

## Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association Update

September 2024

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The Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association's efforts continue to focus on strengthening relationships with government and industry stakeholders, advocating for the interests of our members, and promoting growth and innovation within the construction sector. This report outlines key developments and strategic priorities that will shape the future of the construction industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

### Engagement with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

On July 19<sup>th</sup> Premier Furey announced changes to his Cabinet, which included the following new appointments:

- Honourable Fred Hutton, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Honourable Elvis Loveless, Minister of Digital Government and Service Newfoundland and Labrador and Minister Responsible for the Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Honourable Lisa Dempster, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Minister of Labrador Affairs, Minister Responsible for Labour, Minister Responsible for Workplace NL, and Deputy Government House Leader
- Honourable Sarah Stodley, Minister of Immigration, Population Growth, and Skills and Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs

NLCA continues to enhance its government relations and public relations efforts. Over the last quarter, NLCA met with key officials on advocacy issues impacting our members and continuing to foster a positive partnership with the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure.

The Department of Digital Government and Service NL has launched a consultation on the Mechanics' Lien Act. The focus of the review will be on:

- Modifying the time limit for registering liens;
- Establishing a prompt payment framework to provide a remedy for late payments; and
- Establishing an alternative process for timely dispute resolution.

As part of the consultation, the department issued a survey, to which NLCA has submitted a formal response. We look forward to participating in future discussions to ensure the Act meets the needs of our industry.

Finally, prompt payment legislation is under consideration, and we continue to put pressure on the government to take swift action, ensuring Newfoundland and Labrador doesn't fall behind other jurisdictions.

### Municipal Infrastructure Training Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that we have successfully hired an individual for the newly established Municipal Infrastructure Training Coordinator position. She has just started her role and is beginning to meet with municipalities to assess their training needs. This position, funded by the government and based at our NLCA



offices, is responsible for developing, implementing, and managing training programs tailored to the specific needs of municipal employees undertaking municipal infrastructure projects in the province.

### **Membership Growth and Retention**

NLCA is actively exploring ways to attract new members and enhance membership retention. Our focus includes identifying the needs and interests of potential members, improving our value propositions, and developing targeted outreach strategies. By continuously improving our membership experience, we aim to grow our association and strengthen our collective voice within the construction industry.

### **NLCA 2025 Construction Journal**

NLCA is busy collaborating with our publisher to create the NLCA 2025 Construction Journal. This annual publication will include industry-related content, insights, and updates pertinent to our members and stakeholders. The journal aims to be a comprehensive resource, reflecting the current state and future trends of the construction industry in Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **Women in Construction Conference**

Our staff is currently busy preparing for the Women in Construction Conference, scheduled for October 4. This event is crucial for promoting diversity and inclusion within the construction sector. It provides a platform for women in the industry to share experiences, gain insights, and network with peers. The conference underscores NLCA's commitment to supporting and advancing the role of women in construction.

### **Next Steps**

Looking ahead, NLCA will coordinate meetings and touchpoints with other Ministers whose portfolios impact the construction industry. This initiative aims to expand our reach with the government and deepen ties with various players, including those in education, energy, and immigration. We also look forward to launching our next strategic plan, outlining our priorities for the coming years.



# Heavy Civil Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (HCANL)

## August 2024 Report to CCA Board

### Newfoundland and Labrador Financial Overview

- Newfoundland and Labrador will have a \$152 million deficit this year. The deficit is due to continued investments in initiatives to assist residents and businesses with affordability at this time. Balance is forecasted to be achieved next year and for the foreseeable future.
- Revenue forecasts for 2024-25 are \$10.3 billion, the highest in our history.
- Provincial spending for 2024-25 is projected to be \$10.4 billion. Increases in spending can be attributed to new activities designed to improve access to health care and housing, as well as support for seniors, communities, and industry.
- Oil production is projected to be 86 million barrels in 2024-25. Oil revenues in 2024-25 are expected to represent 15 per cent of overall revenues compared to 33 per cent in 2011-12.
- Based on independent forecasters, oil price is projected to be US\$82 per barrel and the Canada to United States exchange rate is 74.7 cents.
- The projected borrowing required for 2024-25 is \$2.8 billion.

