

# buildingSMART CANADA **NEWSLETTER**



**SPRING  
2024**

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# Remarks by the President

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends,

At the heart of buildingSMART Canada is a profound belief in the power of collaboration. Our mission extends beyond the adoption of digital practices; it is a commitment to fostering a community where open standards and shared knowledge enable industry-wide innovation. By breaking down silos and promoting interoperability, we are not just changing workflows; we are building connections across disciplines, sectors, and technical domains.

As we navigate the digital transformation that is reshaping the building industry, our collective journey brims with unparalleled potential and promise. This evolution we are part of is not merely about embracing new technologies; it is a call to fundamentally reimagine the way we create, build, manage, and regulate the future of the built environment—making it more sustainable, efficient, and inclusive for all.



**Claudia Cozzitorto**

**President**, buildingSMART Canada

The convergence of Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) opens new vistas of opportunity. This connectivity allows us to envision and execute projects with an unprecedented understanding of their environmental impact, integration into existing landscapes, and potential to enhance community connectivity. The synergy between BIM and GIS equips us with a profound understanding of the natural and urban environments to enable smarter decision making and improve efficiencies. It is an exciting frontier that promises to deepen our approach to sustainable development, resilience planning, and holistic project management. In the coming year you will hear more about these domains collaborating to build a future in which they will be synonymous.

Today, I extend a warm invitation to everyone who shares our passion for a smarter built environment to join us at buildingSMART Canada. Whether you're taking your first steps in this field or you're a seasoned professional with years of experience, there's a space for you here in our diverse community. At the upcoming **Geolgnite** Conference, we eagerly anticipate engaging with new perspectives and expanding our collective expertise. Your participation is not only valuable—it's essential to our mission. Together, let's embrace this opportunity to connect and shape the future of our industry.

Warm regards,

**Claudia Cozzitorto**

**President**, buildingSMART Canada

# buildingSMART International Summit Valencia 2024



## Achieving Sustainability Goals with openBIM

The summit explored ways in which open digital workflows could lay the foundation to meet sustainability goals and objectives. Participants joined to discover how openBIM was laying the foundation for a more sustainable future. With increasing demand for open standards, governments, regulatory bodies, and clients increasingly recognized the need to embrace openBIM to ensure seamless information exchange throughout the entire value chain.

As the world strives to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of designing, constructing, and operating buildings and infrastructure, the summit focused on ensuring that openBIM was at the heart of a better way of working.

# buildingSMART International Summit Valencia 2024

## A Recap...

637 unique registrations  
463 attendees in person

Attendees from 50 Countries  
88 foundation certification exams conducted



## Announcements from the Summit

- buildingSMART international has launched the Entry Certification recently, and within the first few days, it has already seen significant engagement with 800 people taking the exam. This momentum calls for continued promotion and encouragement to further increase participation. [Learn more here](#)
- It was announced that IFC 4.3 will officially become an ISO standard starting March 21st, making a significant milestone for the infrastructure sector. This development is expected to have a profound impact on industry practices and standards. [Learn more here](#)
- buildingSMART International (bSI) and the Digital Built Environment Institute (DBEI) announced a partnership on March 15, 2024, to accelerate the digital transformation in the built environment sector. This collaboration focuses on improving sustainability, efficiency, and innovation through shared initiatives and the promotion of open standards and sustainable development. [Learn more here](#)



# buildingSMART International Summit Valencia 2024

## Workshop and Session Highlights

### Maritime Domain Initiative

The Maritime domain is currently in the process of establishing a charter and drafting activity proposals. This new domain is actively seeking members to join and contribute to its development. [Learn more here](#)

### BIM-GIS Integration Whitepaper Release

A BIM GIS whitepaper "Enabling Information Continuity across BIM-GIS Domains: A BSI and OGC Strategic Roadmap" is being released soon. This publication aims to foster a dialogue on enhancing interoperability between BIM and GIS technologies. The organization is open to feedback and has recently hosted a session to gather insights on prioritization.

