



NLCA Provincial Report

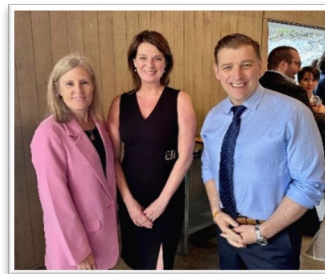
Submitted by:
Matthew Mallam, NLCA Board Chair 2023/24
August 15, 2023



The NLCA Executive Team was pleased to meet with the newly appointed Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, the Hon. John Abbott this week. It was a very productive meeting and the Minister agreed to work together on advancing key topics like prompt payment and new reforms to streamline municipal tendering.

Photo (L-R): Derek Brown, NLCA First-Vice Chair; Rhonda Neary, NLCA President/COO; Honourable John Abbott; Valerie Penney, NLCA Third Vice-Chair; and Matthew Mallam, NLCA Chair.

Rhonda Neary, NLCA President and Mary Van Buren, CCA President attended a liberal event for Honourable Minister Sarah Stoodley on June 21. Mary Van Buren and Rhonda Neary had the pleasure of meeting with the Premier Andrew Furey and Honourable Minister Sarah Stoodley to discuss the importance of our construction industry.



NLCA is actively addressing the skilled labour shortage challenge and explore ways to mitigate this immediate concern. NLCA launched a new initiative to engage youth in the skilled trades in May to take aim at getting more individuals into the skilled trades! In May 2023, NLCA launched a new initiative to engage youth in the skilled trades. The high school outreach program was kicked off on May 26th at Queen Elizabeth Regional High School, spearheaded by myself, with a focus on getting more individuals to consider a career in the skilled trades. NLCA plans on continuing this program in the fall with Board members volunteering to help shape future of the construction industry in our province and inspire the next generation of construction professionals.

NLCA’s leadership team had a successful meeting with recently-appointed Transportation and Infrastructure Minister John Abbott alongside his Deputy Minister. The Minister was provided a briefing of the NLCA and its role in the industry, as well a more detailed discussions on policy and communication recommendations from the association. They include:

The agreement for the Minister and the NLCA to meet Quarterly going forward. This is about ensuring industry has necessary ongoing dialogue to discuss opportunities and issues before they are lost. The Minister agreed to book standing quarterly meetings going forward.

NLCA has been working with the Minister to advance a commitment from the Premier to house a provincial staff member in the NLCA offices to help address gaps for municipalities from accessing available federal and provincial funding envelopes, as many municipalities lack the resources required to find and submit applications for funding. NLCA requested working together to finalize the plan and make an announcement.

The NLCA supports moving Newfoundland and Labrador out of being the last jurisdiction in Canada to have plans or has already implemented a prompt payment regulatory plan. Prompt Payment benefits small businesses and secondary contractors on projects who often are paid later than is ideal. This would be done through amending the Mechanics Lien Act.

The Minister asked for a jurisdictional review of prompt payment and to outline how the process would work to implement prompt payment legislation. He indicated his early support for the policy, provided the supporting materials validate our arguments in favour of it.

NLCA's Women in Forum will taking place at the Sheraton Hotel, St. John's on Friday, November 3, 2023. NLCA's Awards Gala is happening on November 4. NLCA is pleased to have Minister Abbott speak at the forth coming Gala in St. John's at the Sheraton Hotel.

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.



Matthew Mallam
2023/24 NLCA Board Chair



Construction Association of Prince Edward Island

August 7 2023

We continue with the efforts we started over the last couple of years with Immigration , Tiny homes , Our training center are just a few of the initiatives we are working on here at CAPEI

- 1- Expansion of our Training center to build Net Zero ready tiny home in partnership with our Provincial Government to help with the housing issue and create entry level skills training
- 2- Virtual reality units in every High school in PEI continuation into 2023 and Junior Highs for 2023/2024
- 3- Member of the Provinces Net – Zero Advisory council
- 4- TradesCan (International Immigration platform) growth Provincially and Nationally
- 5- Membership growth stays solid
- 6- Social media growth and Industry awareness

Sam Sanderson General Manager CAPEI

“BUILDING PEI ONE DAY AT A TIME”

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 August 2023

The construction season on Prince Edward Island has seen a slight slow down in 2023. The province is seeing tenders come in 30-40% higher, as the cost of doing business has increased since our pre-covid days. There are many factors leading to these increases, i.e., heavy equipment costs, labour, insurance, fuel pricing, etc. Capital Budgets are not stretching as far as they used to.

The PEI Road Builders purchased (with funding partners) the **Vortex Edge Max**, a piece of equipment that simulates 6 pieces of heavy machinery (excavator, dozer, wheel loader, backhoe, grader, ADT -articulated dump truck). 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. With this simulator, the Association will be entering into our second-year partnership with the Department of Education and the *Essential Skills Achievement Pathway (ESAP)* Pilot Project. This program will be in 2 high schools this year, and if successful, 10 high schools next year. The ESAP is a skills-based pathway to graduation.