### Transportation Infrastructure Overview

With an investment of close to \$400 million, Budget 2024 reflects our government's ongoing commitment to improve the transportation network, which contributes to the well-being of our province. This investment is part of the \$1.4 billion in improvements to provincial roads and highways announced last year. These are some of the higher Transportation budgets we have ever seen in or Province. Budget 2024 includes:

- \$288 million for upgrades to provincial highways and roads.
- \$29 million for marine services infrastructure.
- \$77 million for the operation of the ferries across the province.
- \$50 million over five years to support water and wastewater projects.

### New - Bid limits on Road work Tenders

We did have a significant situation here in NL, early summer, where the Department of Transportation tender results were coming in above government budgets. The department thought they would influence lower tender prices by initiating a process whereby they posted the budget number for the job being tendered. If a contractor bid was above the government budget, then it would be disqualified. The result of this was the next 5 or 6 government tenders had no bids at or below the budget number, resulting in roadwork literally grinding to a halt. Without getting into the multitude of discussions on the realities of increased prices and other stakeholders supporting our rational, we are happy to report a positive outcome. The process of using bid limits was abandoned and we are happy say, work is back on track. Other than the above its been a good year with plenty of work.



## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND ROAD BUILDERS AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

E-Mail: [info@peirb.ca](mailto:info@peirb.ca) Web Site: <http://www.peirb.ca>

### REPORT TO CCA – SEPTEMBER 2024

The province is seeing tenders come in a little higher this spring, as the cost of doing business has increased since our pre-covid days. It seems like government is realizing these costs are here to stay. 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.

#### **Asphalt**

The province has seen raveling problems in our asphalt. The department is working on different mixes with McAsphalt and collaborating with the Dept of Transportation in New Brunswick to see some mixes they have put down that has added fiber. The fiber is supposed to extend the life of the asphalt.

#### **Simulator 2024-25**

July 2024, will be our two-year anniversary of purchase. Our funding agreement with ACOA stated we had to commit 2 years with the Department of Education. The Essential Skills Achievement Pathway (ESAP) will be completing its 2nd year with our simulator. The VORTEX Max Edge has been in 5 different high schools across the Island. The program itself, has faced a few road bumps, with a change of new program coordinator 3 times – however the program seems to be gaining strength.

We will likely keep the simulator in the program for the 3rd year - however – we may take ownership for a month and have the simulator available to members for staff training for the month of March.

#### **Fuel Tax**

Fuel tax on off highway vehicles, we approached this topic maybe 10 years ago with government and it did not work. But now, with the increase in carbon taxes, the cost of operating off road vehicles, ie, excavators, dozers, is a big expense. Farmers and Fishers do not pay fuel tax - so why do we pay fuel tax on off highway vehicles? We will be approaching government about making changes to this.

#### **Snow Contract**

At the signing of our 7-year (2019-26) contract, our snow committee asked if there was any unforeseen event that created major changes in our industry, we could reopen the contract. Who would have thought the pandemic would create radical price increases we have seen since 2019. We have seen equipment increase over 40% on some piece and wages rise anywhere between 20-40%, insurance prices through the roof. We have been able to collect data from our contractors and will be sitting down with government to renegotiate the last two years of our contract.

## **Negotiated Rates**

Our committee had its yearly meeting with the department. We did talk about the increases our industry has incurred since 2019. They asked for some concrete data they can take to treasury board. President Duffy asked for some quotes on equipment pieces from Brandt and Toromont, (back hoe, dozer and excavator) comparisons from 2019 vs 2023. We are seeing increases from 30-47% in some equipment. Substantial increases in wages since 2019 – and we provided them data on this as well

## **Education & Recruitment**

Our Association is focusing on initiatives that will help build futures in our Industry.

- We are completing our second-year partnership with the Department of Education's Essential Skills Achievement Pathway (ESAP). With the ownership of the Vortex Edge Max (simulates 6 pieces of heavy machinery), our association is able to take our industry to the high schools and show students the technology and opportunities available.
- Our Education Committee has participated in Career Days at the High School Level and hope to expand on this next year.
- Our Association has participating in Job Fairs in Charlottetown and Summerside in hopes of recruiting potential workers for our membership.