### Rail Project Manifesto Using IFC 4.3

Applying IFC 4.3 for Rail Project Manifesto is to be released soon. [Learn more here](#)

### Technical Domain Advancements

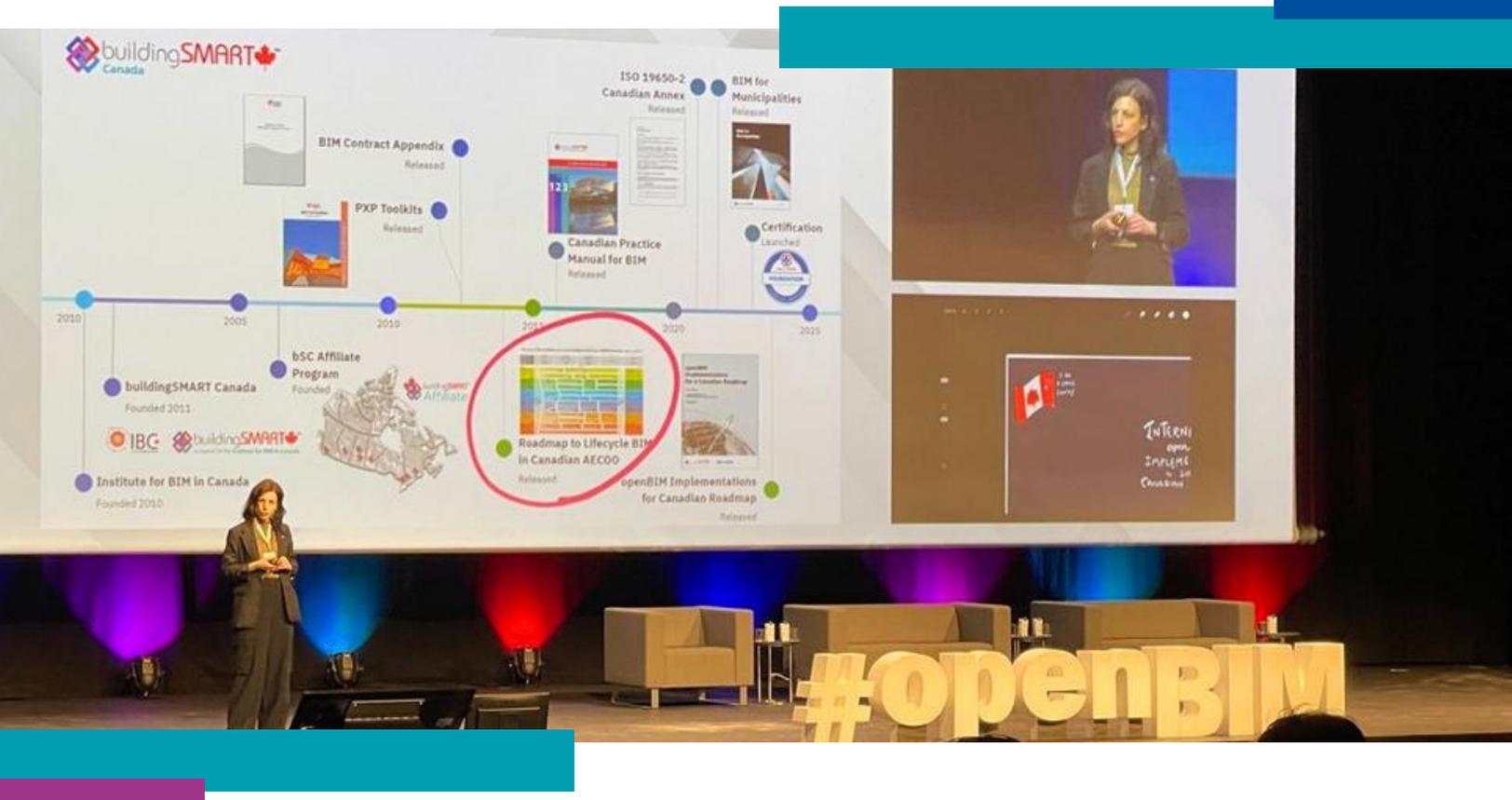
The advancement of IFC 5 is ongoing. Notably, there is an emphasis on exploring how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can influence the development of IFC 5, with discussions facilitated through interactive roundtables. This indicates a forward-thinking approach, integrating AI insights to shape the future of IFC standards.



