



DATE: May 2023
TO: CCA Board of Directors
FROM: Mary Van Buren
RE: 4.0 Summary of Partner Reports – Q2 2023

In preparation for the Canadian Construction Association's June 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, followed by individual reports.

Common Themes

A) Advocacy/Legislation

- BCCA hosted an MLA luncheon as part of a "Hill Day" for BC that allowed the BCCA Board to meet with key Ministers as well with MLAs from the BC United (Liberal) party. Other events throughout April's Construction month included Contractor's breakfasts, 100 lunchbox challenges lunches, and a special Deputy Minister's Industry Infrastructure Forum session, as well as a variety of webinars and info sessions. Our top priorities are not shifting but they are becoming even more urgent as the climate for construction becomes increasingly risk-laden:
 - Prompt Payment Legislation
 - Labour Costs and Shortages
 - Public Sector Procurement Practises
 - Contract Terms
- ACA advocacy priorities are to address risk in GoA contracts, extend prompt pay to Public Works, and for Government to incent a major building retrofit program for Alberta
- The SKCA recently met with representatives from SaskBuilds to discuss the status and progress of their Indigenous Procurement Policy; our new partnership with the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence will help our industry understand and align best practices in this area. Our SupplierLink Partnership will allocate resources to an Indigenous Impact Study to better understand key procurement factors that impact indigenous and non-indigenous companies and our communities. The Construction Association also recently attended the Indigenous Business Gathering hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan. Meetings with SaskBuilds were held in January with eight leading industry organizations; SaskBuilds reviewed 13 action items identified by industry groups;
 - o Exemptions in Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)
 - o Best Value Procurement
 - o Conflict of Interest
 - o Multi-staged Procurement
 - o Procurement Code of Conduct
 - o Vendor Debriefing
 - o Vendor Performance Evaluation
 - o Address the Knowledge Gap
 - o Collaborate Capital Forecasting
 - o Enhance the SaskTenders Portal
 - o Common Procurement Templates
 - o Corporate Citizenship
 - o Define 'Saskatchewan Business'

- The industry groups will continue to refine this list regarding priorities and obtainable targets for the Government. It was also identified that an Indigenous procurement strategy is needed; SaskBuilds indicated they are working with consultants to develop a strategy.
- Premier Stefanson was a recent speaker at MHCA Breakfast with the Leaders; committed to working to increase Manitoba's trade profile through infra investments; to champion NPTCI at CoF and to federal offices. Trade gateway and corridor fund – recapitalization & strategy o Solid progress on the proposed National Plan for Trade Corridor Infrastructure
- Due to the sudden departure of Mayor John Tory from the City of Toronto, the OGCA is being approached by multiple mayoral candidates vying for support in their election advancement. Some of the notable candidates that have approached the OGCA for support are: Mark Saunders (supported by the Ontario Government) and Anna Bailao (supported by various Labour organizations). The OGCA's position on this is that we will agree to meet with any candidate following the review of their platform
- In an effort to prevent pending legislation that would adversely affect the industry the, OGCA, along with various other stakeholder associations, engaged with the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) to draft a proposal to demonstrate how paid sick days would adversely affect the construction industry. The goal is to exempt all "Class G" employers from any future Paid Sick Leave legislation due to the significant cost and the lack of trackability between employers. Current impacts of paid sick leave could be over 10% of the industry's operating surpluses in general and over 50% higher for businesses, primarily those with non-union workers.
- A group of nine (9) industry associations, including the OGCA, provided their support in a letter submitted to the Premier of Ontario pushing back on Enbridge's proposal to charge \$200 per locate, which would have a profound impact on the cost of construction in Ontario.
- Over March 27/28, more than 25 senior representatives from ORBA/OAPC-member companies descended on Queen's Park for our lobby day and reception. 2023 priorities are:
 - Continue the strong investment in transportation infrastructure; Early Tenders as a priority
 - Help our members deliver projects for the provincial government by helping to reduce project, material and labour cost risk
 - Mandate more municipal use of provincial materials indices and recycled materials in the construction of transportation infrastructure
- Throughout the past year, ORBA led an approach to MTO regarding the creation of a steel index to compliment the existing MTO fuel and asphalt cement indices in assisting with inflation mitigation on key materials. After multiple meetings, a draft SSP payment adjustment for changes in the steel price index was published on MTO's technical portal for comment in early March. The steel index benchmarks Statistics Canada data with an applicable threshold of 10%. After receiving ORBA's final comments, MTO is preparing for imminent publication of the new SSP.
- ORBA has also been advocating for further items to be included in the performance-graded asphalt cement (PGAC) and MTO fuel indices. We are therefore also pleased that the MTO has indicated they are working to include our suggestions, based on biggest-impact items first.
- Bill R 20 in Quebec hopes to reform the labour relations law, professional training and the management of the workforce in construction. This work should commence in October 2023.
- PEI went thru a provincial election with a majority PC government. With that came a cabinet shuffle and we have already established a great relationship with many new ministers and their staff Labor is one of the key conversations at the table along with procurement, prompt payment and our lien act and tender scheduling and timing and industry's ability to complete projects.
- CANB will be hosting our Bi-Annual Joint Industry and Government meeting on June 13th in Fredericton. With over 25 departments and industry associations present, it provides the opportunity for both government and industry officials to learn more about the current struggles facing our industry

- NBRB. Fuel adjustment clause is a major issue with NBRB for 2023. Now that fuel appears to be somewhat stable, DTI has the opinion everything is good and no fuel clause needed. We want to set something in place for the “next time”. Could be a hard sell. We all know governments are not proactive.
- NSRB: We have been involved in an effort to have the Province make a fulsome review of our Workers Compensation Program. This has been done in coalition with several major employers in the Province and a couple of significant Associations. Fuel and liquid asphalt have been the main challenges.
- Heavy Construction NL: more prominent topics include
 - Opportunity for Design Build (Structures)
 - Federal Cost Shared Program. Current Overview.
 - Opportunities for additional Private Sector work.
 - Importance of Multiyear plan and Early Tenders.

B) Positive Industry Outlook

- BC civil: road building and maintenance plus the heavy construction contractors, are coming off a busy 2022 and the industry remains strong as we move nearly halfway through 2023. The BC government has committed to continue with their long-term investment plan for infrastructure as well as investing in the rebuild of the flood ravaged highway system, with a focus on more resilient infrastructure moving forward.
- Alberta: Following a 6% increase 2022 over 2021, growth continues with permit values of \$2.7 billion for January-February 2023 up 10.7% compared to the first 2 months of 2022. Commercial permit values continue to show strong growth. Membership has declined by 64 members vs Q1 2022
- SKCA: In March 2023, building permits decreased by 44.2% compared to March 2022. Building permits declined by 30.1% for Jan – March 2023 compared to prior year. The January – March 2022 compared to January – March 2023 (most up-to-date statistics) year-to-date total changes are as follows:
 - Commercial – down 42.7%
 - Industrial – up 60.7%
 - Institutional / Government sector – down 8.2%
 - Residential – down 44.5%
- Manitoba Budget 2024 increased highways capital to \$500 million, plus \$57 million in carryover, compared to \$468 in '23 or Five-year investment plan published; minimum of \$500 million through to 2027 (total \$2.5 billion)
- City of Winnipeg 2023 streets budget \$155.8 million, \$9 million lower than '22, largely due to ending of tri-governmental funding deal to accelerate regional street renewal; program is \$19 million higher than forecasted, due to Mayor’s election promise to focus on street repairs
- In March 2023, WCA hosted 197 projects which is about average for March over the last 5 years. To date, Buildworks have hosted 759 project which is slightly more than the five-year average of 749.
- BuildCast is the WCA pre-bid information service which accumulates information on confirmed and potential projects to happen in Manitoba in the next 5 years. We are currently tracking 1156 projects potentially worth between \$21.5Bn and \$29.5Bn. WCA members receive a weekly update on new information on projects in the pipeline
- Ontario announced in its recent budget an almost \$100 billion capital plan for highways, bridges and public transit over the next decade
- Ontario Sewer and Water Main :There has been a slight decline in the number of projects being tendered municipally and privately, but the industry continues to be busy (though perhaps not at the same pace as the previous three years). A higher number of projects have been cancelled for coming in over the projected budget to this point in 2023, than in recent memor