Our Association is also pursuing a partnership with another educational institution in hopes of developing a Heavy Equipment operators' program with funding partners. We hope this program will evolve and become a stepping stone for the *Essential Skills Achievement Pathway*.

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 attended our first in-person meeting in St. Johns, NL, in May 2023 and will travel back to Newfoundland in October for our fall meetings.

Almost a year later, contractors are still working on the cleanup from Fiona. With only two months before hurricane season Islanders are concerned with the protection of their land. On December 1, 2022, the Minister of Environment (PEI) - put a moratorium on shoreline protection. The environmental protection order on shoreline development prohibits new development in the buffer zone and associated erosion control activities in the watercourse and/or wetland boundary.

Some development is still allowed with a permit, including:

- critical infrastructure repair and protection,
- repair to existing erosion control structures damaged by Hurricane Fiona,
- provincial or federal erosion control structures required for the protection of public infrastructure,
- projects which receive a provincial environmental impact assessment approval,

We are requesting the Minister of Environment lift these restrictions, as many Islanders who did not have shoreline protection previous to Fiona - would like to protect their land.

The PEI Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association

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This past June we had our first Lobster dinner since Covid – and it appeared to be a success. It was great to see everyone.

Our Annual General meeting will be held February 2 and 3, 2024, at the Delta Prince Edward.

Regards,

Melissa Paquet

Executive Director of PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association



CCA Provincial Report – Nova Scotia

August 2023

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

Industry Overview

Investment in Nova Scotia building construction decreased 13.6% in May 2023 to \$539.3 million compared to April 2023.

In May 2023, Nova Scotia's non-residential building construction increased 0.9% to \$69.7 million. In Halifax, non-residential construction was up 0.8% to \$46.4 million. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction was up 1.1% to \$23.3 million.

Nova Scotia's non-residential construction decreased 0.9% compared to January-April 2022. Halifax's non-residential construction rose 13.8%. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction was down 20.1%. The small non-residential decrease occurred with lower investment in industrial buildings offsetting higher commercial investment and institutional/governmental buildings.

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.

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://tieoffs.ca>

Over the last quarter, Duncan Williams was profiled in the news seven times for topics such as labour shortages and workforce development, labour challenges related to the Nova Scotia wildfires and floods, and affordable housing.

Membership & Industry Resources

CANS Education hosted 15 courses and engaged 217 learners between May 1 – August 1. CANS is proud to offer another season of award-winning industry education and training for our members and is scheduled to offer over 70 programs in 2023-2024. To view the upcoming year's course calendar, visit: <https://www.flipsnack.com/cansflipbook/cans-education-2023-2024-course-catalogue/full-view.html>.



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

CANS hosted our largest-yet annual golf tournament in June with great success, hosting over 400 golfers in across three courses. CANS hosted our Spring Fling in Cape Breton with 195 members attending. CANS also held our 5th Annual CANS Advantage BBQ in July, with 115 members attending. CANS looks forward to hosting our softball tournament in August, and AGM in September.

CANS Emerging Leaders Group hosted its largest-yet annual Meet and Greet on the Harbour. The Emerging Leaders Group was formed encourage participation from our younger CANS members. Members of the Emerging Leaders Group are under 40 and work for member companies.

CANS Building Futures for Youth placed 81 students with 61 host employers across Nova Scotia – our largest year to date. Students will be finishing placements in August.

The fifth issue of Construction Pulse, CANS industry magazine, launched this summer, highlighting achievements by Victoria Stanhope, winner of CCA Young Leader Award, and Marco Group, winner of CCA Workforce Excellence Award. The issue covers organizations working towards diversity and inclusion in industry, innovation and technology, and reflects on topics discussed at our CANS Construction Workforce Summit. To access the digital version of Construction Pulse, visit:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/cansflipbook/construction-pule-issue-5-spring-summer-2023/full-view.html>

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 – June 2023

We are well into a very busy year – lots of work and members are working hard to get everything completed on time.

Government relations wise we have had a very active year with a bringing back of in person round tables – we have held such for asphalt, bridge rehab, structures and aboriginal issues. Generally we find these very effective – key Industry members sit down with key Government folks and discuss topics of importance to both parties.

Again the in person resuming of activities allowed us to have our first Board meeting in Cape Breton since 2019. This is a direct effort to show membership and our second largest municipality that we are more than Halifax centric. Meeting was very well supported by both the local folks and our members. It was highlighted by the Mayor of that municipality attending and speaking to us. We also had the opportunity to give a donation of just over \$200K to a local food bank charity.