# buildingSMART International Summit Valencia 2024

## International openBIM Implementations to inform Canadian Roadmap

On the opening day of the summit, Claudia Cozzitorto, president of buildingSMART Canada, and Farzad Jalaei, research officer at National Research Council Canada (NRC) presented openBIM standards and NRC's platform to decarbonize the Canadian construction sector at scale.



Key insights from an international study underscore the vital importance of openBIM knowledge resources for raising awareness and improving education and training. Cozzitorto also highlights the crucial role of BIM mandates in unifying the industry's direction, showcasing leadership, and fostering change. Government involvement is pinpointed as crucial for the broad adoption and success of openBIM initiatives, emphasizing a strategic approach to integrating openBIM more deeply across the industry.

# buildingSMART International Summit Valencia 2024

Farzad Jalaei from the National Research Council Canada (NRC) presented the organization's Platform to Decarbonize the Construction Sector, focusing on enhancing industry resilience and sustainability. NRC's partnership through IRAP will advance resilient materials and systems, develop certification protocols, and conduct pilot studies for technologies like flood protection and monitoring systems. Additionally, the revitalized "InfraGuide" will be available digitally.

NRC is also developing monitoring technologies for infrastructure, using structural monitoring and AI for early failure detection. The "Tools for CPI Management" initiative identifies essential resources for asset management and investment planning, integrating triple bottom line considerations into the sector's advancement.

This initiative project encourages engagement through various avenues. They invite participation in collaborative projects, encompassing pilot studies and research and development initiatives. The organization also seeks to identify market challenges and barriers, as well as potential industry partners interested in technological innovations for decarbonization and adaptation within the construction sector. Furthermore, NRC advocates for participation in funding opportunities, including those offered by Innovative Solutions Canada and joint funding calls.



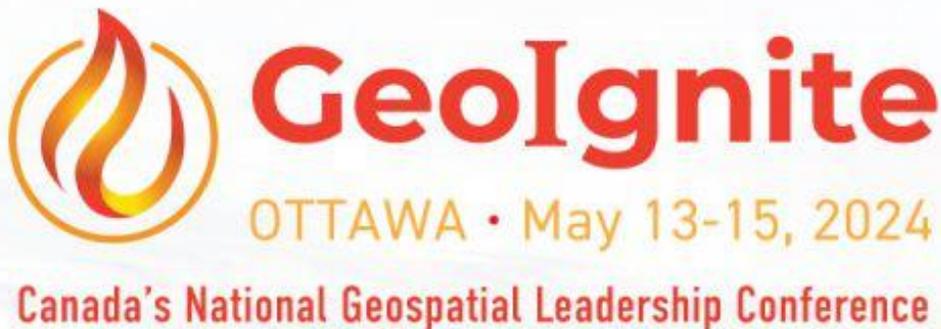
# Important Upcoming Event



## GoGeomatics Canada and buildingSMART Canada Announce New BIM/GIS Digital Twin Track at GeoIgnite, Canada's National Geospatial Leadership Conference

GoGeomatics Canada, in collaboration with buildingSMART Canada, is thrilled to announce the launch of an innovative BIM/GIS digital twin track and program. This exciting new addition will premiere at GeoIgnite Canada, the national geospatial leadership conference, happening on May 13- 14th in Ottawa at the Ottawa Conference and Event Centre on Coventry Road.

This novel track is designed to unify industry experts and thought leaders from both the public and private sectors. It will serve as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and networking in the realms of geospatial technology and digital twin development. buildingSMART Canada is pleased to be a gold sponsor for GeoIgnite 2024.



**buildingSMART Canada Program:  
BIM/GIS Interoperability & Digital Twins**

20% off registration with code: **bSC\_20** [Geoignite.ca](http://Geoignite.ca)

## Highlights of the BIM/GIS Digital Twin Track:

**Expert Panel Discussions:** The track will feature panel discussions led by senior thought leaders across diverse industries, delving into the latest trends, challenges, and advancements in BIM (Building Information Modeling) and GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

**Innovative Sessions:** Attendees will experience interactive sessions emphasizing the integration of BIM and GIS technologies. These sessions aim to foster the creation of comprehensive digital twins, improving urban planning and infrastructure management. Keynote speakers include Claudia Cozzitorto, CSO of Landlogic and President of buildingSMART Canada; John Hale, Chief of the CAD/BIM Department, National Defence; Patrick Lalonde, Director of Virtual Design & Construction at EllisDon; and Marie Alexander, Director of Acorn Information Solutions at the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