## **Annual General Meeting**

February 1 & 2, 2024, we hosted our 62nd Annual General Meeting. It was very well attended, including special guests, Mary Van Buren and Brendan Nobes. Our 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting will be February 6 & 7, 2025

## **Lobster Dinner & Golf**

On June 13, 2024, we hosted a golf/lobster dinner event at Fox meadows/Lone Oak. The event was well attended. We are looking at booking more tee times next year – as we had to turn some away.

Regards

Melissa Paquet

Executive Director of PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association



## **CCA Provincial Report – Nova Scotia**

**August 2024**

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

### **Industry Overview**

Investment in Nova Scotia building construction increased 1.5% in April 2024 to \$575.8 million. Halifax monthly building construction fell 2.4% to \$314.4 million and outside of Halifax building construction was up 6.7% to \$261.4 million.

Nova Scotia's non-residential building construction declined 0.7% to \$94.3 million. In Halifax, non-residential construction was virtually unchanged (+0.03%), up to \$53.29 million. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction was down 1.5% to \$41.0 million.

Nova Scotia's non-residential construction was up 37.5% compared to January-April 2023. Halifax's non-residential construction rose 22.4% while outside of Halifax, non-residential construction was up 65.3%

### **Workforce & Advocacy**

Following a successful recruitment mission to the United Kingdom and Ireland in April, led by the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI), CANS, as part of the Nova Scotia Construction Immigration Coalition, has identified over 200 highly qualified construction professionals eager to relocate to Canada.

CANS is closely monitoring the upcoming municipal elections across the province, as well as anticipated provincial and federal elections. We are actively developing our strategies and are consulting with our members on their perspectives and insights to ensure our advocacy efforts reflect the industry's priorities and needs.

### **Membership & Industry Resources**

CANS Education engaged 260 learners between May 1 – July 1. CANS is proud to offer another season of award-winning industry education and training for our members and is scheduled to offer over 98 public programs in 2024-2025, adding 9 new programs influenced by member needs.

CANS hosted its largest annual golf tournament in June with over 420 golfers across three courses. The Spring Fling in Cape Breton saw 170 members in attendance. This year's AGM is scheduled for September 20, 2024, and has been condensed to a new one-day format to support our busy industry. CANS will be hosting the inaugural Women in Construction Forum, intended to inspire, connect and support women in industry.

CANS Emerging Leaders Group hosted its largest-yet annual Meet and Greet on the Harbour and looks forward to holding our Golf Tournament in September. CANS Emerging Leaders is dedicated to fostering valuable and inclusive opportunities for the next generation of industry leaders.

CANS Building Futures for Youth placed 91 students with 74 host employers across Nova Scotia – our largest year to date. Students will be finishing placements in August. This achievement underscores the program's growing effectiveness in attracting and engaging young talent within the construction sector.

CANS has welcomed several new members this year, reflecting a 55 per cent increase in new members over last year. This surge underscores a growing interest in CANS' mission and activities, surpassing previous membership records.

### **Association Priorities for 2024**

CANS will continue to focus on key priority areas as identified in its Strategic Plan: Government and Industry Relations, Workforce Development, Industry Education and Training, and Innovation and Technology. Member engagement will be a priority in the coming months to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and to gauge satisfaction for informing future directions.

## Nova Scotia Provincial Update – September 2024

We are well into another relatively busy year with overall Provincial budget in \$500M range. We began the year busily with carryover from last year and just continued on with this years' strong program. Nova Scotia is very busy on the private side as well due to significant amount of housing development, the municipal budgets are also large for major areas such as Halifax and Sydney. Of concern with the Provincial program has been the smaller asphalt tendering amounts than predicted at beginning of year. We have been discussing this concern with the Province and hope to ameliorate this shortfall soon.

We have continued to see a better overall labour market than the past few years – more resumes showing up, more ready potential to fill positions. Still a challenging area, but not as challenging as the last few years.