We continue to have discussions with Government with regard to pricing, our costs have gone up dramatically and with it our bids.

With the advent of the carbon tax being imposed on NS on July 1 our fuel prices rose 14 cents a litre for regular gas and 17 for diesel. We will see how this plays out as an impact on our economy, certainly appears to be very negative at the moment.

We also brought together all four Atlantic Provinces for in person meetings for the Atlantic Road Builders Association. This combines the provincial Presidents and Executive Directors to jointly share concerns and topics of interest. This forum has been extremely valuable over the years.

Our efforts to have the Province make a fulsome review of our Workers Compensation Program appear to be paying off. We are anticipating such an announcement imminently. Similar efforts in other provinces have led to significant progress on premiums, benefits, etc. We have usually ranked near or as the worst in the country so we are hopeful better things are on the way.

Our golf tournament has once again attracted a full field with the hoped for result of a good net that we will be able to donate to charity as we have consistently in the past.

We are also witnessing a large production milestone with the completion of the construction phase of P3 project going from New Glasgow to Antigonish. On time, on budget.



CANB Update – June 27, 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 in 2022. We are happy to announce that BILL 42 - Construction Prompt Payment and Adjudication Act received Royal Assent on June 16th. The province still a lot of work to do in finalizing the prompt payment regulations and adjudication regime. CANB's two main advocacy goals is to ensure all construction contracts issued in the province are required to adhere to the legislation and that CANB would be designated by the OAG office to setup a non-for-profit dispute resolution office to act as the official authority.

CANB has also achieved another advocacy win recently with the Provincial government agreeing to establish an online Skilled Trades Centers of Excellence. The Province already have COE's in Entrepreneurship, Health, Energy and Digital Innovation and it has been our association's goal to have one setup for the Skilled trades as well. The COE will start in September 2023 and CANB will be one of the founding partners. The COE provides an opportunity to reimagine how students across K-12 learn about the construction sector and skilled trades. Our work with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) seek to invigorate our sector in the school system. The COE seek to enhance the delivery of curriculum across various subject areas by incorporating up-to-date practices and experiential learning opportunities.

In New Brunswick, Immigrants only represent 3% of the labour force as opposed to a national average of 20%. With 10,000 vacancies expected in our industry in the next four years, New Brunswick needs to increase its numbers, or our industry will suffer. CANB has joined forces with executives from the Canadian Home Builders' Association New Brunswick, New Brunswick Building Trades Union, Hub of New Brunswick, NB Multicultural Council and the Construction Association of NB Moncton NE to present The Department of Post Secondary Education Training and Labour as well as Working NB with a project titled 'Building Innovative Pathways to support Immigration into the Construction Workforce in New Brunswick'. The project will use a Provincial government methodology called a Labour Force Adjustment Committee to address labour force challenges. In conjunction we have proposed the committee engages a 100-Day Challenge methodology to actively develop and test innovative solutions to the challenge of immigration pathways into the construction & skilled trades through UNB's Pond Deshpande Centre.

We have recently hosted our Bi-Annual Joint Industry and Government meeting on June 13th in Fredericton. With over 25 departments and industry associations present, it provided the opportunity for both government and industry officials to learn more about the current struggles facing our industry. This summer's meeting had presentation from BuildForce Canada, The Minister of Transportation gave a keynote address, CANB ED provided an industry outlook and Immigration NB ran a roundtable fact finding information session on key questions they had for our industry.

Thank you

John-Ryan Morrison

CANB Executive Director



Summer 2023

Summer work

As this report is written, the summer season is (finally) in full swing. After a very cool & wet spring, contractors are out doing what they do. Work was delayed due to poor weather conditions but everyone is in full gear. We are not seeing large contracts this year, but plenty of work with provincial, federal & municipal governments.

Mobile Simulator Training Trailer Project

Our simulator trailer continues to attract plenty of interest. This fall the trailer will be in Perth Andover and Grand Falls, then to Saint John in winter of 2024. The trailer is scheduled for the Moncton area for the fall of 2024. In each area, 3-4 high schools are combining students to ensure the trailer is used to its full capacity. We are very pleased with the results & interest.

Fuel adjustment clause

We continue to meet with our provincial transportation folks on this issue. A few municipalities have fuel adjustment clauses in their contracts and we will continue to push for this provincially.

2023 Summer meeting

Our Summer meeting & golf tournament was recently held in Saint John. We had a great turn out, the weather cooperated. Everyone enjoyed the weekend.