- The expected investments in infrastructure for 2022-2023 will increase for Quebec, growing by \$7.5 billion and totaling \$150 billion over the next 10 years.
- NBRB: The 3-year plan is still in place, however as I write this it is now a 2-year plan. The 2025-26 year has not been added
- NSRB: We received some surprising news with the recent release of the capital budget for this fiscal year. The Province added \$75M in additional spending
- Eight months later, our Industry is still cleaning up after Fiona in PEI. Contractors resume work to mending infrastructure and clearing roadways, properties and beaches for the busy tourist season ahead.
- Close to \$1.4 billion to improve highway and road transportation infrastructure over the next five years in NFDL and Labrador. This is the largest provincial investment in highway and road infrastructure over a five-year period in the province's history; Budgeted highway and road transportation infrastructure for the 2023 / 2024 fiscal year is \$225 Million which is 30% higher than what we have seen in the previous 2-3 years
- Investment in Nova Scotia building construction increased 4.1% in January 2023 to \$400.7 million (seasonally adjusted) compared to December 2022.
- In January 2023, non-residential building construction increased 1.0% to \$62.0 million in Nova Scotia (seasonally adjusted). In Halifax, non-residential construction was up 3.7% to \$40.8 million. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction decreased 3.9% to \$21.2 million.
- Nova Scotia's non-residential construction investment decreased 3.3% compared to January 2022. Halifax's non-residential construction rose 13.2%. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction decreased by 24.5%. Halifax commercial and industrial building construction have been following an increasing trend since the end of 2021, however industrial construction has declined in recent months
- The outlook for the Newfoundland and Labrador economy in 2023 remains positive and is expected to have one of the highest rates of growth among Canadian provinces. One issue of concern is that the NL market has only a single liquid asphalt supplier

C) The adoption of prompt payment legislation remains a priority

- Alberta legislation on hold as the province prepares for an election May 29th
- Manitoba: Bill 38 The Builders' Liens Act (Prompt Payment) Act –has been read a second time and was put before the Legislative Social and Economic Development Committee on May 8. The Act will require invoices to be paid to a GC in 28 days and sub-contractors to be paid in a further 7 days.
- Quebec: The government is working to end payment delays in the construction industry. After having put in place a pilot project to test innovation solutions, Treasury Board has confirmed its intention to expand the mechanisms of the test pilot and offer a transitional pathway for the industry
- Throughout the past year, NB has increased advocacy efforts to push the Premier for Prompt Payment legislation and responded strongly when it was not delivered, as promised during the 2022 Calendar year. We continue to work with the opposition parties, the chambers of commerce and our regional partners to keep this as a priority.
- CANS continues to work with the provincial government on a prompt payment model and is waiting on regulatory and adjudication framework for Nova Scotia. The Association will launch a website to
- support an adjudication body created by CANS that will regulate, resolve disputes, and educate industry on their new legal and financial responsibilities

D) The shortage of skilled labour and workforce development programs

- BCCA has amassed a talent pool of over 5,000 apprenticeship applicants through our "Builders Life" campaign. BCCA has paid \$5M in Apprenticeship Service grants to employers since the program opened in October 2022.

- BCRB is launching a Province wide **Talent Attraction Program**, centered on innovative simulator technology, housed in a mobile trailer. Our intent is to bring increased attention to the career opportunities in our industry
- ACA is delivering numerous workforce programs to bring new workers and new skills into the industry
- SKCA: The Advisory Council held its first meeting of 2023 in January. Key areas of focus indicated by the group include; promoting the construction industry and careers in construction.
- An analysis of current organizations and programs is being done to better understand how the Construction Association contributes to these categories and organizations actively working in these areas. It has been made clear that many of these organizations need to gain access to construction companies. There has been engagements with two industry education councils and The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training have occurred to date.
- Manitoba Construction Industry Job Fair – WCA, with industry partner held a Construction job fair at Victoria Inn on April 18. Over 650 job seekers attended.
- OSWCA is working with TradesCAN to launch its immigration placement program in Ontario. The program launched at the end of March, with a small number of contractors having now gone through initial meetings and working through their recruitment lists. The immediate pick-up has been slow, but we are expecting an increasing number of contractors to join this program once we have a few initial successes to advertise
- In Quebec, the government will invest more than \$200 M over five years to implement its workforce programs such as better recognition for professional studies diplomas.
- CANB has engaged with the Department of Early Education and Childhood Development to increase the knowledge, teachings, and promotion of skilled trades earlier in the school system. We are advocating for is the establishment of an online Skilled Trades Centers of Excellence.
- NBRB: The trailer was completed in time for the winter semester and was parked at Woodstock High School. Ten students took the program, with nine completing all modules. All ten students have been placed with local contractors to complete their Coop course. The trailer will be going to Perth Andover & Grand Falls in the fall. It is good to see high schools getting together to use the trailer. We are now working with the Dept Education on how the trailer can be used when school is out for the summer.
- NSRB: We will wrap up another delivery of our Road Builder 101 Course on April 20. This program is aimed at bringing on new employees for our Industry. It has been quite successful and we thank the Provincial Labour Department for their support of this effort.
- On February 15, CANS held our inaugural Construction Workforce Summit. The one-day event educated over 130 industry leaders on topics such as immigration, recruitment, and retention, and connected company representatives and construction-related programs with over 500 potential employees actively seeking work in construction and the trades. An awareness campaign was launched, targeting employers and workers, with a goal of educating both parties about their responsibility in making sure people are working safe at heights. For more information, visit: <https://tieoffns.ca>
- CAPEI: Our international recruitment platform continues to gain strength and support from many levels of government, and we continue to look at new initiatives to grow this platform. VR continues to be a crowd pleaser with our youth and a great way to promotes trades in the education system.
- April 2023, PEIRB attended the Skills PEI Job Fair, representing our industry in effort to recruit workers. The Job Fairs were busy and hopefully we were able to attract some new workers

E) **Social Procurement concerns continue**

- BCCA published a free *Construction Projects and Contracts Closeout Guide* supported with a live webinar at the end of April. Over 400 people registered to attend the session.
- ARHCA: Community Benefit Agreements. Currently not mandated in Alberta. Being discussed as a policy possibility. ARCHA has been discussing its concerns regarding community benefit agreements with political parties and candidates as well as with provinces where this is a mandated practice.

- ACA has joined Progressive Contractors Association and Independent Contractors Association to write Opposition Leader Rachel Notley to express concerns about policy commitments to extend BC style Community Benefits to Alberta and to outlaw double breasting.
- With a lack of submissions, l'ACRGTO is supporting alternative contracts to the lowest bid in public procurement, which will help spur innovation and building sustainably
- The City of Ottawa is proposing to move forward with its own social procurement program and is considering making it a scored item in their Vendor Performance Management system. OSWCA is working with the National Capital Heavy Construction Association to develop briefing material and provide feedback to the City about what other municipalities (Toronto, London, and Waterloo)

F) *Greening of the industry is an increasing priority*

- BCRB is Implementing a GHG measurement and reduction platform for our members to use. We have engaged world-leading consultants to explore the potential of the association working with members to generate verified carbon credits which can be traded in exchange for monetary compensation, allowing the purchase of new equipment and innovative processes, to go above business-as-usual practices.
- City of Winnipeg agreed to contract with independent consultant to recommend next steps for department to complete review of use of recycled concrete aggregates as a roadbuilding material; review intended to ascertain the cost, and economic, environmental and resource-management benefits of RCA.
- L'ACRGTO's annual conference was themed "The dynamics of a green future". Principles of a green circular economy targeting a logical management of residual materials and protection of the environment were discussed.