We did complete a robust RB 101 course schedule this year with a throughput of 18 participants the vast majority completed the course and have been placed with members as new employees for the Industry. We also delivered our own Class 1 and 3 Trucking courses this year. Graduated 10 Class 1 drivers with 8 paced with members. We graduated 8 Class 3s with 5 of them already working for members. We are re-evaluating our course programming with the Labour department to look at some adjustments. Expectation is to maintain RB 101, at a smaller intake, but more importantly are pursuing discussions around funding for upgrading current employees. We are not expecting to maintain the trucking courses at this time.

As always Government relations are our main focus. We have a full slate of meetings with key Government people. We have significant discussions with Province regarding their penchant for constantly higher standard specifications both in concrete and asphalt. We most often feel these changes are unproductive for anyone and certainly add costs for the taxpayers.

Following on the previous paragraph, we are looking forward to our ARBA meetings with senior Provincial bureaucrats in the Fall to see where those discussions go with things such as tendering practices/pricing, etc. This will take place in Fredericton.

The Provincial WCB review is to come a conclusion soon and we remain optimistic that very positive changes will occur.

We are active in a couple of initiatives on the Immigration file. Time will tell if they bear fruit.

We will go through a new Strategic Planning process this Fall to guide the Association into the near future.



# Construction Association of New Brunswick



Phone: (506) 459-5770 Email: [canb4@constructnb.ca](mailto:canb4@constructnb.ca)  
59 Avonlea Court, Fredericton, NB E3C 1N8

**Prompt Payment:** As of mid June, the Attorney General's office is currently undertaking a comprehensive jurisdictional review of P.P. and is conducting consultation with government partners, with specific intention to inform next steps as it relates to completing the drafting of regulations. Unfortunately with the Provincial election scheduled for the fall, and the subsequent Writ dropping, legislative due process stops at that time until after the election so it does not look good for our industry to have Prompt payment in 2024.

**Joint Industry and Government:** On June 11<sup>th</sup>, we held our bi-annual JIG meeting in Fredericton. This important event in our advocacy calendar brought together over 50 people representing 20 industry associations and government departments. The post survey results spoke highly of the content, the benefit in attending the event as well as the networking opportunities to meet with senior staff from four different government departments.

**100 Day Challenge:** The largest project ever undertaken by CANB is in the final stages and out partners, the Pond Deshpande Centre, updated everyone at the JIG on the incredible progress completed by the teams during the 100 days. Three were promised, however, a total of seven tested recommendations came from the activity. They include:

- Shared HR resource
- Immigration Training & Learning Module for HR
- Employers Digital Roadmap
- Credential Pre-Assessments
- Policy Change for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
- Employer Skills Gap Assessment
- Credential Recognition for institutions outside of Canada.

The PDC presented the finding to the Labour Force Adjustment Committee as well as the ADM's from PETL and Immigration NB. A final report will be presented to the ministers upon completion in early fall.

**Skilled Trades Consortium:** The consortium concept came from research commissioned by CANB and PETL to identify gaps in the promotion and access to the skilled trades in the province. The research was completed March 2023 and presented to the CANB board for approval and then to the senior directors at PETL last June. In exciting news, CANB was chosen to house the consortium for the skilled trades. We will be hiring two full time employees for a two-year contract period with an option of two additional years. One will be a Senior Director position and the other a Policy coordinator position to help support the Consortium. The Senior Director position is responsible for leading the creation, development, and implementation of a new consortium arm of CANB to support the skilled trades in New Brunswick.





Summer 2024

### **2024 Construction season**

Our construction season is in full swing with many projects underway. With this being an election there seems to be no shortage of work. Having said that, new bridge construction is basically not existent which is strange given the current state of bridges in the province. We have stressed to government a consistent program results in a more stable industry, which benefits all parties involved.

### **Mobile Simulator Training Trailer Project**

Our simulators finished the spring semester at Simonds High School and will be at Salisbury High School in the fall where two high schools will be taking the program. The trailer is now booked for the next four years which is exactly what we want. We are now in the process of establishing regional training centres which will be equipped with simulators. This will not replace the training trailer but will enhance the program and increase road building industry exposure to high students. Our long-term plan is to have simulators based in each district throughout the province.

### **Labour shortage**

This continues to be a huge issue in our province as is the case across the country. PEI Construction Association is leading a program with other construction and road building associations in Atlantic Canada to address this problem. The program is in the initial stages with a fall meeting scheduled to establish an action plan.