Hours of Service & Electronic Log devices

We continue to meet with Public Safety on this issue. We agree with the hours of service, we are concerned with some of the wording which could affect our members in infrequent daily short hauls. We are working with our Atlantic counterparts pushing for consistent regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGinn, Executive Director

Housing Crisis

The ACQ is taking a number of actions to counter the housing crisis. The ACQ notes that Quebec is heading for its steepest decline in housing starts since 1995. Quebec is facing its lowest vacancy rate in more than 20 years, at 1.7%, while a balanced market is around 3%, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

To restore this balance and meet demographic challenges, the Association des professionnels de la construction et de l'habitation du Québec (APCHQ) estimates that 100,000 housing units need to be delivered in the short term, and 620,000 by 2030, according to CMHC.

But to the ACQ, this is not just a housing crisis. Housing is an issue that also concerns infrastructure, transportation, the economy, health, immigration, seniors, and homelessness, and therefore calls for a horizontal approach from government, various departments, and other players.

Over the past few months, we've all been sharing our findings on the scale of the crisis and its horizontal causes with various levels of government. Faced with the many causes that are accentuating the effects of the crisis day by day, the ACQ and its industry partners are calling for a meeting of all decision-makers to take full measure of the seriousness of the situation, identify the obstacles together, and adopt a common roadmap incorporating concerted action with targets and deadlines to be met.

Productivity

The Association de la construction du Québec (ACQ) has commissioned a firm to carry out a study on productivity in Quebec's construction sector. A study by AppEco found that labour productivity in the construction sector in 2021 was 13% lower in Quebec than in Ontario. AppEco's study highlights factors that may explain why Quebec lags behind other Canadian provinces, including labour mobility, worker training, and the compartmentalization of trades. Productivity in the construction sector has been stagnating for almost 10 years.

The AppEco study highlighted several factors that may explain why Quebec lags behind other Canadian provinces, and these factors are diverse. Workforce training, worker mobility, regulatory processes, poor planning, worker health and safety, innovation, capital stock, and quality and cost of materials are all factors that can influence labour productivity.

In this sense, the ACQ supports the consultations launched by the Minister of Labour to modernize the construction industry, and believes they will help identify solutions to close the productivity gap.

Bootcamp

From April 15 to June 11, the ACQ's Boot Camp Construction tour continued and was held in the Laval, Montreal, Saguenay, Northeastern Quebec, and Eastern Townships areas.

In all, more than 1,000 people took part, learning about the trades of carpentry and joinery, electricity, refrigeration, bricklaying and masonry, tiling, plumbing and heating, tinsmithing, operating construction machinery, installing interior systems, installing security systems, installing roof coverings, installing flexible coverings, plastering, and painting.

Women

The Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ) announced this spring that a record number of over 7,200 women worked on construction sites in 2022, representing 3.64% of the total workforce. This represents an increase of almost 970 compared with 2021. Women chose to start a career on the construction site in large numbers, surpassing the 1,900 mark for a second year, representing a peak of 9.32% of all new arrivals.

CCQ Data

According to CCQ data, 2023 continues its slight downturn in the first quarter. The residential sector is the most affected by the reduction in hours worked, both in seasonally-adjusted and annualized terms. In April, the CCQ reported a 3% fall on March, the third consecutive month of decline.

Association
des constructeurs
de routes
et grands travaux
du Québec



ACRGTQ

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**Provincial summary report presented to the
Canadian Construction Association**

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

July 2023

The next ACRGTQ convention will be held on January 23, 24 and 25, 2024, at the Centre des congrès de Québec, with the theme “Mastering the changes of this new era”.

Government (Policies, Regulations)

- In response to the study titled *Blocage minimum* by the Metropolitan Montreal Board of Trade, the City of Montreal held its [Summit on construction sites](#) in March.
_ The purpose of the summit was to discuss issues and solutions relating to the various construction sites on a metropolitan area's territory. One of the solutions proposed was to review the size and layout of the signs and cones with the Quebec government. In April, the government reacted by announcing various measures relating to roadworks in the City of Montreal.
- Quebec's Minister of Labour is taking advantage of the summer of 2023 to consult his employer and union partners with a view to modernizing the construction sector. To increase construction site productivity, we will be talking about multiskilled workers. The Minister is considering sharing activities, but not necessarily revising the number of trades. The government also wants to give greater prominence to three under-represented groups: women, First Nations people and immigrant workers. Finally, we will look at the safe integration of innovations. The Minister is expected to announce the results of his deliberations in the fall.
- The Quebec government is also taking advantage of the summer of 2023 to receive briefs and intervention requests for a possible public consultation on immigration thresholds. Consultations will begin in September. The government is looking more closely at two scenarios: a gradual increase to 60,000 new arrivals per year by 2027; or a status quo at 50,000 per year.
- Michael Sabia has recently taken the CEO position at Hydro-Québec and will help the government with its summertime energy reflections. In fact, since the government's appropriations study, the news have highlighted that the era of surpluses is not only over, but that the energy deficit will worsen if nothing is done. Even now, economic projects are being slowed down or blocked. What's more, we are encouraging people to review their energy consumption and encouraging them to switch from hydrocarbons to electricity. The government's plans include the addition of dams, wind turbines, and even a return to nuclear power. For the time being, we know that the government will reveal its thoughts in the fall.