### Highlights of the program include:

- Keynote: The Synergies of BIM and GIS
- Scaling Data in Complex Projects
- Advancing Drones in Construction
- Canada's Digital Twin
- How BIM and GIS integration is critical to achieve a digital twin capability for the Department of National Defence
- Bridging Worlds: Integrating BIM and GIS for a Digital Future in Built Asset Management
- A Twenty-year Journey Using GIS Digital Twin to Improve the Health and Well-Being of the Community

**Click the image below to register**  
**20% off registration with code "bSC\_20"!**



**For more information, Please contact:**  
[JMurphy@buildingSMARTcanada.ca](mailto:JMurphy@buildingSMARTcanada.ca)

## Speaker Lineup



### **Keynote Talk: The Synergies of BIM and GIS**

***Claudia Cozzitorto***

President of buildingSMART Canada



### **How BIM and GIS Integration is critical to achieve a digital twin capability for the department of national defence**

***John Hale***

Deputy Chef Real Property Spatial, DND; Vice-President of buildingSMART Canada



***Paul Churcher***

Chief of Site Infrastructure spatial data team



### **A twenty-year journey using GIS digital twin to improve the health and well-being of the community**

***Marie Alexander***

Director of Acorn Information Solutions Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre



### **Enabling information continuity across BIM-GIS domains: a bSI-OGC strategic roadmap**

***Erik Poirier***

Director, Professor at École de technologie supérieure



### **Scaling Data in Complex Projects**

***Mark Cichy***

Principal, Director of Design Technology HOK



### **Advancing Drones in construction**

***Patrick Lalond***

Director, Virtual Design & Construction EllisDon



### **Does Canada need a national digital twin?**

***Stephen Fai***

Director / Professor Carleton Immersive Media Studio / Carleton U

## Panels

### CANADA'S GEOSPATIAL LEADERSHIP PANEL



**MODERATOR**

Amina Deiab MPP, ICD.D  
CEO & Founder  
QED Inc.



**PANELIST**

Claudia Cozzitorto  
President  
buildingSMART Canada



**PANELIST**

Morgan Crowley, PhD  
Forest Fire Research Scientist  
Natural Resources Canada



**PANELIST**

Bilyana Anicic  
President  
Aurora Consulting



**PANELIST**

Melanie Desjardins  
Director  
NWT Centre for Geomatics

### UPDATES ON RECENT SATELLITE EARTH OBSERVATION (SEO) ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



**MODERATOR**

Steven Ramage  
CEO  
Committee on Earth  
Observation Satellites  
(CEOS)



