

BCSLA ANNOUNCEMENT – MARCH 18, 2020 COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS SITUATION

Following an urgent meeting of the BCSLA Board of Directors Executive Officers on March 16th we have made the difficult decision to cancel the BCSLA 2020 Conference, originally scheduled for June 11th - 13th 2020. With the changing concerns of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the restrictions on large gatherings, the BCSLA Board of Directors exercised concern in making this decision early to have the least impact on presenters, exhibitors, attendees and the community.

We will strive to host the Annual BCSLA Conference in the early part of 2021. We are well positioned for this, as many program components have already been drafted. In keeping with the requirements of our Bylaws, we will schedule an Annual General Meeting to conduct the business of the BCSLA, ideally in conjunction with another regularly scheduled BCSLA event at such time that large gatherings are once again permitted. Each Executive and Director of the BCSLA Board is committed to continuing on in the roles they have volunteered for until an AGM and elections can be completed.

The Board of Directors is planning to continue to meet regularly in a virtual setting and we are planning arrangements to use this same technology for committee meetings and continuing education opportunities to support our Members and Associates. More information on CE events and virtual opportunities will be provided through the year.

In view of the current developments, in particular, the Province of BC and the City of Vancouver Declaration of a Public Health Emergency, and best-practices to ensure the safety and well-being of our community, and in support for public health objectives, we will close the BCSLA offices and have all staff work remotely effective the end of business on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. The BCSLA Board of Directors will re-assess and determine when we can re-open or if we need to extend the remote operations further on a weekly basis. The office will remain fully functional by contacting Tara Culham, BCSLA Executive Director, by email at admin@bcsla.org or 604.682.5610 or 604.715.9655.

We appreciate your patience as we settle into our remote working adjustments this week. The BCSLA will continue to monitor the developments of COVID 19 through the advisements and information released through the World Health Organization, our Federal and Provincial Governments, Health Authorities, and related bodies. Members seeking to connect with one another are invited to reach out through the BCSLA Facebook page or related social media platforms. We understand that this is a dynamically fluid and evolving situation and members may seek to connect on ideas and innovations of working remotely. The health of our Members and Associates, families and the community remains our top priority. Thank you for your attention to this message.

**Yours sincerely,
BC Society of Landscape Architects**

BCSLA Board of Directors

The BC Society of Landscape Architects (BCSLA) was formed in 1962 and registered in 1964 under the BC Societies Act. BCSLA regulates the profession of landscape architecture according to provincial statute. Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline involving land analysis, planning, design, management and conservation and rehabilitation. Typical projects include site design, urban planning, environmental impact studies, parks and recreation planning and residential garden design. The BCSLA promotes continuing education and high standards of professional practice in order to assure the health, safety and welfare of the public in British Columbia.

The BCSLA offices are located on unceded Coast Salish territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̍əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations. We recognize and respect the history, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our organization, our lives and our country.