G) *Membership- some areas growing, others declining*

- ARHCA: Held two events for members in April with the Consulting Engineers of Alberta and Alberta Transportation: one in Calgary and one in Edmonton to re-kindle the mechanics and organics of partnering given the tri-party nature of our industry. ARHCA is seeing enthusiasm for our return for in person events (business and social). Membership levels trending up.
- Compared to 2022, SKCA membership is down 6.76% in 2023
- Tony DiPede from the North Rock Group (GTA) is the OSWCA representative to the CCA and CICC
- ACQ is participating in a 1,000 km cycling relay with five cyclists, in support of the Pierre Lavoie challenge. The team will depart from the Saguenay region and end in Montreal, the 8-11 June. This will entail 60 hours of cycling. ACQ is also very proud to be have been chosen for this and has already raised thousands of dollars.
- CANS hosted our largest-yet annual De-Icer in April with great success, hosting over 1,700 individuals in downtown Halifax
- NBRB Spring mixer had lower than usual attendance
- The association recently held NLCA Build 2023 Construction Expo, which was a success! We connected members to the buyers of construction to showcase their innovative products, services and technologies in an effort to facilitate change and advance the industry. We intend to make this an annual event and build on the program for next year. NLCA has been actively exploring ways to increase its value proposition for member firms, ensuring we continue to play a relevant role in how they do business.

TOP PRIORITIES

Our top priorities are not shifting but they are becoming even more urgent as the climate for construction becomes increasingly risk-laden:

- Prompt Payment Legislation
- Labour Costs and Shortages
- Public Sector Procurement Practises
- Contract Terms

GENERAL CONCERNS

- Increased Overall Risk Profile for businesses
- Premier David Eby continues focus on building housing without meaningful collaboration with the construction industry to address challenges around payment, permits, or procurement.

NEW ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- BCCA released the new **Spring 2023 Stat Pack** and **Industry Survey** During Construction Month 2023 (April). Read the News Release [here](#).
- We published a free *Construction Projects and Contracts Closeout Guide* supported with a live webinar at the end of April. Over 400 people registered to attend the session. Both the document and the session can be viewed [here](#).
- BCCA has amassed a talent pool of over 5,000 apprenticeship applicants through our “Builders Life” campaign.
- BCCA has paid \$5M in Apprenticeship Service grants to employers since the program opened in October 2022.
- A third “Owners Only” session titled “*Making It Work: Career Contractors on Public Sector Bids and Builds*” was held on April 17. Three highly experienced general contractors took questions on public sector procurement. It was highly attended and very well received.

BCCA UPDATE: May 2023



CONSTRUCTION MONTH 2023

This annual industry celebration, spearheaded by BCCA and supported by 22 industry sponsors, continues to gain ground and is becoming a fixture in the province. This year we were back in person with a Leadership dinner for 100 that was attended by the Minister of Housing as well as the Leader of the Opposition, several MLAs, Ministers, and industry leaders. BCCA also hosted an MLA luncheon as part of a “Hill Day” for BC that allowed the BCCA Board to meet with key Ministers as well with MLAs from the BC United (Liberal) party. Other events throughout the month included Contractor’s breakfasts, 100 lunchbox challenges lunches, and a special Deputy Minister’s Industry Infrastructure Forum session, as well as a variety of webinars and info sessions.



MEMO

Date: May 09, 2023

To: Lynn Perrault, CCA

From: Matt Pitcairn

Cc: Steve Drummond, Kelly Scott

Subject: CCA Provincial Report – BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association

CURRENT STATE:

Our industry: road building and maintenance plus the heavy construction contractors, are coming off a busy 2022 and the industry remains strong as we move nearly halfway through 2023. The BC government has committed to continue with their long-term investment plan for infrastructure as well as investing in the rebuild of the flood ravaged highway system, with a focus on more resilient infrastructure moving forward. This re-construction work on highways 1 and 5 is happening now.

While we are experiencing labour challenges like the rest of Canada, several major projects such as the Site C dam and the Trans Mountain Pipeline are getting closer to completion, which will see a large pool of labour moving to other projects.

2023 PRIORITY ISSUES:

- Advocate for **increased and sustained investment** in resilient core infrastructure. This includes educating the public on the benefits of predictable and consistent infrastructure investment.
- Provide ongoing participation with all owners on **improved procurement practices**, with the ambition to work with the relevant regulatory stakeholders on implementing a procurement process that maximizes value for the project and rewards continued innovation.
- Identify **key data points** and use this information to develop systems that track and report on trends within our industry. Then effectively communicate these data insights and incorporate them into focused advocacy campaigns and programs.
- **Align capacity with industry demands** and workforce development:
 - Invest in industry initiatives and **media campaigns** to promote the industry and attract diverse talent.
 - Provide additional **Indigenous engagement** education to our member companies.
 - Expand the BCRB&HCA **Scholarship Program** to attract more young people to the industry.
- **Implementing a GHG measurement and reduction platform** for our members to use.
 - We have engaged world-leading consultants to explore the potential of the association working with members to generate verified carbon credits which can be traded in exchange for monetary compensation, allowing the purchase of new equipment and innovative processes, to go above business-as-usual practices.
- We are launching a Province wide **Talent Attraction Program**, centered on innovative simulator technology, housed in a mobile trailer. Our intent is to bring increased attention to the career opportunities in our industry.

May 2023 Report to Canadian Construction Association

2023 Chair Trevor Doucette (Graham Construction)

Advocacy

- Industry / Infrastructure Working Groups for risk in GoA contracts and introducing prompt pay provisions to Public Works Act on hold during the writ period for the May 29 provincial election.
- ACA has joined Progressive Contractors Association and Independent Contractors Association to write Opposition Leader Rachel Notley to express concerns about policy commitments to extend BC style Community Benefits to Alberta and to outlaw double breasting.
- ACA has developed a website to assist construction personnel with understanding party platforms as it relates to key construction industry issues.
- CCA Board member / ACA Chair Trevor Doucette serves on AB Infrastructure Industry Liaison Council providing industry perspective on prequalification, procurement and contracts, project delivery methods, vendor performance management framework, etc. Trevor also leads ACA liaison with AB Health Services and AB Seniors Housing.

Industry Overview

Following a 6% increase 2022 over 2021, growth continues with permit values of \$2.7 billion for January-February 2023 up 10.7% compared to the first 2 months of 2022. Commercial permit values continue to show strong growth.

Membership

Q1 2023 Membership stood at 2076 compared to 2256 for Q4 2022 and 2140 for Q1 2022.

Priorities

- ACA advocacy priorities are to address risk in GoA contracts, extend prompt pay to Public Works, and for Government to incent a major building retrofit program for Alberta
- ACA is delivering numerous workforce programs to bring new workers and new skills into the industry

Update: Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA) May 2023

May Election

- Alberta's Provincial election formally began on May 1. Will be held on May 29.
 - ARHCA providing information on issues important to its members and tracking infrastructure-related policy commitments.
 - Information posted to our website at <https://www.arhca.ab.ca/>
 - Public advocacy suspended until after campaign.

Community Benefit Agreements

- Currently not mandated in Alberta. Being discussed as a policy possibility. ARCHA has been discussing its concerns regarding community benefit agreements with political parties and candidates as well as with provinces where this is a mandated practice.

Provincial Budget

- Alberta's provincial budget was tabled at the end of February. Consistent, reliable funding for infrastructure investment remains a concern for our industry.

Rate Guide

- Rate guide available (and mailed to members) in April.

CCA (Canadian Construction Association) Event

- Along with the ECA we are looking forward to seeing our colleagues at the CCA Partner Event being held in Edmonton May 30.

CONEXPO-CON/AGG

- ARHCA attended along with over 100 members from Alberta.

Safety Forum

- 2023 Safety Forum held April 13. Focus was on fatigue management to kick off construction season.

Partnering Sessions

- Held two events for members in April with the Consulting Engineers of Alberta and Alberta Transportation: one in Calgary and one in Edmonton to re-kindle the mechanics and organics of partnering given the tri-party nature of our industry.

Industry Participation

- ARHCA is seeing enthusiasm for our return for in person events (business and social). Membership levels trending up.

Commented [JK1]: Ron - do you want to add one of Anastasia's charts? Or do you have a quantitative reference to underline this claim?

Commented [GU2R1]: yes please

Commented [JK3]: Ron - do you have details?

Commented [GU4R3]: done

CCA Board Report

Provincial Report - Saskatchewan



STATE OF THE INDUSTRY¹

In March 2023, building permits **decreased by 44.2%** compared to March 2022. Building permits declined by **30.1%** for Jan – March 2023 compared to Jan – March 2022. The January – March 2022 compared to January – March 2023 (most up-to-date statistics) year-to-date total changes are as follows:

- Commercial – **down 42.7%**
- Industrial – **up 60.7%**
- Institutional / Government sector – **down 8.2%**
- Residential – **down 44.5%**

MEMBERSHIP

Compared to 2022, SKCA membership is **down 6.76%** in 2023.