Infrastructure

- The REM is now operational in Montreal.
- A working committee has presented a \$36 billion, all-underground transit project for the east end of the island of Montreal. The government refused the project. So it's back to the drawing board for a new project.
- In April, the government modified its 3rd link project in Quebec City. The project on the table now consists of a single tube of a smaller diameter (compared to the previous project) dedicated solely to mass transit. Financial and technical details are not yet known. The government reconsidered its position, claiming that lower traffic levels in the Quebec City area since the pandemic now justify this approach. The government reserves the right to review the area's needs and the project every 5 years.
- Quebec City submitted its business case to the Quebec government in July 2023. The Quebec cabinet is expected to analyze and approve the case in the autumn. Work should officially begin in summer 2024. The tramway is scheduled to open in 2029.

Other

- Economic uncertainty continues to be a concern for Quebec entrepreneurs: KPMG Focus Québec Report.

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

Provincial Government in Recess

There has been no real activity in the legislature since it is not currently sitting during the summer. They are slated to commence the fall session in early September.

City of Toronto

Former city councilor and MP Olivia Chow has become the next mayor of Toronto. She steps into the top spot as the City of Toronto grapples with a massive budget shortfall, an affordability crisis and public safety concerns. Among her headline commitments is a pledge to get the city back into social housing development and an annual \$100 million investment in a program to purchase affordable homes and transfer them to non-profits and land trusts.

WSIB Transition Rates

In a recent meeting with the WSIB, the OGCA speaking through the Construction Employers Coalition (CEC) addressed an issue with the WSIB rate groups and how they are adversely affected by Transition Rates. This is a construction centric problem and directly affects a contractor's ability to bid with buyers of construction since due to the rate modifiers, especially the transition rates, these rates place the bidding contractor in a higher rate as compared to the rest of the category (IE: G6 1.55 standard + Transition Rate XX = higher than the average rate in the G6 category). This presents a very real issue for contractors when it comes to bidding.

CEC recommended that this is a communication issue for the WSIB since those contractors paying more, are actually better contractors that are making up the differential transition between excess increases and decreases for the entire category. Transition rates add and escalate above the average performance for the sector. At the time of writing, the WSIB and CEC have not yet met to address this matter.

WSIB Overall

The WSIB is still being very evasive with providing information directly to the stakeholders. In the past the WSIB had an abundance of information and the contractors understood how the rates were calculated and what to expect for rate earning ceilings. Currently, the WSIB is not providing sufficient information for the industry, even after repeated requests to do so.

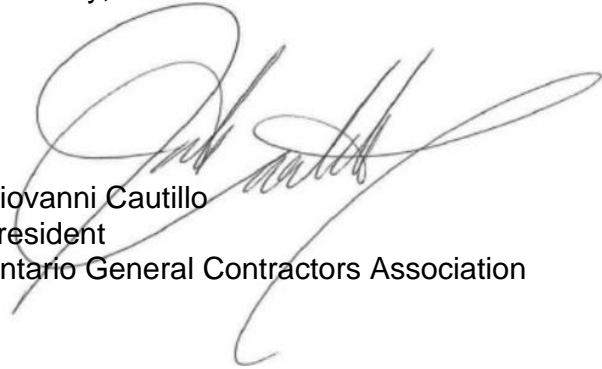
Region Of Peel

The Ontario government has announced a plan to dissolve Peel Region and make Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon independent municipalities. The OGCA met with the Region to ascertain how this announcement was going to affect ongoing and future work in Peel.

Region noted that they will be transitioning to a new entity and the projected date for the dissolution of the Region of Peel is January 1, 2025. This new entity may be a Utility Board or a new Regional Entity. With respect to projects, non are scheduled to stop, nor are new projects being curtailed. New language will be included in construction contracts to allow for the movement to a new entity, whenever that occurs. The Region noted "Business as usual, until it is not" and they also commented that this may be the trajectory for other regional governments.

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

Sincerely,



Giovanni Cautillo
President
Ontario General Contractors Association

Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Industry August 2023 – Update for CCA

Industry Overview

The number of public projects being tendered by municipalities continues to decline, as the ongoing stress on municipal budgets in the province is resulting in the scale back in capital works budgets. The sewer and watermain sector continues to be healthy, as the majority of projects cuts or delayed to-date are being found in the road and bridge construction sectors, though overall 2023 is a slower year than the previous three. Similarly, the number of private projects being tendered in 2023 is also down. Pipe manufacturers expect a 10% decline in sales in 2023 over 2022 sales volume.