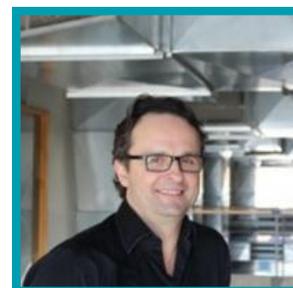
**PANELIST**

Shannon Kaya  
Director  
Environment and Climate  
Change Canada



**PANELIST**

Taryn Tomlinson  
Director, Sun-Earth System  
Sciences  
Canadian Space Agency



**PANELIST**

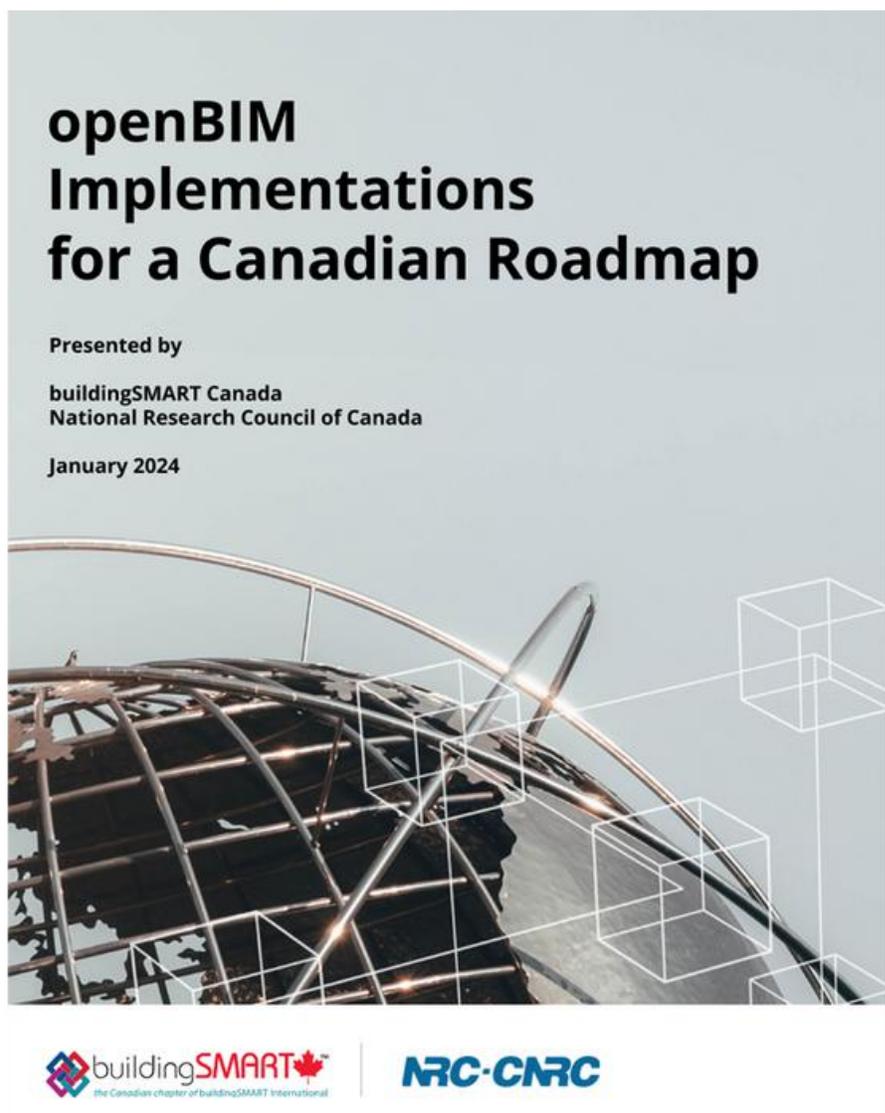
Mathieu Benoit  
Senior Director  
Canada Centre for  
Mapping  
and Earth Observation

# Publication

We're excited to announce the publication release of our latest work: "openBIM Implementations for a Canadian Roadmap". This comprehensive study, led by our buildingSMART Canada team in collaboration with National Research Council Canada (NRC), marks a significant step towards the digitalization of Canada's built asset industry through open international standards and solutions.

This comprehensive research project investigates the transformative journey of the Canadian architecture, engineering, construction, owner, operator, and municipality (AECO) sectors as they adopt BIM and openBIM standards to digitalize the planning, design, construction, and management of built assets. With the digitalization of the AECO through BIM and data exchange standards, Canada aims to unlock decarbonization aspirations and requirements, optimize project outcomes, and lead in sustainable and digitized built asset industry.

**[Read the Publication Here](#)**



Internationally, the adoption of openBIM standards and practices is fostering a more collaborative, transparent, and efficient development lifecycle. Canada's focus on interoperability and the ability for data to be exchanged across various software platforms positions it to benefit from enhanced digital workflow, and more reliable outcomes. By reviewing and engaging with buildingSMART International (bSI) chapters and other nations' approaches, this research project provides a comprehensive analysis, highlighting significant commonalities, patterns, and differences in openBIM methodologies.



It also outlines a comprehensive analysis of BIM's current state and future trends in the Canadian AECO sector was conducted following the extensive stakeholder engagement activities. The data collected from the survey, workshops, and interviews was analyzed and synthesized to understand the benefits, challenges, drivers, and barriers of BIM adoption in Canada

**“The widespread adoption of BIM technologies and open standards is currently reshaping the industry”**

# Call for Papers

## Empowering Digitalization in the Canadian Built Asset Industry



buildingSMART Canada is now offering an opportunity for its members and the broader community to contribute their expertise, knowledge, and experiences of their implementation of openBIM standards on Canadian projects. We invite insights and case studies by bSC members to showcase openBIM's implementation in their organization, its impact on workflows, and its role in advancing industrial practices. We are a community that is learning from each other, driving the adoption and implementation of openBIM requires a group effort.