- Prince Albert Construction Association – **down 4.17%**
- Saskatoon Construction Association – **down 4.37%**
- Regina Construction Association – **down 10.2%**
- Moose Jaw Construction Association – **down 4.17%**

ADVOCACY & INITIATIVES

- **Government of Saskatchewan**

The SKCA recently met with representatives from SaskBuilds to discuss the status and progress of their Indigenous Procurement Policy; our new partnership with the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence will help our industry understand and align best practices in this area. Our SupplierLink Partnership will allocate resources to an Indigenous Impact Study to better understand key procurement factors that impact indigenous and non-indigenous companies and our communities. The Construction Association also recently attended the Indigenous Business Gathering hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan. Meetings with SaskBuilds were held in January with eight

¹ Sourced from the Government of Saskatchewan [Economic Dashboard](#).

leading industry organizations; SaskBuilds reviewed 13 action items identified by industry groups;

- Exemptions in Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)
- Best Value Procurement
- Conflict of Interest
- Multi-staged Procurement
- Procurement Code of Conduct
- Vendor Debriefing
- Vendor Performance Evaluation
- Address the Knowledge Gap
- Collaborate Capital Forecasting
- Enhance the SaskTenders Portal
- Common Procurement Templates
- Corporate Citizenship
- Define 'Saskatchewan Business'

The industry groups will continue to refine this list regarding priorities and obtainable targets for the Government. It was also identified that an Indigenous procurement strategy is needed; SaskBuilds indicated they are working with consultants to develop a strategy.

- **Municipalities**

The Association has had successful interactions with multiple municipalities across Saskatchewan. We addressed concerns with the City of Saskatoon project, where contractors felt that criteria were too restrictive, limiting the number of companies that would qualify for participation and leaving the perception of sole sourcing. Ongoing work continues with the City of Saskatoon to ensure that the criteria in future competitions foster growth opportunities for contractors and the Saskatoon area contractor market. In addition, future considerations will be made to structure criteria by having experience requirements be based off projects with similar scopes that may be smaller in size but require similar experience. The Association has continued regular meetings with the City of Regina, working collaboratively to resolve contractor concerns related to onerous contract conditions. The City of Regina has been highly responsive and approachable as concerns are discussed, and corrective actions are suggested.

- **Advisory Council Updates**

The Advisory Council held its first meeting of 2023 in January. Key areas of focus indicated by the group include;

- Promoting the construction industry
- Promoting careers in construction.

An analysis of current organizations and programs is being done to better understand how the Construction Association contributes to these categories and organizations actively working in these areas. It has been made clear that many of these organizations need to gain access to construction companies. There has been engagements with two industry education councils and The Ministry of Immigration and Career Training have occurred to date.



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)
Unit #3-1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0Z2

May, 2023

REPORT TO THE CCA - ADVOCACY UPDATE FROM THE MHCA CHAIR

The following are highlights of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association's (MHCA) policy and advocacy activity.

CANADA

- Trade gateway and corridor fund – recapitalization & strategy
 - o Solid progress on the proposed National Plan for Trade Corridor Infrastructure
 - Premier Stefanson (Manitoba; Chair of the Premiers' Council of the Federation) and Premiers Ford, Moe, Smith and Legault all support pressing federal government for a strategy, recognized in the 2024-25 budget; Premier Eby (BC) said to be onside
 - Wpg Mayor Gillingham to approach Big City Mayors' Caucus Chair Savage (Halifax) to get support for plan at May meeting of BCMC
 - Fed Min Vandal (Mb; Northern Affairs; Prairies) supportive
 - Coalition now numbers seven – CCA, CCC, BCC, CME, CWF, WCR&HCA and WESTAC
 - Next steps see launching PR/GR strategy (Prospectus) for federal approach for Budget 2024

MANITOBA

- Budget 2024 increased highways capital to \$500 million, plus \$57 million in carryover, compared to \$468 in '23
 - o Five-year investment plan published; minimum of \$500 million through to 2027 (total \$2.5 billion)
- Mb Transportation and Infrastructure and MHCA in regular discussions focused on highways capital program; reducing under-expenditures via tendering early, reduction of risk and co-operation on specification changes
 - o There was significant lag in tendering this spring. Until May just two large paving projects tendered; industry's concern regards ability to complete in season and likelihood full program will be expended
- Premier Stefanson recent speaker at MHCA Breakfast with the Leaders; committed to working to increase Manitoba's trade profile through infra investments; to champion NPTCI at CoF and to federal offices
- MHCA Chair named to provincial Strategic Corridors Advisory Council; to provide advice re MOU signed on coordinating trade corridor planning and investment, with Saskatchewan and Alberta

WINNIPEG

- 2023 streets budget \$155.8 million, \$9 million lower than '22, largely due to ending of tri-governmental funding deal to accelerate regional street renewal; program is \$19 million higher than forecasted, due to Mayor's election promise to focus on street repairs
 - o Budget includes design study money re extending two critical trade corridor links
- City has agreed to contract with independent consultant to recommend next steps for department to complete review of use of recycled concrete aggregates as a roadbuilding material; review intended to ascertain the cost, and economic, environmental and resource-management benefits of RCA.
- Meeting with Public Works re price of tender bids higher than estimates; all jurisdictions of similar experience
 - o MHCA suggested reducing risk, working to improve spec sampling, return of test results earlier
- Industry/community group "roundtables" begin work on tools to implement social procurement action plan; CBAs, hiring/employment of equity group individuals, company HR policies examples of elements of tools

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Cruise, CET, G.S.C.
Chair, MHCA

✉ wca@winnipegconstruction.ca

☎ (204) 775-8664

🌐 winnipegconstruction.ca

📍 1447 Waverley St. Winnipeg, MB, R3T 0P7



Winnipeg Construction Association

WCA Activities for the month of April 2023

Construction Industry Update.

According to **Statistics Canada**, Manitoba building permit values for the YTD to the end of February is about equal to last year. Total residential permit values are up by 9% and non-residential construction permits are down by 1.7%.

The **City of Winnipeg** permit report for March 2023 shows an overall similar start to the year as last year, however it appears that the residential sector has rebounded and is offsetting a reduction in ICI permits. Apartment permit values are 327% higher than last year YTD. The non-residential construction sector permit values are 56% lower than last year. Institutional permit values are up compared to last year however the other building types in non-residential is down significantly.

WCA BuildWorks

In March 2023, WCA hosted 197 projects which is about average for March over the last 5 years. To date, Buildworks have hosted 759 project which is slightly more than the five-year average of 749.

WCA BuildCast

BuildCast is the WCA pre-bid information service which accumulates information on confirmed and potential projects to happen in Manitoba in the next 5 years. We are currently tracking 1156 projects potentially worth between \$21.5Bn and \$29.5Bn. WCA members receive a weekly update on new information on projects in the pipeline.

Advocacy/Government Relations.

Manitoba Construction Industry Job Fair – WCA, with industry partner held a Construction job fair at Victoria Inn on April 18. Over 650 job seekers attended.

Bill 38 The Builders' Liens Act (Prompt Payment) Act – The Act has been read a second time and will be before the Legislative Social and Economic Development Committee on May 8, 6pm. The Act will require invoices to be paid to a GC in 28 days and sub-contractors to be paid in a further 7 days.

Technology 'Master Integrator' in Building design – WCA hosted a webinar on April 4 providing reasons to include a Master Integrator in the design stage of construction/renovations.

The webinar can be viewed here: [Bits and Bots](#)

Education.

The spring line-up of courses is a combination of live, online courses and in-person courses at the WCA. There is something for everyone, with topics ranging from supervisor skills, leadership, building code and contracts. Contact peggy@winnipegconstruction.ca if you are interested in our courses.

