

buildingSMART CANADA NEWSLETTER



SPRING
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Dear buildingSMART Community,

I am delighted to inform you that our organization is undergoing several exciting changes. Since January 1, 2023, Claudia Cozzitorto assumed the role of Executive Director of buildingSMART Canada, while I have returned to the role of president for one more year. In her new role as Executive Director, Claudia will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of buildingSMART Canada, managing the organization's finances, programs, and initiatives, and developing strategies to support the growth and sustainability of the organization.

These changes came as a result of a significant funding opportunity presented to buildingSMART Canada by AECO Innovation Lab, a research-driven digital transformation partner. With this new funding, buildingSMART Canada will be able to expand its outreach and engagement efforts, develop new training programs, and support the development of new openBIM standards.



"I am thrilled to be returning to the role of President with a renewed focus on expanding the organization's reach and impact."

Bill Moore
President, buildingSMART Canada

We firmly believe that openBIM is critical to the future of the industry, and I am excited to develop and implement new initiatives that support the adoption of openBIM standards across Canada. With Claudia's support, I am confident that we will be able to take advantage of the funding opportunity presented by AECO Innovation Lab and continue to grow and expand the influence of buildingSMART Canada.

Overall, the change in leadership and the new funding opportunity from by AECO Innovation Lab represent an exciting new phase for buildingSMART Canada. With Claudia and I at the helm, we are well-positioned to continue our work in collaborating with industry partners and stakeholders across the country to advance openBIM standards.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to buildingSMART Canada.

Sincerely,
Bill Moore

Having assumed the new role of Executive Director of buildingSMART Canada, I am very much looking forward to working with the bSC board, volunteers, community, as well as international chapters and buildingSMART International. This is a new phase for bSC and as it develops, we will be sharing more about our mission, vision, and plans with our community, as it is crucial for our plans to align so we can support the industry at large for our mutual success.

As members of the bSC community, we rely on each of you to play an active role in shaping the future and how we can best advance the digital transformation in Canada. We are also looking to grow our community and engage with a broad audience to increase our knowledge, improve collaboration, and gain consensus on national BIM standards.



"Become a member to join our digital transformation efforts! You will be able to collaborate with other subject matter experts in shaping the standards and resources that we are building today. Be sure to review our new membership model also comes with increased benefits."

Claudia Cozzitorto
Executive Director, buildingSMART Canada

We also have some exciting plans for the year ahead, as we have already begun over half a dozen projects since January, ranging from an Industry Readiness Report on the Adoption of ISO 19650 in Canada to the Development and Use Cases for Digital Twins. These projects will engage the industry, federal government, municipalities, and academia. We will also be rolling out the bSI Certification Program and provide support for the upskilling and growth of expertise in this area. We're aware that every sector is struggling and we are looking for creative ways to relieve the pressure.

We know that connecting subject matter experts and learning about standards and openBIM is of utmost importance, and after seeing the success of the Montreal Summit in 2022, we are so excited to host the annual conference this coming November in Toronto. bSC also plans to connect Canada to the international conversation and disseminate them better than we have in recent years. In short, there is a lot on the go, and we intend to bring great value to our community.

