

## **Implementing a Common First-Year Engineering Curriculum in British Columbia**

**Dr. Brian Dick P.Eng., Vancouver Island University**

Demand for engineering education has grown in recognition of its importance to the national economy; demographics and economic growth requires an expanded capacity for engineering education throughout Canada, and encouragement for students to enter the profession.

Between 2015 and 2018, a group of post-secondary institutions within BC drafted a transfer agreement, referred to as the Common First-Year Engineering Curriculum (CFYEC), that captured both the topical content and individual pathway conditions for each engineering school in the province. The agreement ensured students starting the first-year of studies at signatory college/teaching universities could transfer seamlessly into second year at any one of the engineering schools to complete their programs.

The goals of the CFYEC included:

- Recognizing the diverse learning pathways taken by students,
- Deepening community and industry partnerships (particularly in rural and semi-rural areas),
- Providing access to a broader range of engineering disciplines, and
- Improving the cost efficiency of program delivery for students, institutions, and the province.

In 2019, capacity building grants were provided to a number of college/teaching universities to support launching the CFYEC. This exercise has since been completed, and this work-in-progress paper provides qualitative survey results describing the CFYEC implementation experience at these institutions, the impact of COVID-19 on this work, and earlier indication on whether the goals of the CFYEC are being achieved.