Upcoming Courses:

May 8: [Get a Grip on Your Business](#)

May 9: [BST: Effective Meetings & Delegation for Supervisors](#)

May 9: [BST: Building High Performance Teams](#)

May 9-11: [Winning the RFP Process](#)

May 10, 11, 24 & 25: [CM-LEAN Construction Certificate Program](#)

May 12: [Stat Decs & Holdbacks - Tips and Traps](#) **SOLD OUT**

May 12: [Writing Skills for Construction](#)

May 16: [Microsoft Excel: Level 1](#)

May 16-18: [Project Delivery Methods](#)

May 16-17: [Bluebeam Revu: Basic](#)

May 16-17: [Trade Contracts: A Double-Edged Sword](#)

May 17: [Microsoft Excel: Level 2](#)

May 17: [Managing Field Productivity to Improve Bottom Line](#)

May 18-19: [Manage Projects with Microsoft Project](#)

May 18: [Construction Meetings and Meeting Minutes for Project Managers](#)

May 23-24: [The Construction Execution Plan - Project Planning for Success](#)

May 24-26: [CCDC 14 and 15: Managing the Uniqueness of Design Build](#)

May 26: [Understanding Construction Documents](#)

May 26: [Building Code: Cladding and the Manitoba Building Code](#) **SOLD OUT**

May 29: [A Journeyperson's Guide to Coaching an Apprentice](#)

May 30-31: [Building Knowledge: The Construction Industry Explained](#)

May 30-31: [Bluebeam Revu: Estimating Quantities and Costs - Level 1](#)

Upcoming Events.

May 17 – WCA Spring Golf – Elmhurst Golf and Country Club

June 5 – WCA BBQ

June 7 – Meet the GC Event (Members Only)

June 21 – WCA Summer Golf



Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Industry

Industry Overview

There has been a slight decline in the number of projects being tendered municipally and privately, but the industry continues to be busy (though perhaps not at the same pace as the previous three years). A higher number of projects have been cancelled for coming in over the projected budget to this point in 2023, than in recent memory.

Advocacy

Ottawa – Social Procurement

- The City of Ottawa is proposing to move forward with its own social procurement program and is considering making it a scored item in their Vendor Performance Management system. OSWCA is working with the National Capital Heavy Construction Association to develop briefing material and provide feedback to the City about what other municipalities (Toronto, London, and Waterloo Region) are doing on this issue.

Enbridge Locates Issue

- OSWCA filed a Superior Court motion to try to block Enbridge from being able to charge third-party excavators for locates. In researching the application, our lawyers found no legislation that allowed Enbridge to charge third-party excavators for delivering locates (neither did they find anything that forbade it). After a week, we 'paused' our application, due to the success of our lobbying efforts because Enbridge formally 'paused' the implementation of this charge to do further stakeholder outreach. Enbridge has also applied for this fee proposal to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). The OEB is expected to deliver a ruling in August.

Programming

TradesCAN

- OSWCA is working with TradesCAN to launch its immigration placement program in Ontario. The program launched at the end of March, with a small number of contractors having now gone through initial meetings and working through their recruitment lists. The immediate pick-up has been slow, but we are expecting an increasing number of contractors to join this program once we have a few initial successes to advertise.

Association

Upcoming Changes to the OSWCA Board of Directors

- After 20 years on the OSWCA Board of Directors, Mr. Mark Van Bree has informed the Board that he is officially retiring as of the February AGM. Tony DiPede from the North Rock Group (GTA) now act as OSWCA representative to the CCA and CICC.

OGCA Report to the
Canadian Construction Association (CCA)
June 2023

Mayoral Candidates

Due to the sudden departure of Mayor John Tory from the City of Toronto, the OGCA is being approached by multiple mayoral candidates vying for support in their election advancement. Some of the notable candidates that have approached the OGCA for support are: Mark Saunders (supported by the Ontario Government) and Anna Bailao (supported by various Labour organizations). The OGCA's position on this is that we will agree to meet with any candidate following the review of their platform.

Working for Workers – Version 3 - Paid Sick Days

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development had confirmed their intent for another round of employment protections in Working for Workers 3, scheduled for release in April 2023. In previous iterations of Working for Workers, there was little industry consultation, resulting in regulations that were not welcomed by the industry.

In an effort to prevent pending legislation that would adversely affect the industry the, OGCA, along with various other stakeholder associations, engaged with the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) to draft a proposal to demonstrate how paid sick days would adversely affect the construction industry. The goal is to exempt all "Class G" employers from any future Paid Sick Leave legislation due to the significant cost and the lack of trackability between employers. Current impacts of paid sick leave could be over 10% of the industry's operating surpluses in general and over 50% higher for businesses, primarily those with non-union workers.

It is important to note that the MLITSD team acknowledged there are significant variables they had not considered (tracking, and total cost to industry). Considering CANCEA's data, MLITSD has assured the stakeholders that "paid sick days won't be going forward."

Industry Letter on Locate Charges

A group of nine (9) industry associations, including the OGCA, provided their support in a letter submitted to the Premier of Ontario pushing back on Enbridge's proposal to charge \$200 per locate, which would have a profound impact on the cost of construction in Ontario. Enbridge's attempted fee per locate would have unintended consequences throughout the construction industry and beyond. Additionally, the industry had received information that other underground infrastructure owners were also planning to implement similar fee structures if it is determined that Enbridge is allowed to charge a fee for standard locate delivery. This represents a seismic shift to current practices and would make Ontario an outlier to every other jurisdiction in North America. The Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act states that: "Ontario One Call shall not charge a fee to any person submitting a locate request."

The Act does not explicitly provide utility owners with the authority to charge a fee for a locate request, therefore the letter requested urgent clarification on this matter. The industry noted that any

changes being made to this long-standing practice must be done in a comprehensive and consultative manner with utility owners, industry stakeholders, and government to ensure all outcomes are understood and unintended consequences are mitigated. Our letter has been successful at currently pausing the Enbridge cost per locate movement.

Metrolinx

At a recent OGCA Safety Advisory Committee meeting the members noted that Metrolinx has now moved away from COR and is only accepting ISO 45001 as their recognized Safety Program on all their projects. OGCA has submitted a letter to Martin Gallagher, Chief Operating Officer (GO Transit and UP Express) and Chief Safety and Security Officer to clarify their position.

State of Construction Technology Survey

The Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA), in collaboration with SMARTBUILD Construction Solutions, has launched a new updated survey focused on better understanding the use of construction technology (CONTECH) amongst general contractors, subcontractors, owners, and consultants. The survey is the first systematic attempt to identify and catalogue the different digital technologies and their application across the supply chain.

You can fill out the survey [here](#).

Please contact me if anyone needs further clarification on any of the tabled items.

Sincerely,



Giovanni Cautillo
President
Ontario General Contractors Association



May 9, 2023

Brendan Nobes
Chair, Board of Directors
Canadian Construction Association

Dear Brendan,

On behalf of the Ontario Road Builders' Association (ORBA), I am pleased to present the following CCA report. Please find below some of the most recent highlights of the work ORBA has been undertaking on the industry's behalf.

Queen's Park Lobby Day and Reception

Over March 27/28, more than 25 senior representatives from ORBA/OAPC-member companies descended on Queen's Park for our lobby day and reception. The ORBA Executive conducted 3 meetings on March 27, including with Premier Ford, Minister Mulroney and the leader of the Official Opposition, Marit Stiles. March 28 saw our representatives conduct 35 meetings with the leaders of all political parties, ministers, MPPs, senior minister's office and ministry officials. The reception at the end of the day provided an additional opportunity to engage in a more casual setting and saw attendance from an even greater swath of MPPs and staff.

Recap of ORBA's key 2023 priorities as outlined in those meetings:

1. Continue the strong investment in transportation infrastructure; Early Tenders as a priority
2. Help our members deliver projects for the provincial government by helping to reduce project, material and labour cost risk
3. Mandate more municipal use of provincial materials indices and recycled materials in the construction of transportation infrastructure

The lobby day generated momentum and interest in these priorities which we are now working to capitalize on. It also raised the profile of the value, expertise and contributions that the industry provides towards keeping Ontario moving.

Key Materials Indices

Throughout the past year, ORBA led an approach to MTO regarding the creation of a steel index to compliment the existing MTO fuel and asphalt cement indices in assisting with inflation mitigation on key materials. After multiple meetings, a draft SSP payment adjustment for changes in the steel price index was published on MTO's technical portal for comment in early March. The steel index benchmarks Statistics Canada data with an applicable threshold of 10%. After receiving ORBA's final comments, MTO is preparing for imminent publication of the new SSP.