To participate  
**download** the openBIM whitepaper template  
and  
**submit** your case study here

Let's collaboratively shape the future of the Canadian built asset industry. Your insights and expertise can help drive innovation and efficiency in our digital workflow.

We look forward to your valuable contributions!

# Professional Certification

Accelerated global adoption of BIM faces challenges in terminology, competence, and consistency. buildingSMART Canada supports these standards and offers a Professional Certification program as a BIM competency benchmark. This program benefits professionals, employers, and client organizations in the built asset industry, promoting transparency and consistency.

The Professional Certification Program by bSC supports openBIM® training standardization, promotes international standards and best practices, and raises awareness about buildingSMART and its solutions.



The Entry level introduces open standards and openBIM concepts in a simple, clear and straightforward matter. It is aimed at working professionals and students in the built asset industry who have little or no experience with BIM. This program offers free online educational resources (self-paced training) and a free 5-question online exam managed on this website. This exam will be launched in 2024.



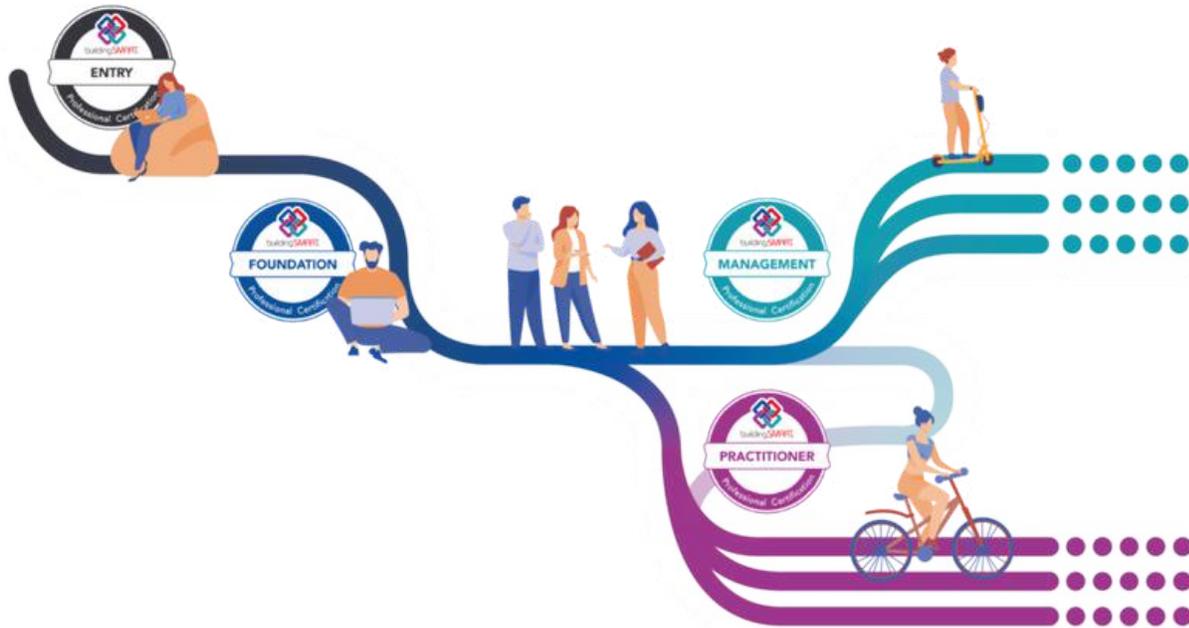
The Foundation level addresses the needs of individuals operating at a basic level. The training helps building owners, designers, consultants, builders and project managers understand the opportunities collaboration within a virtual, openBIM environment offers.

[Click here to find more](#)



Management level is aimed at industry professionals involved in the management of digitally empowered projects. It provides fundamental knowledge and insight at strategic and operative levels, without descending into technical detail.

Upon successful completion of the training, the participant can undertake the online exam to become buildingSMART certified.