Advocacy & Promotion

Social Procurement in Municipal Contracts

There has been a recent spike in municipal adoption of social procurement requirements into their capital contracts, particularly in the form of targeted hiring and sub-contracting obligations. The City of Toronto has finalized their procurement specs and the City of Ottawa is now working towards establishing a program. Several other municipalities have now put programs in place on select contracts, largely to meet federal funding requirements for municipal infrastructure projects.

CD Howe Institute – Mandate for Utility Pricing for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

The CD Howe Institute has conducted a series of research reports on the affordability of housing in Ontario. Several recommendations in these past reports focus on the expense that water and wastewater infrastructure pose to the cost of new housing developments. The Institute is working on a study specifically focussed on addressing water and wastewater costs associated with new housing developments, with an eye towards recommending that the province mandate that municipalities move to a utility pricing model (full cost pricing/recovery) for their water and wastewater infrastructure. OSWCA is joining CD Howe and will sit on their Advisory Board for this study.

BuildWitt

OSWCA is discussing partnership opportunities with [BuildWitt](#), a US-based social media organization whose mission is to help heavy civil construction contractors attract, train, and keep the next generation of workers. BuildWitt CEO, Aaron Witt, be the keynote speaker at the OSWCA conference in January. We have also obtained a discount code for any OSWCA member interested in attending the [Dirt World Summit](#) in Houston in October.

Conflict Avoidance Procedure – Construction Act

The OSWCA is working with a group of construction Associations and Global Public Affairs to encourage the province to adopt the Conflict Avoidance Procedure, presently being used on UK transit projects, into the Construction Act as part of its five-year review of the Act.

Municipal Contracts Moving to RFP, RFQ

Many municipalities are moving away from the traditional tendering process in favour of RFP/Q's, which include a different set of award rules and requirements. OSWCA has addressed a number of problematic municipal tenders over the last year that include difficult to interpret contract language. A memorandum identifying what to watch for in these contracts will be circulated.

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Winnipeg Construction Association

WCA Activities for the month of May 2023

Construction Industry Update.

According to **Statistics Canada**, Manitoba building permit values for the YTD to the end of March is about 5% higher than last year. Total residential permit values are up by 8% and non-residential construction permits are down about even to last year. Of note, single dwelling residential is down by 28% and institutional permits are up by 146% compared to last year at this time.

The **City of Winnipeg** permit report for April 2023 shows an overall similar start to the year as last year, however it appears that the residential sector (specifically the apartment construction) has rebounded and is offsetting a reduction in ICI permits. Apartment permit values are 145% higher than last year YTD. The non-residential construction sector permit values are 53% lower than last year. Institutional permit values are up significantly (2761%) compared to last year however that is offset by a reduction in all other categories in the non-residential sector.

WCA BuildWorks

In May 2023, WCA hosted 258 projects which is a recent record for number of hosted projects in that month. To date, Buildworks have hosted 1017 project which is more than the five-year average of 975.

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 1177 projects potentially worth between \$21.5Bn and \$30Bn. WCA members receive a weekly update on new information on projects in the pipeline.

Advocacy/Government Relations.

Bill 38 The Builders' Liens Act (Prompt Payment) Act – Bill 38 has received Third Reading and Royal Assent. Next steps will be the development of the required regulations and the adjudication body.

RST in Construction – WCA hosted a webinar on May 10 to provide guidance to membership on how RST should be treated in construction. RST rules are complex and this webinar allowed for questions to be asked of the experts. The webinar can be viewed here:

Social Procurement – WCA, with industry partners, met with obtained a commitment from the Provincial Government to establish a Working group to identify train and education needed to elevate people from unemployment to construction careers.

Building Code 2020 Adoption – The Province has announced they will put the Building Code Regulation out for a 21-day consultation starting June 5.

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:

- June 5: [WCA Annual Summer BBQ](#)
- June 6: [Project Management Skills Academy](#)
- June 6: [Construction Meetings & Meeting Minutes for Project Managers](#)
- June 6-7: [Bluebeam Revu: Estimating - Level 2](#)
- June 7: [Meet the GC](#)
- June 7-8: [Change Order Pricing and Management](#)
- June 12-16: [Construction Contract Administration](#)
- June 13-15: [CCDC 5A | 5B: Construction Management Keys to Success](#)
- June 12-13: [Trade Contracts: A Double-Edged Sword](#)
- June 14-15: [Construction Project Closeout](#)
- June 15: [Managing Field Productivity to Improve Bottom Line](#)
- June 16: [Building Code: National Fire Code Requirements for Buildings](#)

Upcoming Events.

