
<https://picasaweb.google.com/bn.apegbc/ForeignTrainedProfessionals20111024>*



BCIT Big Info Event
Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011

On November 2nd, volunteers from the APEGBC Burnaby/New Westminster branch attended the Big Info event at BCIT in Burnaby. Volunteers Stuart Nash, Rishi Gupta, Mike Samilski, John Minkevich, Jim Chen, and Ali Habibi met with students and visitors of all ages and backgrounds to answer questions about education, licensing, and the role of engineers and geoscientists. Some visitors were students and parents looking into future career paths, while others were foreign trained professionals looking at the path to licensure and the need for additional education. Visitors went away with pens, brochures, and an increased awareness of APEGBC and the engineering and geoscience professions.



In this photo: Rishi Gupta speaking with visitor (front); Mike Samilski and John Minkevich at the back.

Visit our branch URL: www.apeg.bc.ca/bn



Vice President's Dinner & Presentation
Thursday, November 17, 2011

This year's Vice President's Dinner and Presentation was a great success. More than 30 participants attended this event. The attendees received updates from the newly elected Vice President of APEGBC Dr. Michael Isaacson. Dr. Isaacson, provided the members with an update on Council activities and gave an insight on the direction APEGBC will be taking in the near future. At this event, another speaker, Mr. Eugene Wat from the City of New Westminister was also invited. Mr. Wat gave a presentation on the history and current state of City of New Westminister's infrastructure. He also presented some of the current initiatives the city is involved in to improve the walkability, street diversity and livability of the city. At this event certificates were given to recently inducted members. This event was sponsored by BCIT's School of construction and the Environment and School of Energy.



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Top left: Volunteers at reception (from left to right): Stuart Nash, Naimesh Vadhwana and Jignesh Patel

Top right: Participants networking at the event

Bottom left: Dr. Michael Isaacson, P.Eng, Vice President addressing the audience

Bottom right: Mr. Eugene Wat, P.Eng., City of New Westminister

For more event pictures, please visit our branch's [online album](#) or at the following link:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/bn.apegbc/VPDinne>

Visit our branch URL: www.apeg.bc.ca/bn



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Branch's Calendar of Events
January 2012- March 2012

Event	Date	Status
Branch Executive Meeting	Thursday, January 5 th , 2012	Upcoming
Site Visit	January, 2012	TBC
EIT/GIT Logbook Seminar	Thursday, February 9 th , 2012	TBC
Site Visit	February, 2012	TBC
Branch Executive Meeting	Thursday, March 1 st , 2012	Upcoming
Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition	March 10, 2012	TBC