



DATE: February 2023
TO: CCA Board of Directors
FROM: Mary Van Buren
RE: Summary of Partner Reports – Q1 2023

In preparation for the Canadian Construction Association's March Board meeting, our partner associations provided summary reports with key updates and insights into the current issues and opportunities in their regions. We appreciate their support! Below is a summary of their reports. ([link to the reports](#))

Common Themes

A) Return to in person events

Associations are seeing strong turn outs and sponsorships of their events.

- Of note, NBRB raised \$100,000 for Make a Wish Foundation, ACRGTQ saw 800 people attend their recent conference
- Political leaders are attending the events as well, after a hiatus.
- PEIRB hosted a one day AGM that was well attended
- ORBA held its annual convention, attracting good political provincial representation, including the Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure, Finance, Education and Interim Ontario Liberal leader, John Fraser

B) The adoption of prompt payment legislation continues to progress

- CANS will manage the adjudication service
- Sask had its first dispute adjudicated
- In response to ACA lobby, AB Infrastructure Minister has verbally committed to introduction of prompt pay provisions to Public Works Act
- NB is starting a review of prompt payment legislation, with the goal of CANB running the adjudication process through a third-party company.
- After years of effort, Quebec will bring into legislation "Law 18" which will put an end to delays in public procurement. Regulations are now being developed in partnership with industry.

C) The shortage of skilled labour and workforce development programs

- OSWCA has signed a MOU with CAPEI to launch TradesCAN in Ontario. The intent is to launch this program at the 2023 OSWCA Annual Conference
- CANS is delivering a Workforce Summit
- NBRB has launched its mobile Heavy Equipment Operator training classroom project
- ACA is delivering numerous workforce programs to bring new workers and new skills to the industry
- BC's Builders Life campaign and apprenticeship support program via ESDC funding has attracted 4,500 apprenticeship applicants and paid out \$2M in loans.
- CANB is working with the NB Building Trades Union and Department of Post Secondary Education Training and Labour to identify a new approach to support the skilled trades industry.
- Ontario has launched a new skilled trades digital marketing campaign, with support for Ontario youth apprentices and outreach to students in grades 7-12.

- PEIRB have purchased a Vortex Edge Max simulator, which will be used as an additional graduation pathway, starting in two high schools

D) Public procurement

- MHCA, with WCR&HCA and CCA, have worked with the Canada West Foundation and two other national business organizations – Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Business Council of Canada – to successfully place the campaign for a National Plan for Trade Corridor Investment (NPTCI) on the table at the Council of the Federation meeting in July, 2023
- CANB is pleased that Service NB has updated the old Crown Construction Act with some adjustments being requested by the industry on the rights of the Minister to disqualify some bidders.
- NB Government also released details of expected work with approximate tender release dates; something they have been advocating for
- The 2023 Alberta Provincial Govt is expected to have a significant capital program, especially for school construction.
- BC government is focused on housing, without understanding the role the construction industry will play in delivering on that promise

Industry

- Devastation caused by Hurricane Fiona has devastated much of PEIs coastline.
- SKCA: In the first 11 months of 2022, building permits increased by 22.1% compared to the same period in 2021. Non-residential investment increased by 31% over same period last year.
- SKCA association memberships are all down, on average 9.8%
- Note: CANS is celebrating our 160 years anniversary!
- Nova Scotia's non-residential construction investment increased 26.2% year-to-date
- Ontario: Early signs indicate that the sewer and watermain construction sector in the province is in for another strong year, in terms of tendered work
- HCANL: We are expecting to see similar budgets over the next several years but Industry would argue that expenditures are not keeping pace with the infrastructure requirements in the province, especially relating to highway upkeep and Municipal Water and Sewer requirements
 - Mb Transportation and Infrastructure and MHCA held an 'end of season' discussion regarding the 2022 highways & water structures capital program
 - There was significant lag in tendering in 2022; potential of 30% of program not tendered this year
- NLCA: delivering an NLCA Build 2023 Construction Expo, has formed a women in construction committee
- NSRB: Our big picture outlook for business is quite solid. The province has announced a \$450M program for the next fiscal; Training, thanks to very good support and working relationship with our Provincial Labour Department this area is expanding significantly for us

Advocacy/Legislation

- ACQ held its provincial Hill Day on February 8th, to show the strength of the industry; with a focus on improving productivity of the sector (Workforce shortage and using technology) and housing.
- L'ACRGTO has recently learned that the Ministry of Work is redesigning Law R-20 on work relations, professional training and the management of the workforce in construction. They will be following this very closely in 2023. They are also following very closely Law 59 on modernizing health and safety..
- In Regina, the associations successfully overturned a "fair wage" policy and Milestone Payments for an infrastructure project. While this was a big win, it highlighted a real vulnerability facing our business community in Saskatchewan
- SHCA has been working on a solution to fuel escalation, including a potential clause

- *The Saskatchewan First Act* was introduced late 2022 to assert the province’s legislative jurisdiction over exploration for non-renewable natural resources as well as developing, conserving and managing non-renewable natural and forestry resources and operating sites and facilities for generating and producing electricity. While there has been plenty of discussion about friction in the relationship between the provincial and federal governments around policies such as the carbon tax, *The Saskatchewan First Act* is still new and many are in the process of reviewing it.
- CANS is forming a climate change action group to help advance industry in Nova Scotia to meet our ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The group has met with senior government leaders to discuss industry’s transition to greener building practices, through education and transitional funding.
- Federal Electronic Logging Requirements: As announced by the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators on May 5, 2021, the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador plans to support the mandate through a progressive enforcement period without penalties until January 1, 2023.
- MHCA is working with WCA to ensure the City of Winnipeg’s social procurement “action plan” tools used in construction tenders will be practical, workable and in line with the market realities
- ORBA and OSWCA are lobbying the province for a steel index.
- OGCA is focusing its efforts on the proposed increase to WSIB from 85% to 90% of net insurable earnings, that there be more building inspectors; continue investing in infrastructure and expand use of collaborative models and paid sick days for workers
- Quebec is monitoring the impact of the requirement for a health and safety officer on site. Many of industry’s questions remain outstanding.