

**MEET****Layle Larusson****Manager, BC Ministry of
Transportation and Infrastructure**

Layle Larusson is a manager in the Marine Branch, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Her responsibilities are varied and include everything from contract management to stakeholder communications to asset management. Her work involves several different large contracts including the Coastal Ferry Services Contract with BC Ferries, contracts for inland ferry services throughout the province, and contracts for related special projects/services.

Layle's work also includes:

- development of funding requests for contracts and special projects;
- undertaking of contract compliance reviews (i.e. quality audits) for the inland ferry agreements;
- development and management of an asset management plan for inland ferry assets; and
- maintaining positive, collaborative working relationships with all stakeholders – including contractors, ministry colleagues, members of the public, and suppliers.

Layle came to the procurement profession in 2004 and finds it a great fit with her education, previous job experience and her desire to work in a field that is constantly evolving.

“I graduated from Queens University with a B.Com in 2001, taking a multidisciplinary approach to the program,” said Layle. After graduating, I worked for an accounting firm in Vancouver for one year, but I decided that wasn't the place for me. I then worked at UBC in the graduate studies department.”

“In 2004, I accepted a job in Victoria as a procurement specialist with what is now called the Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services and I plunged into the world of government and procurement. I was lucky to work with great people who had a lot of procurement experience and they became my mentors. On a personal note, I was very excited to be back in Victoria as I grew up here and I looked forward to spending more time with family and friends.”

“I was also fortunate that the B.C. government had just launched the Procurement and Contract Management Program (PCMP) in 2005. I was one of the first to graduate from this program in 2007. The day after I graduated, I started a new job as a marine manager. This was a promotion for me, and I was really excited to move into management and take on some new challenges.”

“Having the PCMP certificate was a huge asset in getting my new job. My new boss liked the fact that I had the certificate and looked forward to the unique procurement and contract expertise that I would bring to the job. Our contracts range from huge multi-million dollar agreements for ferry services to smaller professional services contracts.”

“I love what I do, particularly managing contracts and applying my knowledge to the fascinating marine environment. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is a great place to work. The people are fantastic and there are always interesting projects to get involved with.”

“I highly recommend procurement as a profession, and I think it’s unfortunate that it’s under-represented in business schools. In particular, I like the variety that each new contract or RFP brings. There are always new legal decisions to learn about, and there is always room to innovate. Working with vendors in a collaborative way to achieve better results is one of the most satisfying aspects of my job.”

“I enjoy staying up-to-date in procurement and the law, but it can be challenging to find the time for this. The PCMP introduced an update course for graduates last year, which I attended. I hope in the future to spend more time participating in the Community of Practice that has been set up for PCMP graduates.”

Layle is going to be married in June. She and her fiancé don’t yet have plans for a honeymoon, but they are considering Iceland, where some of her family lives. She loves traveling, and so far has been to several European countries, with the south of France being a favourite.

She enjoys staying active through running and hiking. She has explored many of the beautiful parks around Greater Victoria, and East Sooke Park is a favoured spot.

Layle’s top three challenges/issues for today and the future are:

1. I’m conscious of the vast amount of knowledge that can only come from experience. As

people retire, there is a risk of that knowledge being lost. I believe that it’s important to transfer as much of that knowledge as possible before people leave an organization.

2. I would really like to see suppliers develop a better understanding of public procurement process, and procurement law. I think we can always be working to help suppliers understand our processes better, and conversely we can also learn from them. It’s important to not only provide feedback to suppliers, but also to seek their feedback about our processes.
3. We can always be looking for new ways to improve and innovate. I think it’s very important to keep an open mind and consider how we might do things better. 

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