ORBA has also been advocating for further items to be included in the performance-graded asphalt cement (PGAC) and MTO fuel indices. We are therefore also pleased that the MTO has indicated

they are working to include our suggestions, based on biggest-impact items first. There is currently a draft MTO proposal up for public comment on adding tack coat and granular sealer to the PGAC, with further potential additions to come.

HTA Provision Banning Dangerous Driving Around Snow Plows Introduced

Bill 91, the *Less Red Tape Stronger Economy Act 2023* was introduced in early April. Schedule 15 of the Bill includes a Highway Traffic Act prohibition on passing plows operating in echelon formation on multi-lane highways unless a full lane is available. This is an ORBA initiative that we have consistently championed. After much discussion with the Minister's Office, Ministry officials and MPPs from all parties, we're pleased to see this important safety initiative included in the Bill.

2023 Ontario Budget

ORBA participated in pre-budget consultations with Minister Bethlenfalvy and produced a news release after the budget was introduced, lauding the provincial government's plans for building a strong Ontario through an almost \$100 billion capital plan for highways, bridges and public transit over the next decade. The \$27.9 billion over the next ten years for highways rehabilitation and expansion represents an increase of \$2.8 billion from the projections in last year's budget. This includes \$3.2 billion for the 2023-24 fiscal year, an increase of over \$300 million from 2022.

This robust funding will support much-needed projects such as Highway 413 and the Bradford Bypass, the new Highway 7 between Kitchener and Guelph, enabling the future widening of Highway 401 in Eastern Ontario, the twinning of the QEW Garden City Skyway Bridge and an increase in winter road maintenance, primarily for roads servicing northern communities.

The \$70.5 billion announced for transit over the next decade is an increase of \$9 billion over 2022 projections, including \$7.5 billion this fiscal year. These critical investments will further enable the expansion and service enhancements of this Ontario Government's muscular transit plan, including GO rail, subway and light rapid transit improvements necessary to ensure the continued success of communities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Sincerely,

Michael McSweeney
Chief Executive Officer

Succinct provincial report to the Canadian
Construction Association

by
the Association des constructeurs de
routes et grands travaux du Québec

May 2023

Association
des constructeurs
de routes
et grands travaux
du Québec



SECTEUR AFFAIRES
GOUVERNEMENTALES
ET PUBLIQUES

SERVICE PRÉVENTION,
SANTÉ ET SÉCURITÉ
AU TRAVAIL

SERVICE RELATIONS
DU TRAVAIL ET
AFFAIRES JURIDIQUES

SERVICE LOIS
ET RÉGLEMENTS

SECTEUR SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGIE
ET INNOVATION

SIÈGE SOCIAL, QUÉBEC

435, Grande Allée Est
Québec (Québec)
G1R 2J5

Téléphones
418 529-2949
1 800 463-4672
Télécopieur
418 529-5139

BUREAU DE MONTRÉAL

7905, boul. Louis-
Hippolyte-Lafontaine
Bureau 100
Montréal (Québec)
H1K 4E4

Téléphones
514 354-1362
1 800 463-4672
Télécopieur
514 354-1301

EN LIGNE

Site Internet
www.acrgtq.qc.ca
Courriel général
acrgtq@acrgtq.qc.ca

2023 started with the ACRGTQ annual convention, with the theme of *Issues Facing a Green Future*. We namely discussed the principles of a circular economy with the aim of sound residual waste management and environmental protection.

Other topics were also covered, such as the labour shortage issue.

We also discussed the launch of a modernized Québécois health and safety plan, which was adopted despite the ACRGTQ's frustration with certain measures, including that of the health and safety representative.

With a shrinking number of bidders, the ACRGTQ believes that other contract award methods than selecting the lowest bidder would stimulate access to public contracts, encourage innovation, and account for environmental factors.

Finally, the rising cost of materials and fuel remains a preoccupation.

The Quebec provincial budget 2022-2023 was published last March. Here are the highlights:

The ACRGTQ is satisfied with the measures implemented in the Stratégie québécoise de la recherche et de l'innovation 2022-2027 (2022-2027 Québécois Research and Innovation Strategy), providing access to companies with expertise and subject-matter support. The government has earmarked an additional \$60M over two years to speed up the digital transformation and increase productivity.

The government has committed to stopping delayed payments in the construction industry. Having implemented a pilot project to test innovative solutions, the Treasury Board has now confirmed its "intention to expand the mechanisms of the pilot project [...] and offer a transition to the construction industry."

The investments planned in the Plan québécois des infrastructures 2022-2032 (2022-2032 Quebec Infrastructure Plan) have gone up. For the road network (\$30B), it is the largest planned amount of the past 9 years. However, the government will have to keep an eye on the road network's overall state, which is stagnating at a 50% rate of good condition, though the rate of achievement of road investments for the year 2020-2021 reached 95%.

Québec has finally announced that it will modernize professional development programs. The budget includes \$135.2M until 2026-2027 to generate a bigger pool of skilled and professionally-trained labourers.

Finally, in telecommunications infrastructure construction work, civil engineering and roadway contractors contributed to accelerating the access to high-speed Internet for the Québécois population. Investments of \$30M in 2022-2023 and \$20M in 2023-2024 to map requirements and initial work for mobile coverage over the entirety of the Quebec road network were welcomed by the industry.

Québec Budget 2023

The ACQ is satisfied with the investments made by the government of Québec in public infrastructure, which will increase by \$7.5B, thus reaching \$150B for the next 10 years.

The new amounts invested in QPI will, namely, accelerate the maintenance of school infrastructures (\$200M), continue the deployment of elder care homes (\$200M) and build new sports infrastructures (\$300M).

Given the labour shortage, the government intends to invest over \$200M over 5 years to update its programs, improve access pathways, and further value the professional studies diploma. An additional sum of \$65M will aim to counter the shortage of teachers in professional training centres. Furthermore, the government will invest \$164M to speed up skill recognition for immigrants. These amounts will namely help to increase refresher training and internship offerings for temporary foreign workers in regulated professions, and support immigrants going through the process of getting their skills recognized.

As for the housing crisis, the government has announced the creation of 1,500 new social and affordable housing units through investments of \$300M over 5 years. To this, one should count \$191.5M to carry out AccèsLogis projects, \$105M to renovate the low-rent housing stock, and \$45M to support the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI). In terms of affordability, 2,000 new units will be allocated to the Housing Supplement program (\$60M).

Bill R-20

The government is seeking to reform the Act respecting labour relations, vocational training and manpower management in the construction industry, commonly known as Bill R-20. It plans to table a draft regulation in October 2023. Ahead of the process, the government is consulting the employer and union parties in order to prepare its draft regulation. On April 12, the ACQ was informed that 4 important themes would be addressed, for which it will be consulted and which could be subject to modifications, namely:

- The collective bargaining regime;
- The construction reference booklet;
- Labour mobility;
- The governance of the Commission de la construction du Québec.

Inauguration of the ACQ Podcast Studio

The ACQ has built its own studio to record podcasts. In keeping with the new trend, the ACQ wishes to provide information to members in the form of a podcast to increase listening between work sites.

Pierre Lavoie Challenge - The ACQ team is an audience favourite

The Association de la construction du Québec (ACQ) will participate in the 1 000 km relay of the Grand défi Pierre Lavoie with a team of five cyclists. The ACQ delegation will travel from Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean to Montreal from June 8 to 11, 2023, and will ride for 60 hours. The ACQ is also very proud to have been selected as a favourite to participate in the challenge.

Impressed by the commitment of École Saint-Joseph to its community and wishing to affirm its social responsibility as an organization, the Association de la construction du Québec (ACQ) is pleased to support the school as an ambassador of healthy lifestyle habits.

This decision also allows the ACQ to showcase its commitment to healthy habits, highlight collaboration as one of its key values, and participate in an extraordinary experience that promotes surpassing oneself. Through this challenge, the ACQ allows its team members to share their passion for sports, the importance of being active, and their passion for construction with students.



CANB Update – April 14, 2023

Throughout the past year, we increased advocacy efforts to push the Premier for Prompt Payment legislation and responded strongly when it was not delivered, as promised during the 2022 Calendar year. We continue to work with the opposition parties, the chambers of commerce and our regional partners to keep this as a priority.