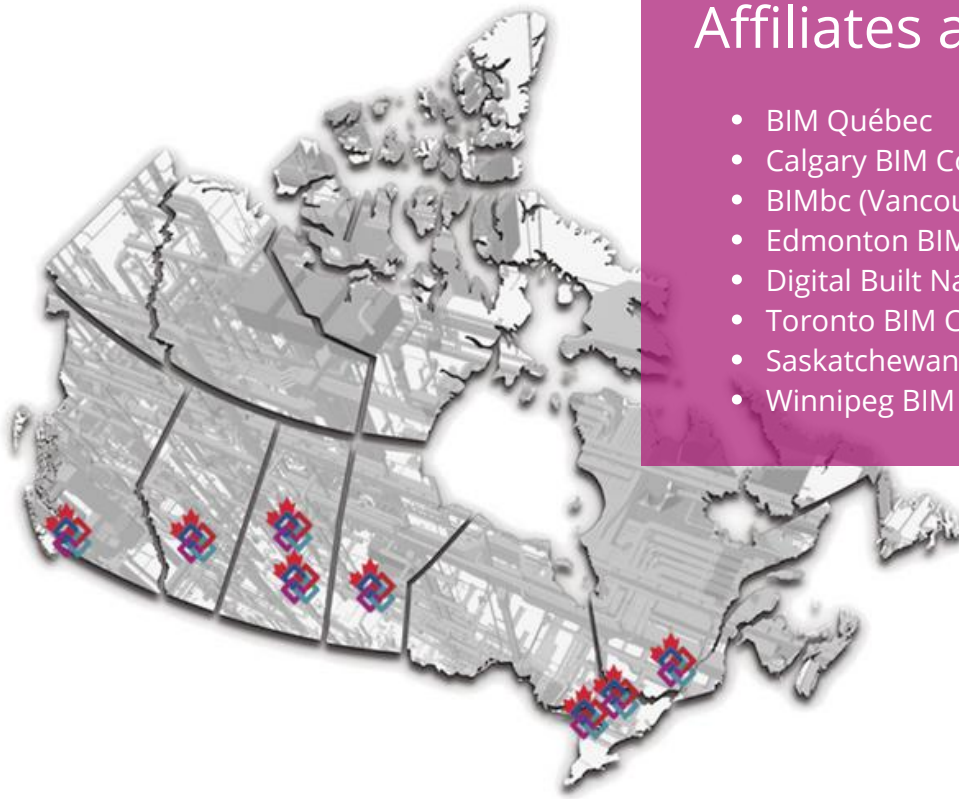
There are so many ways to participate in bSC activities and I want to invite you to engage in our research program by initiating a project, by reaching out, or by identifying a need. You can also take part by joining a working group to provide feedback, volunteering, or by becoming a member. Do not miss out on this opportunity to collaborate – I look forward to hearing from you!

Kind regards,
Claudia Cozzitorto



Affiliate Updates

buildingSMART Canada's affiliate program connects local and regional BIM communities from across the country. United by their goal to build and strengthen the Canadian community for a better built environment, the affiliates help support innovative project delivery practices based on openBIM standards.



Affiliates across Canada

- BIM Québec
- Calgary BIM Community (cBIMc)
- BIMbc (Vancouver/Victoria)
- Edmonton BIM Community
- Digital Built National Capitol Region (Ottawa)
- Toronto BIM Community
- Saskatchewan BIM Community
- Winnipeg BIM Community

The affiliates committee consists of representatives from bimBC, cBIMc (Calgary BIM Community), SaskBIM, the Winnipeg BIM Community, tBIMc (Toronto BIM Community), and BIMQuébec. With this wide variety of regions represented, the affiliates provide insight into how BIM and VDC are being implemented across the country.

As the new year begins, the Affiliates Committee has started meeting on a quarterly basis to facilitate collaboration between regions. Some plans we are working on include an affiliate communications channel that will allow the leads of each affiliate to discuss various topics and provide community support.

Another feature we are working on is the creation of a shared calendar to increase the visibility of affiliate events. Each regional affiliate will be providing updates to allow all members to see events across the country with the possibility of joining these events if they are held virtually.

Recent Affiliate Events

BIMbc provided members with a virtual presentation on “How to Prevent Half-Baked BIM,” with presenters Joe Magas from Fusiontek and Edwin Guerra from Associated Engineering who discussed the software, Solibri, and its use in providing design and construction coordination early in the design and construction process.



The Calgary BIM Community issued a survey to all members aimed to gauge comfort levels with resuming in-person meetings, type of meetings, and content of most interest to members. They are now analyzing the results and are excited to hold their first event in 3 years.

dbNCR in Ottawa held a hybrid event called “Open-Source Software in AECO,” where presenters included Claudia Cozzitorto, Greg Schleusner from HOK, Antonio Gonzalez Viegas from IFC.js, Julia Ivanoff, and Nicolas Arellano who are both from CIMS. The presenters discussed concepts around open-source software, including buildingSMART’s IFC and BCF standards, the development of open-source BIM tools, and research into the world of digital twins.



BIMQuébec held its launch event and networking evening in both Montreal and Québec City. The event brought together the community after successfully hosting the buildingSMART International Summit. At the event, members listened to presentations and were presented with the opportunity to network in a hybrid setting. BIMQuébec also held an event at the end of March discussing BIM and Building Energy Modeling.

tBIMc held an in-person event at the end of March to discuss the implementation and challenges of BIM. Speakers shared thoughts about the adoption of technologies that would be most impactful to the AEC industry such as BIM authentication and ISO 19650 standards. The event had a great turnout and closed with meaningful discussions about international BIM trends and what they mean for the local affiliate group.