### **2024 Summer Meeting**

Our 2024 Summer Meeting & golf tournament was held in Miramichi July 19 & 20. We had 60 golfers, 115 for Friday dinner and 55 for the Saturday afternoon Miramichi River cruise. The weather fully cooperated and the weekend was enjoyed by all. Plans are underway for our 2025 Summer Meeting which will be held in Bathurst.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGinn, Executive Director

Association  
des constructeurs  
de routes  
et grands travaux  
du Québec



**ACRGTQ**

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TECHNOLOGIE  
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**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](http://www.acrgtq.qc.ca)  
Courriel général  
[acrgtq@acrgtq.qc.ca](mailto:acrgtq@acrgtq.qc.ca)

**Short-form Provincial Report presented to  
the Canadian Construction Association**

**By  
l'Association des constructeurs de routes  
et grands travaux du Québec**

**July 2024**

## CCA Update (July 2024)

### Legislation:

- Last March 21, the government passed Bill 42, An Act to prevent and fight psychological harassment and sexual violence in the workplace. This Bill aims to prevent and fight psychological harassment and sexual violence in the workplace by implementing certain measures in the Labour Law.
- On May 1, 2024, Bill 48 was passed with a primary aim to modify the Highway Safety Code. These legislative amendments will allow to put into practice certain measures set out in the [Plan d'action en sécurité routière 2023-2028](#) (PASR) (Road Safety Action Plan 2023-2028) announced by the Minister last August.
- On May 9, 2024, the Minister responsible for infrastructures as well as the Minister responsible for the National Capital region, the Hon. Jonatan Julien, as well as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transportation and Sustainable Mobility, the Hon. Geneviève Guilbault, presented the [Stratégie québécoise en infrastructures publiques](#) (Quebec Public Infrastructures Strategy) and the Agence Mobilité Infra Québec, respectively, during the introduction of Bills 61 and 62.
- On May 24, Bill 51, Loi modernisant l'industrie de la construction (An Act modernizing the construction industry), was passed. The ACRGTQ acknowledges progress made toward productivity, but rejects the concept of retroactive pay.
- Bill 63 was introduced at the Assemblée nationale last May 28 and intends to amend the Mining Act and other provisions.

### Infrastructure

- Last April 16, the Government of Québec announced the construction of a new Île d'Orléans bridge at a cost of 2,759 billion dollars. The new infrastructure's design-build contract was awarded to Groupe Héritage Île-d'Orléans S. E. N. C. The bridge's commissioning is expected in 2028. The slightly over 2 km-long cable-stayed bridge will be comprised of a lane in each direction, wide shoulders to accommodate traffic in case of accidents or roadwork, a permanent multi-use track on each side of the traffic lanes as well as belvederes. The cable-stayed bridge concept should allow to limit the impact on the natural and human environments while offering the population a site compliant with current standard and whose life expectancy should extend to the next 100 years.
- Following the last provincial budget, the Government of Québec announced regional road-related investments for the 2024-2026 period. Please refer to the ministère des Transports et de la Mobilité durable (MTMD) web site which is updated as announcements occur. [To visit the MTMD web site >](#)
- On May 15, the Government of Canada announced an agreement with the Canadian National Railway (CN), current owner of the Québec bridge, in order to repatriate this infrastructure and to ensure its long-term viability. Canada will invest 40 million dollars per year for its remediation program over the next 25 years. Such investments will prolong the useful life span of the bridge for decades to come, namely through an increased parts-replacement frequency. The remediation program also includes a paint and cosmetic component for this historical infrastructure.
- On June 12, the CDPQ introduced Plan CITE to rise to the structuring transportation challenge in Quebec City. Once again, the streetcar option is preferred, with a layout similar to the one suggested by the previous municipal government. The plan is split into three phases, including a sub-fluvial link dedicated to structuring transportation (phase 3). Phases 1 and 2 concern the streetcar layout and the SRB (rapid bus service).