## Benefits for Learners

- 1. Internationally Recognized certification:** Stand out and gain recognition in the building Industry
- 2. Quality Assurance:** Showcase your competence and expertise in the built asset industry.
- 3. Up-to-Date Knowledge:** Access standardized training aligned with the latest industry developments and best practices.
- 4. Structured Evaluation:** Undergo a rigorous testing and qualification process to validate your skills.
- 5. Flexible Options:** Choose from a wide array of training concepts and specialized areas offered by our extensive network of training partners.
- 6. Online Certification:** Optional registration of your certificate in an [online database](#) for verification.
- 7. Career Advancement:** Enhance your professional profile and open doors to new opportunities in the global industry.



### Validate your openBIM skills

buildingSMART Certification can distinguish you from others and improve your opportunities for advancement.  
[buildingsmartcanada.ca/certification](https://buildingsmartcanada.ca/certification)

### Eager to get started?



Fill out this Faststart Participant Application form to be considered for the Faststart Exam.

# IFC 4.3 APPROVED as a Final Standard

Earlier this year, ISO has approved IFC 4.3 as a final standard. This means IFC 4.3 will now become internationally accredited as the latest version of the ISO 16739 standard.



Following a round of improvements and amendments from earlier phases of the ISO process, IFC 4.3 received 100% approval and has formally been published on **March 21, 2024**.

Clive Billiald, Chief Executive of buildingSMART International, commented, "Having formal approval from ISO that IFC 4.3 will become an internationally accredited standard is excellent news for our industry. I do not doubt that the quality of the standard has been improved through this process, and I commend the work of everyone involved over a number of years. Now we look forward to supporting the adoption and use of this new standard by the industry and software vendor community".

## buildingSMART International Summit – Morocco 2024 (Oct 1 to Oct 3)

Join us at our first-ever African summit – a groundbreaking moment in digital transformation!

[Click to Register](#)



## buildingSMART International openBIM Awards 2024 is Now Open!



**ENTRIES OPEN**  
**12 MARCH 2024**

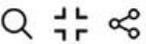
The openBIM Awards 2024 program is now accepting submissions. Please note, the deadline for all entries is 13th May 2024, New South Wales Time (GMT +11). Entries for the openBIM Awards 2024 must utilize one or more buildingSMART tools or standards. The criteria for judgment will focus on the effectiveness and innovation in using these resources to address interoperability challenges.

[Click to find more](#)

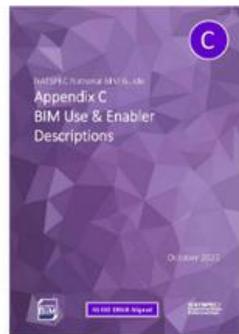
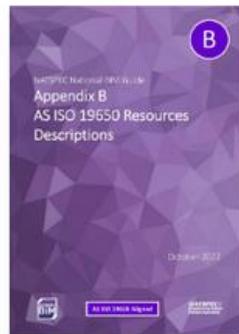
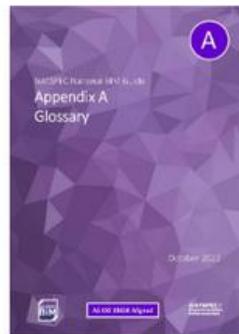
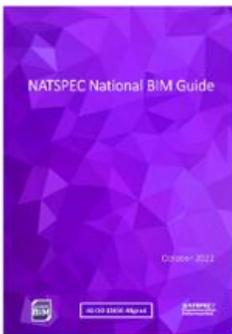
# bSC Digital Resource Library for bSC members coming soon

bSC has actively listened to the member's calls for more accessible information and resources. In our commitment to meet this need, we've closely examined successful strategies from other bSI chapters. Inspired by these insights, we are excited to announce the development of a state-of-the-art Digital Resource Library. This initiative is designed for exclusively for bSC members to significantly enhance our offerings, providing a comprehensive collection of both digital and physical resources.

We have collected and reviewed a wide array of materials to ensure they meet our high standards of quality and relevance. These resources ensure that bSC members have unparalleled access to vital information. We're dedicated to empowering our community through this venture and eagerly anticipate the launch in the upcoming month. Stay tuned for further updates as we progress with this innovative project, preparing a bSC members portal—reserved exclusively for our esteemed bSC members.