We are experiencing the same labour shortages as every other province, and we need to ensure and advocate the provincial and federal governments to ensure that skilled tradespeople recruitment is made a priority. In New Brunswick alone, we are forecasting 10,000 open positions by 2027. CANB is currently co-leading an Industry Support Project. The objective of this industry initiative is to gain a better understanding of industry needs along with current support to identify a new approach and/or organizational model to provide value add support to the skilled trades industry. The project will be presented to senior government officials within the Department of Post Secondary Education Training and Labour.

At the same time, CANB has engaged with the Department of Early Education and Childhood Development to increase the knowledge, teachings, and promotion of skilled trades earlier in the school system. One of the major projects we are advocating for is the establishment of an online Skilled Trades Centers of Excellence.

The data also tells us that New Brunswick lags far behind the national average of immigrants working in the construction industry with the percentage of immigrants in NB construction industry being 3.2% vs the national average of 21%. We have highlighted our concerns to Immigration NB and the provincially funded trade college network and we hope to see progress on this file in 2023.

We are working closely with the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure on behalf of our members on a couple of key issues including the need for an industry approved project scorecard and improved invoice payment processing times. We also worked with the leadership from the NB Road Builders to advocate for improved DTI Machine Rental Rates increases, which will be updated for the first time in ten years in 2023. We have a new Minister of DTI and with his background in the construction industry, we are hoping to leverage his knowledge of our industry concerns to better improve communication between the Department and our Association.

CANB will be hosting our Bi-Annual Joint Industry and Government meeting on June 13th in Fredericton. With over 25 departments and industry associations present, it provides the opportunity for both government and industry officials to learn more about the current struggles facing our industry. It also allows for all to highlight some of the projects they have in place to improve the industry.

Thank you

John-Ryan Morrison
CANB Executive Director



Spring 2023

Multi-year plan and early tenders

The 3-year plan is still in place, however as I write this it is now a 2-year plan. The 2025-26 year has not been added. We have been told it is coming, just haven't seen it yet. DTI posted a list of projects for the 2023 season in January. This was announced at our AGM in January. We have been asking for this and glad to see the list. Tenders started being released in February and have been quite consistent. We are concerned with the slow release of bridge contracts, given the large number on the tender list. Bridge contractors are looking elsewhere for work.

Mobile Simulator Training Trailer Project

The trailer was completed in time for the winter semester and was parked at Woodstock High School. Ten students took the program, with nine completing all modules. All ten students have been placed with local contractors to complete their Coop course. The trailer will be going to Perth Andover & Grand Falls in the fall. It is good to see high schools getting together to use the trailer. We are now working with the Dept Education on how the trailer can be used when school is out for the summer.

Fuel adjustment clause

This is a major issue with us for 2023. Now that fuel appears to be somewhat stable, DTI has the opinion everything is good and no fuel clause needed. We want to set something in place for the "next time". Could be a hard sell. We all know governments are not pro-active.

2023 AGM

Our AGM was held at the Delta Fredericton January 10th & 11th. We had close to 500 registrations & by all accounts the conference was a success.

2023 Spring Mixer

Our 2023 Spring Mixer was held at the Fredericton Inn on April 27th. Attendance was down, with only 100 registrations. Presentations in the afternoon with reception & dinner following the presentations. We will take a look at this to see if changes needed for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGinn, Executive Director



CCA Provincial Report – Nova Scotia

May 2023

Submitted on behalf of Duncan Williams, President & CEO, Construction Association of Nova Scotia

Industry Overview

Investment in Nova Scotia building construction increased 4.1% in January 2023 to \$400.7 million (seasonally adjusted) compared to December 2022.

In January 2023, non-residential building construction increased 1.0% to \$62.0 million in Nova Scotia (seasonally adjusted). In Halifax, non-residential construction was up 3.7% to \$40.8 million. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction decreased 3.9% to \$21.2 million.

Nova Scotia's non-residential construction investment decreased 3.3% compared to January 2022. Halifax's non-residential construction rose 13.2%. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction decreased by 24.5%. Halifax commercial and industrial building construction have been following an increasing trend since the end of 2021, however industrial construction has declined in recent months.

Workforce & Advocacy

CANS continues to work with the provincial government on a prompt payment model and is waiting on regulatory and adjudication framework for Nova Scotia. The Association will launch a website to support an adjudication body created by CANS that will regulate, resolve disputes, and educate industry on their new legal and financial responsibilities.

On February 15, CANS held our inaugural Construction Workforce Summit. The one-day event educated over 130 industry leaders on topics such as immigration, recruitment, and retention, and connected company representatives and construction-related programs with over 500 potential employees actively seeking work in construction and the trades.

Early in the pandemic, CANS joined the Construction Safety Coalition, a group comprised of 14 organizations representing various aspects of the construction sector - both residential and commercial - with a focus on safety in industry. One of the main focuses of the group has been on workplace injury from falls. From 2021 to 2022, the number of time-loss claims in construction that involved falls increased by nearly 50 percent. In 2022, there were 15,259 days lost to workplace injury from falls in the construction sector. In April, a Fall Protection Awareness campaign was launched, targeting employers and workers, with a goal of educating both parties about their responsibility in making sure people are working safe at heights. For more information, visit: <https://tieoffns.ca>

Membership & Industry Resources

CANS 2022-2023 education program began in September 2022. From February 1, 2023, to May 1, 2023, CANS Education has engaged 382 individuals in educational programming, with five private training bookings. CANS Education is scheduled to host 85 courses before our year end on June 30, 2023. Registration and engagement from our members continue to be strong.

CANS hosted our largest-yet annual De-Icer in April with great success, hosting over 1,700 individuals in downtown Halifax. CANS looks forward to hosting our Spring Fling in May, our largest-yet annual golf tournament in June, softball tournament in August, and AGM in September.



CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA
Building with Skill and Integrity Since 1862

The fifth issue of Construction Pulse, CANS industry magazine, will launch this summer, highlighting achievements by Victoria Stanhope, winner of CCA Young Leader Award, and Marco Group, winner of CCA Workforce Excellence Award. The issue will cover organizations working towards diversity and inclusion in industry, innovation and technology, and will reflect on topics discussed at our CANS Construction Workforce Summit.

Association Priorities for 2023

We will continue to focus on our key priority areas, as identified through our Strategic Plan – Government and Industry Relations, Workforce Development, Industry Education and Training, and Innovation and Technology. We have expanded the strategic plan for one more year to 2024. Our priority is, and remains for the future, to continue advocating on our members and the construction industry's behalf.

Nova Scotia Provincial Update – April 2023

We received some surprising news with the recent release of the capital budget for this fiscal year. The Province added \$75M in additional spending. We did not know this was coming and had not been asking for it. The previously announced program was solid, so this was a nice surprise. We have a strong year ahead. One additional positive change in direction for the Province was a reversal on policy with regard to highway twinning. They came in to power stating that they were not going to pursue new twinning projects, but have now added some significant work for a couple of years out. Our 5 Year Plan is now in reasonably good shape.

We continue to deal with some inflationary pressures, but hope that will even out as we go forward. Fuel has been one of the main challenges along with liquid asphalt.

We have just wrapped up our first delivery post-Covid of our Asphalt Laydown Technician Course. This is a home grown program of which we are very proud. This was felt to be a particularly good session and we look forward to continuing deliveries in the future. We will wrap up another delivery of our Road Builder 101 Course on April 20. This program is aimed at bringing on new employees for our Industry. It has been quite successful and we thank the Provincial Labour Department for their support of this effort. They have also supported us in a Communications for Supervisors Course as well, which will finish soon.

As always, we will maintain a very busy schedule with regard to interactions with key stakeholders such as Governments and other Industry associations. These working relationships and the improvement of them, while not always “successful” is crucial to helping the Industry being as healthy as possible.

We have been involved in an effort to have the Province make a fulsome review of our Workers Compensation Program. This has been done in coalition with several major employers in the Province and a couple of significant Associations. Time will tell how significant this effort will be. Typically we have had near the highest rates and lowest payouts.

We look forward to a full year of regular in person meetings including events such as our golf tournament, Board trip to Cape Breton and our AGM in January 2024.

