



To: Board of Directors

From: Rod Gilbert

Date: June 9, 2024

Subject: Partner Association reports

In preparation for the Canadian Construction Association's June Board retreat, our partner associations provided summary reports with key updates and insights into the current issues and opportunities in their regions. We appreciate the time and effort they dedicate to compiling these reports, as it helps guide our planning and future actions.

Across the reports, collaboration with national, provincial, and local partners to advance the industry was identified as an essential strategy to advance the industry's interests.

There is also significant alignment across the industry's advocacy issues of workforce development, sustained infrastructure development, fair procurement, alternative delivery models, and early contractor involvement. In reading the reports, it is refreshing to see that CCA's efforts to support the industry are well aligned with the issues and opportunities identified by our integrated partners.

Below is a summary of issues mentioned in their reports. [\(link to the individual reports\)](#)

Advocacy:

- The Alberta Construction Association (ACA) has been meeting with the government expressing their need to secure more skilled tradespeople through apprenticeships and immigration.
- ACA is also advocating for alignment on prompt payment, *Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act* and *Public Works Act*, as well as Alberta Infrastructure contracts.
- Priorities identified for the British Columbia Construction Association's (BCCA) include Prompt Payment, labour shortages, and public sector procurement practices.
- The Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB) continues their push for Prompt Payment legislation to be brought into force in NB. Since legislation received royal assent last June, they have been pushing the OAG office to release a draft of the regulations and for a period of public consultation.
- The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) reported that Manitoba Budget 2024 delivered on its commitment to maintain the \$500 million highways capital program.
- MHCA is in discussions with government on its decision to end "carryover" of unexpended funds to subsequent year's budget. MHCA and Manitoba Transportation & Infrastructure (MTI) have established a specification working group. MHCA and MTI have had successive "year-in-review" meetings, focused primarily on ability to tender early, to ensure annual program is fully expanded.
- Both the Association des constructeurs de routes et grands travaux du Québec (ACRGTO) and the Association de la construction du Québec (ACQ) are still working on Bill 51 in Quebec, which will give more flexibility and improve efficiency in the construction industry.
- Also, the Quebec Government introduced a bill that will allow more flexibility in the procurement process and encourage the use of alternative delivery models.

- Following the budget, the Construction Associations of Saskatchewan had a successful Construction Lobby Day on April 23, 2024. Industry leaders met with Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Legislative Secretaries, and MLAs, including the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement, (Hon.) Joe Hargrave.
- Participants represented key construction priorities to ensure the industry's success and contribute to Saskatchewan's future.
- The upcoming months are crucial for their advocacy efforts due to the upcoming provincial and local elections. Their Advocacy Team is actively preparing for these elections by crafting our election strategy, which we will present at our summer meeting in Elk Ridge.
- Apprenticeship – The Winnipeg Construction Association (WCA) remains concerned that the provincial government may change the apprenticeship ratios back to 1:1 from the current 2:1. This will reduce the number of apprentices in the system and will put at risk the provincial commitment to create 10,000 skill trade jobs.

Workforce:

- For over three years, ACA has been working with the province on delivery of the Construction New Talent Program (CNTP). CNTP supports more work-integrated learning opportunities for our members by linking them to post-secondary learners.
- CANB is proud to be a founding and funding partner of the Centre of Excellence for the Skilled Trades and Manufacturing. They have been working with the Department of Early Education and Childhood Development for over two years to get the Centre of Excellence off the ground and they are proud to be a part of the launch.
- BC Roadbuilders have launched a province-wide tour called the [Road Show](#), centred on innovative simulator technology, housed in a mobile trailer. Their intent is to bring increased attention to the career opportunities in our industry. Launched in Q1 2024, they have begun a multi-year tour of British Columbia promoting employment in the road building and maintenance sectors.
- In February, the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS) hosted their first CANS Construction Job Fair, to help bridge the gap between industry employers and job seekers.
- CANS also hosted their inaugural Construction Workforce Summit in early May. The event was tailored to industry employers, offering three informative sessions aimed at bolstering workforce support, development, and retention strategies.
- The Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association (NLCA) announced that during their first quarterly meeting of the year, NLCA and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure signed an official agreement on the Municipal Industry Training Coordinator staff position.
- The Canadian Association of Prince Edward Island (CAPEI) continue the expansion of their Training center to build net-zero ready tiny homes in partnership with their provincial government to help with the housing issue and create entry-level skills training.
- The New Brunswick Road Builders (NBRB) are also continuing with their simulator in school project.

Industry practices:

- The Ontario Sewer & Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA) reported on the Vendor Performance Management (VPM). The City of Ottawa has proposed increasing VPM weighting from 20 to 30 per cent, effective Q1 2024.
- Use of a subjective tendering model is growing, as what originally started in Richmond Hill has since spread to Kitchener, Barrie, and Orillia. Municipalities are not releasing bidding information until project award, and even then, only releasing limited information (i.e. only the award price, not all bidders' prices).

- BCCA’s “Owners Only” sessions continue to grow in popularity. Topics since their last report have included:
 - BC Builders Lien Act, February 26, 216 registrants.
 - Legal Update: New Decisions, New Perspectives, April 29, 157 registrants.
- The Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) provided a submission to the Ministry of Infrastructure regarding proposed surety bonding requirements for large non-P3 infrastructure projects. The submission addresses concerns about the potential impacts of these requirements and emphasizes OGCA's opposition to mandatory bonding legislation.
- OGCA: Bill 149, which received Royal Assent on March 21, 2024, is now awaiting the tabling of regulations, which will occur at the government's discretion. The bill introduces "Super-Indexing," allowing WSIB compensation adjustments above inflation. However, their timing and magnitude remain unpredictable without established criteria for applying these adjustments. It is presumed that the government will likely proceed with a minimum 2 per cent indexation increase above inflation for this year.
- City of Winnipeg Social Procurement – The City of Winnipeg has started its pilot projects that include the requirement to report on the number of hours worked by equity-seeking groups. To do this, contractors and subcontractors (with contract values greater than \$100k) require staff to complete a voluntary self-declaration form and track who works on the specified project.

Association membership, models, and events:

- The 2024 BC construction month was a huge success. Events and highlights include:
 - NDP Caucus meeting luncheon
 - The Deputy Ministers & Industry Infrastructure meeting (DMIIF) and DM reception
 - BCCA Board meeting / Leadership Reception and Leadership Awards
 - Builders Code Champion Awards
- The 2nd Annual NLCA Build 2024 Expo stands as a vibrant hub of industry innovation and growth, encapsulating the essence of Newfoundland and Labrador's construction sector. It was held in May with hundreds of people participating.
- The five construction associations of Saskatchewan have been collaborating more closely than ever due to its alignment process. The alignment of the five construction associations marks a significant milestone in their journey towards a stronger, more efficient entity serving the construction industry in Saskatchewan. Through collaboration, they have embarked on a path that acknowledges the evolving needs of their members in an ever-changing landscape.