## Guides & Standards



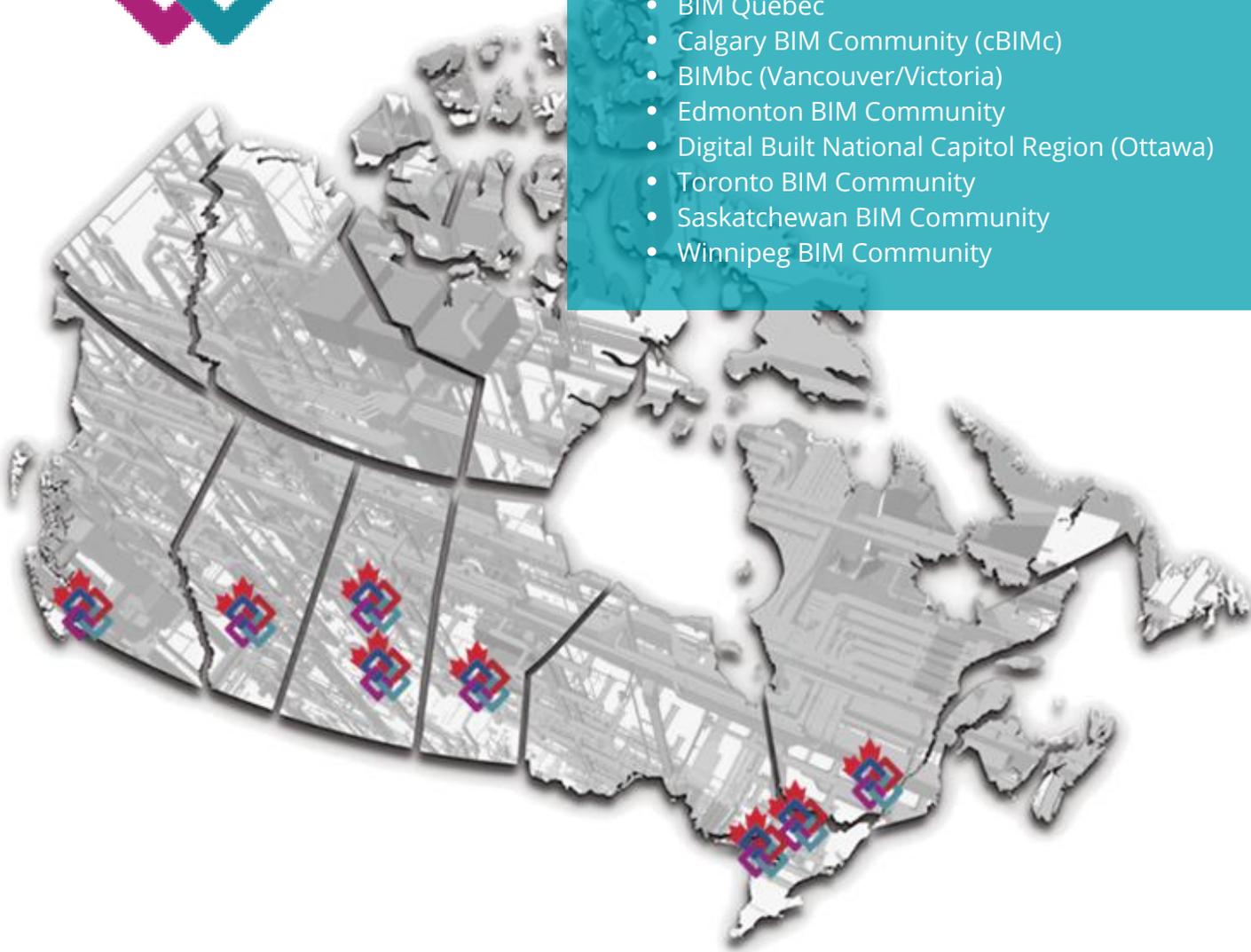
# Affiliates

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



Don't forget to engage with your local Affiliate

# Become a member

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](https://buildingsmartcanada.ca/members)**.

# Thank-you to our supporting Members



buildingSMART CANADA  
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to date with bSC?

[Sign up for our newsletter](#)

