

August 2022

Neil J. McFarlane, P.Eng., B.Sc. (CivEng)

Neil's career in project management and construction has spanned 40 years with experience in both the public and private sectors; as an Owner, a Contractor, and a project management Consultant.

Graduating with a Civil Engineering degree from the University of Alberta in 1979, he spent the first 22 years of his career with Alberta Infrastructure, contributing to and leading interesting projects such as the Nakiska Ski Area in Kananaskis for the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics, the Alberta Legislature Building and the Government Centre site, and development of a major fresh water marina at Cold Lake. Neil also led a team that received the Premier's Award of Excellence for the use of Best Value Design-Build procurement leading to a successful Public/Private Sector Partnership for the development of the Alberta Research Council Facility in Calgary.



In 2001, Neil left Infrastructure, spending 8 years with McFarlane Construction, a mid-sized general contracting firm, guiding and developing project management processes, with an emphasis on Design-Build.

In 2009, Neil saw a need for project management consulting services to assist private and public sector Owners in selecting and implementing appropriate methods of project procurement, and started a consulting firm to service that need.

Returning to Infrastructure in 2011 as a Senior Project Manager, Neil led the new and immensely successful Royal Alberta Museum project and assisted in wrapping up the Federal Building Project receiving several promotions along the way. From March 2017 to March 2018, Neil served as Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure's Health and Government Facilities Division, leading a team of professionals delivering major projects to meet government priorities.

Until his retirement from public service in May 2019, Neil served as Executive Lead, Change and Project Management for Alberta Transportation, heading up the Operational Excellence Branch, and acted as the Primary Change Advocate for the department as the Government of Alberta moved to a One Government approach to enterprise systems.

Active on the Canadian Design-Build Institute's (CDBI) Council for many years, Neil served as Chair from 2012-2014 and continues to remain closely involved in his retirement. He also served on the Canadian Construction Documents Committee Task Force on Integrated Project Delivery (IPD), developing a national standard CCDC IPD contract.

Neil also served as co-chair of the Edmonton Construction Association Owner's Forum, along with Andrew Sharman, University of Alberta. Facilitated by the Edmonton Construction Association, Public Owners from across Alberta meet twice yearly to discuss priorities to strengthen relationships with our construction industry partners – consultants and contractors.

In February 2020, Neil was honoured to receive the prestigious Claude Alston Award from the Edmonton Construction Association in recognition of his significant contributions to the construction industry.

Neil believes strongly that teamwork, collaboration and partnering with industry stakeholders leads to better project results for all participants. And although retired, he believes in sharing his vast project experience and giving back to the industry by remaining involved in industry related activities and projects.