



Third annual Building Information Modeling report sets benchmark for BIM users in Canada

Nov. 16, 2020, Toronto, Ont. – Results from the latest [Building Information Modeling \(BIM\) survey](#) have been published in a report that explores views about BIM from more than 800 Canadian respondents – primarily BIM users – over the past three years. The report provides valuable documentation and benchmarking indicators of Canada’s BIM transition progress and process.

The annual BIM survey is a collaborative effort between academia and industry to capture and illustrate the state of BIM implementation within the architecture, engineering, construction and facility management industries (AEC/FM) in Canada. It has been conducted by the [Building Innovation Research Centre](#) at University of Toronto in collaboration with [Residential Construction Council of Ontario \(RESCON\)](#), [Toronto BIM Community \(tBIMc\)](#) and this year with [AECO Innovation Lab](#). The effort was motivated by the lack of, and thus need for, an industry benchmark for BIM practices in Canada.

Key findings from the report include:

- 94% of participants acknowledged that BIM is the future of project information and design practices.
- 90% of participant organizations have adopted some level of BIM in their current operational workflow, and 80% of the remainder indicated that they have plans to implement BIM in the next few years.
- 88% per cent of the participants shared their BIM files with at least one external organization, with one-third of participants engaging five or more parties.
- Nearly half of survey participants encountered interoperability obstacles in their projects. Despite the potential of OpenBIM to address this, 43% of participants were not aware of OpenBIM.

According to Claudia Cozzitorto, a respected architect and founder and chair of the Toronto BIM Community (tBIMc), “the use of innovative BIM-based processes and analyses can bring significant productivity improvements to the architecture, engineering and construction industry. However, steps need to be taken to remove barriers that hinder a broader implementation. This report sheds light on those barriers, which include the need for an industry standard.”

Arash Shahi, CEO of AECO Innovation Lab and research chair of Toronto BIM Community adds, “while governments and regulators are beginning to recognize the potential of BIM to reduce time and red tape, and improve process transparency, Canada remains the only G7 country without a national BIM mandate. Momentum is being driven by the design community and industry organizations such as RESCON, who have been avid supporters of the annual BIM survey. RESCON has also taken a leadership position with the One Ontario initiative (oneontario.ca), which among other priorities aims to create a framework for establishing a BIM standard for municipal use across the province.”

The 2020 BIM report research team includes Brenda Y. McCabe, Arash Shahi and Hossein Nasrazadani. The report was made possible by assistance from the tBIMc board, and funding from RESCON and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. [Click here](#) for the report.

About RESCON

RESCON is Ontario's leading association of residential builders committed to providing leadership and fostering innovation in the industry. RESCON is active in major areas including labour relations and collective bargaining, workforce training, building code development as well as programs to manage affordable housing, land supply and government relations.

About Toronto BIM Community

tBIMc is a local community in the Greater Toronto Area with membership in all sectors of the AECOO industry serving to connect and elevate the use implementation of BIM process and technology. The tBIMc is an affiliate of buildingSMART Canada and complements the efforts of Canada BIM Council and other bSC affiliates in Canada.

About AECO Innovation Lab

AECO Research and Development unites business expertise, research talent and financial resources to build innovative standards and technology driving digital transformation across all AEC industries and government. AECO Start-Up Studio and Consulting Services strive to transform the best ideas into disruptive technology solutions applicable across the entire AEC value chain.

For more information

Grant Cameron
Senior Director of Public Affairs, RESCON
905-638-1706
media@rescon.com

Katrina Maheu
Director of Marketing & Communications, AECO Innovation Lab
katrina.maheu@aecoinnovationlab.com