Construction Association of Prince Edward Island

CCA May 2023 Report

Here at the Construction Association of PEI we continue to increase our visibility on many levels working with our many partners and colleagues. We continue to do our school tours with High school and junior highs to promote the trades and opportunities in the construction industry. Uphold a key seat at many tables around housing supply and demands and future development.

Our training center continues to grow as we dive deeper into our programs and training for entry level employment into the industry at the same time building net zero tiny homes to help with the housing shortages here in PEI.

We just went thru a provincial election with a majority PC government. With that came a cabinet shuffle and we have already established a great relationship with many new ministers and their staff Labor is one of the key conversations at the table along with procurement, prompt payment and our lien act and tender scheduling and timing and industry's ability to complete projects.

Our international recruitment platform continues to gain strength and support from many levels of government, and we continue to look at new initiatives to grow this platform.

Our Women in Construction committee are planning a few socials/ meet and greets over the coming months and plan to grow over time to support our amazing women who are currently in our industry and support more women in the future.

VR continues to be a crowd pleaser with our youth and a great way to promote trades in the education system.

We are working every day on new programs and pathways into the trades and keep an eye out we plan to be launching some new partnerships in the very near future.

Signed: 

Sam Sanderson
General Manager

The PEI Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association

P. O. Box 1901 Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N5

E-Mail: info@peirb.ca Web Site: <http://www.peirb.ca>

Report to Canadian Construction Association - May 2023

Construction season on Prince Edward Island will begin late May, early June 2023. A combination of private and government work will create a busy season for all.

The 2023-2024 Provincial Highway Capital Budget broke down as follows:

Bridges	\$12,000,000
National & Collector Highway	\$22,300,000
Provincial Paving	\$15,000,000
Active Transportation	\$1,500,000
TOTAL	\$50,800,000

February 2023 was the return of our Annual General Meeting with a full slate of events. The first day was a full day of curling, with multiple receptions afterwards. The second day, was our Annual General business meeting, a trade show, luncheon, presentations and a Gala dinner followed by entertainment.

The PEI Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association purchased the **Vortex Edge Max** simulator(with funding partners). This equipment simulates 6 pieces of heavy machinery (excavator, dozer, wheel loader, backhoe, grader, ADT -articulated dump truck). Our Association has partnered with the Department of Education to become part of *Essential Skills Achievement Pathway (ESAP)* Pilot Project. This program began in 2 high schools this year, and if successful, 10 high schools next year. The ESAP is a skills-based pathway to graduation. Our goal is to expose high school students to our industry as a viable career option. Be it a pathway to higher education or to immediately work in the industry.

Eight months later, our Industry is still cleaning up after Fiona. Contractors resume work to mending infrastructure and clearing roadways, properties and beaches for the busy tourist season ahead.

April 2023, we attended the Skills PEI Job Fair, representing our industry in effort to recruit workers. The Job Fairs were busy and hopefully we were able to attract some new workers in our Industry.

The Atlantic Road Builders Association (ARBA) continues to be a valuable partnership. We continue to have bi-monthly calls to discuss challenges and triumphs our industry faces in Atlantic Canada. We are excited to have our first in-person meeting this May 2023 in St. Johns', Newfoundland.

This June will see the return of our Annual Lobster dinner, the first since 2019. We will be hosting our event at a new venue this year, Lone Oak @ Fox Meadows in Stratford, PE. with a golf option for members and guests.

We wish everyone a safe and productive construction season.

Melissa Paquet

Executive Director of PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association



NLCA Provincial Report

Submitted by:
Matthew Mallam, NLCA Board Chair 2023/24
May 9, 2023

The construction industry remains a crucial sector of Newfoundland and Labrador's economy. It has faced several challenges, including delays in project timelines, cancellations of contracts, job losses, and supply chain obstacles. Despite these difficulties, the Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association (NLCA) continues to support its members through advocacy, education, networking, and other essential services.

The association has been actively advocating for infrastructure spending and shovel-worthy projects at all levels of government. We believe that strategic investments in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, airports, and hospitals are essential for the economic growth of the province and the well-being of communities. There are positive signs of economic development, and we work hard to ensure this continues. We are also advocating for policies that are in the best interest of our members and utilizing the services of Impact Public Affairs to assist in strategic initiatives. We are making an impact and we have the ear of government officials.

The association recently held NLCA Build 2023 Construction Expo, which was a success! We connected members to the buyers of construction to showcase their innovative products, services and technologies in an effort to facilitate change and advance the industry. We intend to make this an annual event and build on the program for next year.



NLCA is actively addressing the skilled labour shortage challenge and explore ways to mitigate this immediate concern. We looking into ways to gather data to assist us in making informed decisions. To overcome this challenge, the government needs to focus on investing in training and education programs to develop a skilled workforce.

NLCA has been actively exploring ways to increase its value proposition for member firms, ensuring we continue to play a relevant role in how they do business.

NLCA is optimistic about the outlook for the year ahead. We continue to foster stakeholder relationships, identifying synergies so we can work together on common goals. With continued focus, the industry can overcome the challenges of labor shortages, and position itself to continue to grow and to be a key economic driver for the province.

Matthew Mallam
2023/24 NLCA Board Chair

Newfoundland and Labrador Heavy Civil Association

CCA May, 2023 Snapshot

Newfoundland and Labrador Economic Outlook

- The outlook for the Newfoundland and Labrador economy in 2023 remains positive and is expected to have one of the highest rates of growth among Canadian provinces.
- Real GDP is expected to increase by 2.8 per cent to \$34 billion in 2023, primarily due to increased mineral production and investment growth. Most other indicators are also expected to show growth.
- Continuing the strong growth seen in 2022, the province's population is projected to rise by another one per cent with net natural losses (i.e., births – deaths) being offset by significant net in-migration.
- Both the Terra Nova oil project and the newly-converted bio-fuel refinery in Come By Chance are expected to restart operations this year.
- The resumption of development work on the West White Rose project and this government's continued investment in critical infrastructure projects, such as the new mental health facility in St. John's, will contribute to increased construction activity.
- Real exports are expected to increase 5.4 per cent, driven mainly by higher iron ore production.
- Employment is forecast to increase by 2.2 per cent in 2023. Employment gains should lower the unemployment rate from 11.3 per cent in 2022 to 10.1 per cent in 2023. This would be the lowest unemployment rate recorded for the province since consistent records started in 1976.

Highway Infrastructure – Budgets

Close to \$1.4 billion to improve highway and road transportation infrastructure over the next five years. This is the largest provincial investment in highway and road infrastructure over a five-year period in the province's history; Budgeted highway and road transportation infrastructure for the 2023 / 2024 fiscal year is \$225 Million which is 30% higher than what we have seen in the previous 2-3 years.

HCANL Current Issues

Skilled Labour

A shortage of skilled Heavy Civil tradespeople in Newfoundland and Labrador (Canada's) construction industry continues to be problematic, with significant companies having difficulty in recruiting the required skilled labour for provincial Heavy Civil Construction.

Liquid Asphalt Supply

For the past number of years Newfoundland and Labrador has had 3 suppliers of Liquid Asphalt. Those being Newfoundland Asphalt Products in Come by Chance, Valero in Holyrood and Irving in Holyrood and Botwood. In February of this year Contractors were informed that Valero (Owner of the Holyrood depot) would no longer be supplying out of Holyrood, due to degradation of the terminal and would be pulling out of Newfoundland market. Irving, who rented space at the facility from Valero, no longer has supply location so are currently not able to bring in liquid asphalt. Currently leaving the NL market with a single liquid asphalt supplier.

Electronic Logging Devices

ELDs are already mandatory under federal regulations in Canada, and most provinces have updated or are working to update their regulations to require ELDs. While ELDs have helped to improve safety on our roads, there are some unintended consequences to the regulations, as they are currently written.

Safety Training

While no one disagrees with the need for safety training, some of our smaller contractors in particular are finding it more and more difficult to keep pace with the cost of and time associated with, the expanding list of safety training requirements. Some of which is not always applicable to work they would be involved with.

Ongoing Meetings with Government Officials - more prominent topics include

Opportunity for Design Build (Structures)

Federal Cost Shared Program. Current Overview.

Opportunities for additional Private Sector work.

Importance of Multiyear plan and Early Tenders.