



## Vancouver Geotechnical Society

A Local Section of the  
Canadian Geotechnical  
Society

[www.v-g-s.ca](http://www.v-g-s.ca)

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## NOTICE OF UPCOMING TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

**Tuesday, November 29, 2016**

**SUBJECT:** Recent Trends in Safety Assessments for Tailings Dams

**SPEAKER:** Bryan Watts, P.Eng. – *Klohn Crippen Berger*

Bryan Watts is a Principal with Klohn Crippen Berger in Vancouver. He is Past-President of the firm and Past-President of the Canadian Geotechnical Society. He was a member of the Fundao Dam Panel which investigated the static liquefaction of the failure of that dam in November, 2015 (see [fundaoinvestigation.com](http://fundaoinvestigation.com)). He was also involved directly in the investigations of the Omai tailings dam in 1995, the Los Frailes tailings dam in 1998 and the Mt. Polley tailings dam in 2014. He was lead investigator into the Bennett Dam sinkhole in 1996. He serves on a number of Review Boards for tailings dams in many parts of the world.

He holds a B.A.Sc (1974) in Geological Engineering from UBC, a M.Sc. degree in Civil Engineering from the Uof A, and is a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

**CONTENT:** This talk will be an encore presentation of the Keynote address on “Recent Trends in Safety Assessments for Tailings Dams” given at the recent Canadian Dam Association (CDA) conference in Halifax in mid-October 2016. Four case histories of tailings dam failures: Omai, Los Frailes, Mt. Polley, and Fundao are described together with their impact on tailings dam stewardship. This is followed by a discussion of current trends in tailings dam management structures, the continuing malaise in data organization at tailings dam sites, and the value of tying acceptable Factor of Safety guidelines to the ability to monitor the failure mode of interest.

**DETAILS:** **Location:** Executive Inn, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, BC V5C 3Y6  
**Social Hour:** 5:30 to 6:30 pm (drinks available at the hotel bar)  
**Technical Presentation:** 6:30 to 7:30 pm (No need to RSVP)  
**Dinner:** 8:00 pm (\$30 will be charged for dinner)

If you would like to stay for dinner, please RSVP to Aran Thurairajah via email or at the door [Aran.Thurairajah@golder.com](mailto:Aran.Thurairajah@golder.com)