- June 5** – WCA BBQ
- June 7** – Meet the GC Event (Members Only)
- June 21** – WCA Summer Golf



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

August, 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

- Canada Trade Corridor Plan
 - o Significant progress since January 2023 meeting with MB Premier Stefanson regarding CTIP (formerly the National Plan for Trade Corridor Infrastructure), including:
 - April 11 '23 **Communique of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba** supporting economic corridor development, including joint planning on highways to support trade growth
 - April 26 '23 **meeting with Dan Vandal, federal minister** for Prairies & Northern Economic Development and Northern Affairs
 - June 15 '23 **Premiers' Council of the Federation letter to Prime Minister Trudeau**, seeking a successor to the Investing in Canada fund, including for trade corridors infrastructure
 - June '23 **Public Opinion Research** by Ipsos, indicating
 - 95% view Canada's trade infrastructure as important to Canada's economy; 9% think Canada's trade infrastructure is in good shape
 - 93% agree we need to prioritize making sure that our trade infrastructure can effectively move people to jobs and products to market
 - 94% agree Canadian governments and industry need to work together to create a national plan to invest in building and maintaining long-term, trade infrastructure.
 - June 27 '23 MOU of Western Premiers: intent to collaborate to enhance trade corridors
 - July 10 '23 meeting with **Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland**, discussing CTIP
 - July 12 '23 breakfast – **CCC, CCA, BCC, CWF, WCR&HCA -- six Premiers** (Ont, Mb, Alta, BC, Nunavut, Yukon) endorse CTIP principles
 - July 12 '23 **Premiers' Council of the Federation Communique, endorsing CTIP principles**, calling on PM Trudeau to hold First Ministers meeting on strategic infrastructure investment
- Next Steps: launch of CTIP website, arrange federal meetings to press for inclusion of CTIP in Budget 2024

WESTERN CANADA

- MHCA, working through the WCRHCA, tentatively secured 2025 Conference site and location: Maui, Hawaii

MANITOBA

- Provincial election October 3 '23
 - o MHCA with 8 partner business associations holding Party Leaders' Forum on Growing the Economy
 - o MHCA has engaged media consultants for public messaging on provincial priorities

WINNIPEG

- City Council has approved multi-year financial plan that includes dedicated taxes to local and regional street renewal to 2027; will also include funding bridges, tree canopy renewal, active transportation facilities
- City has hired independent consultant to recommend next steps for department to set out process for specification changes, including review of use of recycled concrete aggregates as a roadbuilding material

Respectfully submitted,

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



| Together We Build Saskatchewan |

CCA Board Report

Provincial Report – Saskatchewan

August 2023

The Construction Associations of Saskatchewan have embarked on an unprecedented journey on behalf of our collective Membership.

In 2021, five associations embarked on the journey we called “Lean In”. This journey was about operational efficiencies and the joining together of all staff teams into one cohesive unit. We spent half of 2021 and 2022 working through this change and building a strong, unified team. In the fall of 2022 upon Mark Cooper’s resignation the Boards of each association choose to pursue this journey further by approving both Shannon Friesen and Kevin Dureau to be co-CEOs of all five organizations (PACA, SCA, SKCA, RCA and MJCA). We accepted this responsibility humbly but also with such excitement about what we could achieve on behalf of our industry in 2023 and beyond. Together the five Boards appointed board members to serve in a strategic planning session, bringing perspectives from all our associations.

We have been successful with many lobbying efforts due to the strength of our five associations. We defeated a fair wage policy on construction projects, removed the additional 10% total performance holdbacks on some projects, worked to find solutions to crime on construction sites which led to a review by the provincial government.

We have enhanced access to resources, information and intelligence, opening new opportunities for our Members within the province to pursue and win work, and perform work more effectively and efficiently. Without question the alignment of services for example education, networking events, consistency of messaging to owners has been positive.

The provincial government and city officials have recognized the value of the associations working together as well. We have become trusted resources for our industry and are consulted regularly on policy considerations.

At a recent event, we had the honour of participating in an Memorandum of Understanding signing between the Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence (SFNNRCE) the Saskatchewan Construction Association Network and SupplierLink Saskatchewan. This partnership will extend the reach of SFNNRCE’s influence into additional areas of procurement and will provide the purchasers of construction and other services, assurance by verifying the Indigenous data of companies registered in the SupplierLink Saskatchewan platform. Together we are working towards a better future in Saskatchewan.

Next Steps:

The five Boards have created an ad hoc committee consisting of board members from the five associations along with the CEOs to continue to refine governance, legal, and financial considerations as we continue down our path towards the future.

September 2023 Report to Canadian Construction Association

2023 Chair Trevor Doucette (Graham Construction)

Advocacy

- ACA meeting with new Cabinet discussing alignment of Ministerial mandate letters with ACA priorities.
- Industry / Infrastructure Working Groups for risk in GoA contracts and introducing prompt pay provisions for Public Works projects continue.
- Government and industry dialogue concerning possible prompt pay exemptions for major projects and to correct issues arising from initial implementation.
- 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

Building permit values for January-May 2023 fell 8% compared to the same period in 2022. Values fell nearly 14% for May compared to the previous year. Commercial permit values have grown through 2023 while multiple dwelling residential have steadily fallen.