[Learn more about all the bSC affiliates!](#)

buildingSMART News and Updates



bSI Rome Spring Summit 2023

The buildingSMART International Spring Summit just took place in Rome from March 27 to 30, 2023. This event brought together the international openBIM community to collaborate on developing standards and services that support a more sustainable, productive, and collaborative future for the built asset industry.

The event focused on "Delivering a Diverse and Sustainable Future with openBIM," and attendees had the opportunity to learn about how diversity is driving the industry forward and how openBIM is at the core of developing the necessary standards and services to address future sustainability challenges. In the next newsletter, we look forward to sharing with you further insights and key takeaways from the summit.



Congratulations!



We are delighted to announce that Bill Moore and David Watson have been appointed as buildingSMART Fellows at the recent buildingSMART Spring Summit. This honorary recognition celebrates their long-standing commitment and exceptional service to buildingSMART's operations, contributing significantly to the advancement of BIM and buildingSMART's work.

Throughout Bill's 30-year career, Bill has been an active contributor to international, national, and regional BIM committees and organizations, with notable achievements in developing resources to support Canadians in digital transformation, including the BIM for Owners Guide, Contract Appendix for BIM, and Canadian Practice Manual for BIM. David Watson's involvement with buildingSMART spans over two decades, serving in various capacities and contributing to the technical development of BIM standards. He has been a key representative of the Standards Council of Canada at the ISO level, supporting the development of approximately 20 BIM standards.

As buildingSMART Fellows, Bill and David are recognized for their outstanding leadership and technical expertise at an international level. Please join us in congratulating them on this well-deserved honor!

bSC National Summit

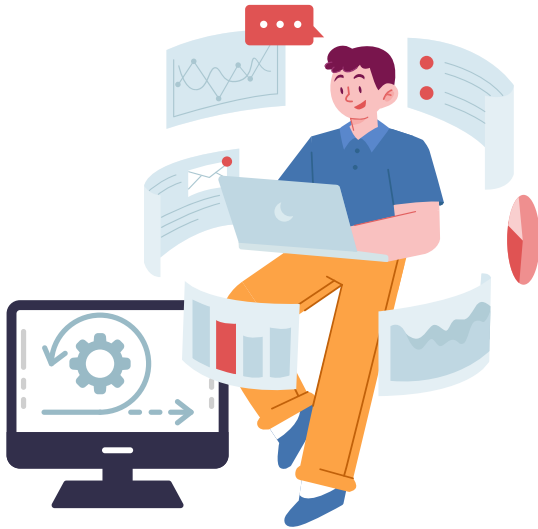
We are excited to announce the buildingSMART Canada National Summit will be held this coming November 2023! Stay tuned for more details.



Learning with bSI:

What is Information Delivery Specification?

By: Victor Lima



Information Delivery Specification (IDS), a buildingSMART standard, simplifies the process of defining information requirements for both humans and computers. It enhances clarity and collaboration within the built asset industry by enabling asset owners to specify their requirements accurately, which helps project participants understand what they need to deliver. Unlike traditional methods like PDFs or Excel sheets, IDS offers standardized exchange requirements that include properties, materials, classifications, entity types, and object dependency. However, IDS does not provide details of geometry at the moment.

IDS files are formatted in XML, following the standard set for XML. The information contained in IDS files can be visualized in a multitude of ways. To ensure implementation reliability, IDS mandates the sharing of standard properties with specific measures to define value restrictions, such as minimums, maximums, and ranges. Although IDS can be applied to various types of data in the built asset industry, it is best suited for data structured according to the Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) standard, as IDS and IFC have a natural and logical compatibility.

Users who receive an IDS from a client can easily check their data against the defined requirements, as IDS incorporates readable explanations and instructions for the receiving person to better understand the expectations. Furthermore, IDS can contain links using a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) to provide additional information about a property or classification code. It is important to note that the connection to the buildingSMART Data Dictionary (bSDD) is crucial, as a URI starting with identifier.buildingsmart.org refers to an object that can be found in bSDD.

IDS is a valuable standard for stakeholders in the built asset industry, helping to define exchange requirements and providing clarity. It enables asset owners to accurately specify their needs, adding certainty and clarity when used in conjunction with other standards and services. While IDS is meant to be interpreted by computers, users may need to supplement the BIM dataset with additional information, and IDS allows for clear documentation of the requirements.