Membership

Q2 2023 Membership stood at 2160 compared to 2075 for Q1 2023 and 2215 for Q2 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 opposes exemptions to prompt pay legislation that the Government of Alberta is considering, ostensibly to attract major project investment
- ACA is delivering numerous workforce programs to bring new workers and new skills into the industry

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

May Election

- Alberta's Provincial election was held on May 29 with the United Conservative Party returning to power, albeit with a reduced number of seats (49 out of 87 seats).
- The Hon. Devin Dreeshen was reappointed as Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, providing some welcomed stability and continuity. The Deputy Minister also remained unchanged.

Provincial Budget

- With the provincial government spending against last February's election-style budget, industry is seeing a busy construction season this summer.
- ARHCA will continue its work to educate the government on the need for more consistency, year over year, in budget spending on strategic highway infrastructure building and maintenance.

Prompt Payment Legislation

- An emerging issue, the Alberta government has considered exempting companies investing in industrial developments, and itself, from needing to abide by the prompt payment legislation.
- ARHCA has expressed its position is that contract law must remain stable, reliable, and evenly applied.
- A consultation is expected.

Strategic Planning Session

- The Board held its annual strategic planning session in June.
- Renewed support was given to continue to advocate for more predictable and transparent infrastructure planning and funding as well as for significant improvements to procurement processes. ARHCA will also continue to promote alternative policy approaches, such as the Alberta Highway Trust Co.
- The Board has also decided to take a more proactive approach to support work force planning and development.

Advocacy within Alberta

- ARHCA's advocacy campaign to raise awareness of the need for a better way to deliver on infrastructure projects was back in market immediately following the election. The campaign, "Fix our Roads," draws attention to the current state of Alberta's infrastructure and calls for a better way for building and maintaining Alberta's highways.

Collaborative Advocacy Initiatives

- The Council of the Federation's final communique led with a united call for a National Trade Strategy to address Canada's failing trade infrastructure

competitiveness. In this communique, *Premiers endorsed “the principles set out in the Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan proposed by a coalition including the Business Council of Canada, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canada West Foundation, Canadian Construction Association, Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation, and the Western Canada Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association.”*

- ARHCA was heavily involved in this three-year advocacy marathon with the Western Roadbuilders, the CCA (Canadian Construction Association), and the Canada West Foundation. Kudos to Manitoba’s Chris Lorence for his leadership in this effort.
- Alberta and CCA are currently collaborating to find an academic champion to study, compare, and rank, the effectiveness of models for managing infrastructure spending programs.

Major Projects

- Modelled on the BC Roadbuilders’ experience, ARHCA has created a Major Projects Committee to provide feedback into the viability of major projects, insight into procurement best practices, promote a varied use of procurement models, and caution against the unintended consequences of transferring all risk to industry.

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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.
 - In May, the B.C. AG Ministry staff were given approval to convene a working group to consult on the creation of Prompt Payment Legislation. Welcome news however still very slow moving and lagging far behind other jurisdictions.

NEW ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- BCCA has published a new Construction File: *Supplementary Conditions and Standard Construction Documents: Guidance for General Contractors and Trade Contractors*.
- BCCA published a “**Supplementary Conditions**” tip sheet to complement the BCCA “**Read your Contract**” tip sheet as a new resource for employers.
- BCCA has paid more than \$8M in Apprenticeship Service grants to employers since the program opened in October 2022.
- Our fifth “Owners Only” session, *Delivery Methods 101, Part 1: Design-Bid-Build and “Construction Management* was held on June 12 with over 239 attendees.

BUILDERS LIFE TALENT POOL

BCCA is developing a new campaign targeting BC construction employers affiliated with us either through our Programs (BidCentral, STEP, Builders Code, Building Builders, BCCA-IN, LNG Canada Trades Training Fund and Connect) or our RCA membership network (VRCA, VICA, SICA, NRCA). The campaign will provide these employer groups exclusive and FREE access to the over 5,000 applicants gathered through the Builders Life Campaign, which was originally created to support the BCCA Apprenticeship Services Program, in our ongoing efforts to solve the skilled workforce shortage in British Columbia's construction sector.

- BCCA is partnering with the VRCA to co-host the first 'Career Connector' on August 15th which will bring job seekers from the Builders Life Talent Pool together with employers from the VRCA membership. We are also in talks with SICA, VICA, and NRCA to host multiple regional events.



MEMO

Date: August 1, 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 having a strong 2023, and the industry remains strong as we enter the second half of the year. 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:

- 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. Starting in Q1 2024, we will begin a multiyear tour of British Columbia promoting employment in the road building and maintenance sectors.
- 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 plan to launch the program this Fall.