To learn more about IDS and view examples, [visit buildingSMART International's website.](#)

New bSC Research Program

buildingSMART Canada and AECO Innovation Lab have partnered with leading researchers at five Canadian universities to launch a research program titled **AI-enabled Digital Twins for Automation of Regulatory Systems in the Built Environment**. This 5-year research program, funded in part by Mitacs, will investigate how BIM and Digital Twins can be leveraged by Canadian regulatory agencies to allow for better, more informed decision-making with respect to development approvals, asset and facility management, and municipal planning and operations.



With researchers from Carleton University, École de technologie supérieure Montréal (ÉTS), the University of British Columbia, Toronto Metropolitan University, and the University of Waterloo, this work will be conducted in coordination with all levels of government and industry experts in the respective sub-project domains, including BIM, GIS, real estate, built asset development and management, and sustainability.

bSC's Strategic Members have access to bSC's extensive research program and its academic partners with options to fund and collaborate on existing projects or to start and lead their own research project. Some industry experts who have recently become strategic members include RESCON, who is collaborating on a research project about planning KPIs with TMU, and Notarius, who is working with ÉTS to investigate the usage of Digital Seals for BIM.



Interested in Getting Involved?

Here are some research projects that are currently looking for collaborators:

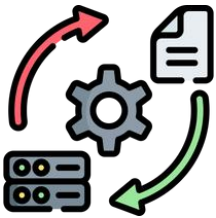
Digital Twins and Use Cases



Digital Twins and Use Cases is a collaboration between Carleton Immersive Media Studio (CIMS) Lab and the bSC National Infrastructure Council (NIC) to explore all the possible use cases of Digital Twins and City Information Models. Researchers will investigate how BIM and Digital Twins can impact the building lifecycle from planning to development approvals to managing built assets.

This project is looking for collaborators to join the NIC to provide authentic industry experiences and needs.

Digital Twin Readiness Index



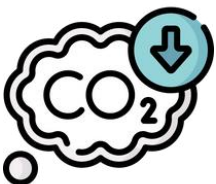
Digital Twin Readiness Index is a partnership with École de Technologie Supérieure (ETS) to build a tool that will rate Digital Twin readiness, as it helps owners to shape their digital transformation to obtain and prepare for the planning, procurement, delivery, and use of Digital Twins. **This project is looking for owners to comment, test, and pilot the DT Readiness Index.**

BIM and ISO 19650 Adoption Report



BIM and ISO 19650 Adoption Report is a joint effort with the University of British Columbia (UBC) to analyze the readiness of the AEC industry for digital delivery and ISO 19650 compliant BIM processes. **This project will build on the previous BIM surveys and reports to provide current insights into these key areas, where collaborators from all sectors of the industry are encouraged to participate in this effort.**

Digital Twins to Support Sustainability



Digital Twins to Support Sustainability is a collaboration with ETS to examine how BIM and Digital Twin technology can support sustainable outcomes. This includes developing an understanding of sustainability regulatory requirements and codes and identifying the best practices to combat climate change. **This project is looking for sustainability-minded collaborators to join NIC to bring forth use cases and research needs.**

[Take a look at the full list of research projects.](#)

Updated Membership Tiers

buildingSMART Canada's memberships are separated into six tiers: **Partnerships, Strategic, Industry Council, Initiative, Individual, and Volunteers**. By joining, all membership tiers will receive 25% off for store purchases and have access to all online documents.



Partnerships are an ongoing opportunity where the relationship is connected to achieve mutually beneficial goals outlined in a memorandum of understanding between the organizations.



Strategic Members are organizations interested in supporting the objectives of bSC to drive the adoption of BIM and openBIM standards. They will be assigned to the bSC Board of Directors liaison and may suggest resource development opportunities to the Board of Directors for consideration.



Industry Members are Government, Associations, and Industry stakeholders interested in driving the adoption of BIM through real-world project collaboration; they will receive opportunities to propose projects and research efforts within the National Infrastructure Council (NIC) and serve on a national organization of BIM industry professionals.



Initiative Members are companies and organizations supporting the adoption of BIM in the digitalization of the Canadian built asset industry, where they will receive company logo recognition on the bSC website, advanced access to bSC events, and BIM networking opportunities.



Individual Members are those interested in the development of BIM and participating in a professional association to gain knowledge on BIM domain expertise. Benefits of this category include gaining membership credentials and advanced access to bSC events.



Volunteers are those who wish to contribute their time and support to serving on operational boards within bSC on an annual basis.

For more information, visit:
buildingsmartcanada.ca/members

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