- On June 13, the Government of Québec reacted to Plan CITE. The government is committed to carrying out the streetcar-related elements during the Plan's Phase 1 and to consult municipal governments for recommendations regarding the SRBs. Furthermore, the government reconfirmed its intention to create a third link for road users rather than a third link dedicated to structuring transportation. Details have not yet been announced.

## **CCQ**

- According to the Perspectives professionnelles dans l'industrie de la construction 2024-2028 publication (Professional Perspectives in the Construction Industry 2024-2028), produced by the Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ), the average labour requirements for trades and occupations will remain high for the next few years: Seventeen thousand people per year will be required for the next 5 years in all regions of Québec. This is an increase of 1,000 people compared to last year's publication.

## **Hydro-Québec**

- Last June 20, Hydro-Québec presented a summary of its dialogue over the last few months to welcome ideas and solutions to carry out and improve its Action Plan. [Read the document >](#) Thus, Hydro-Québec draws vast conclusions and takes on over 40 commitments on the following subjects:
  - Social acceptability
  - Transparency and predictability
  - Quality of service
  - Power efficiency
  - Innovation
  - Environmental leadership

## OSWCA Industry Update

### *Industry Overview*

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Save for some small pockets in the province, municipal work being tendered continues to be slow. Concrete and PVC pipe sales are down between 20% and 30% when compared to this same time last year. The number of working hours for unionized companies across the GTHA is also down by 25%. Municipal consulting engineers do seem to be noting a high volume of design tenders for municipal infrastructure work, which is a promising sign of things to come 6-8 months from now, but the land development side continues to be very slow, even with the recent news of an interest rates declines.

### *Issues Update*

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- **Untransparent Procurement Model Spreading to more Municipalities.** What began in Richmond Hill and Kitchener, is continuing to spread to other areas of the province, with Peterborough, Newmarket, Barrie and Orillia now joining the list of municipalities that are not releasing the bid prices at the time of tender close and are reserving the right to not award the contract to the lowest bidder. OSWCA has learned that similar procurement methods are also arising in municipalities in British Columbia. The model is being promoted by a lawyer, [Paul Emanuelli](#), from a law firm called the Procurement Office. OSWCA is considering how to address the next step, including developing a template letter and toolkit to help Local Associations address this issue as it arises.
- **Stephanie Bellotto introduced as the new Manager of Government Relations and Communications.** Stephanie most recently served as the Regional Press Secretary for Premier Doug Ford, as well as in several communications roles across the provincial government over the last six years, including for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Stephanie can be reached at [stephanie.bellotto@oswca.org](mailto:stephanie.bellotto@oswca.org).
- **Standardized Onboarding Training Best Practice:** Training and retention has been identified as one of the key areas where our industry is falling behind in developing new workers. To help combat this problem, the OSWCA will be working to develop a standardized onboarding best practice document to help highlight how new entrants into the industry should be trained and developed.
- In response to membership surveys and Strategic Planning Goals set by OSWCA and GTSWCA, the Association is developing an extensive **new program focussed on contract and procurement legal support** for members. The program is aimed at launching in early-2025, with it presently going through a pilot program review. Early reviews are very positive.
- **OSWCA's Industry Promotion Campaign with BuildWitt is progressing.** Campaign concepts and tag lines have been established. The verbal and visual identity of the campaign, including the approach to photography and videography, as well as the type of sites we will be using in the ads is now being developed. Photos shoots occurred in June and July in Toronto and London, which are forming the basis for our ad campaign development. The website hub will be hosted at the domain [www.watercareers.com](http://www.watercareers.com). The campaign will be set for a soft launch before the end of 2024.

OGCA Report to the  
Canadian Construction Association (CCA)  
September 2024

### **Ontario Construction Act Reform Consultation**

The Ministry of the Attorney General has launched a stakeholder consultation regarding upgrades and changes to the Act that would serve to clarify and reduce any ambiguity in the current Act. The consultation was launched in early July and closed on August 9, 2024.

This review comes after the OGCA through the Construction and Design Alliance of Ontario (CDAO) rallied the entire construction industry to provide thorough and comprehensive recommendations to the Ministry of the Attorney General as one industry voice. These recommendations were comprehensive and spoke to clarifying the Act wherever there was confusion or where a process-oriented issue existed.

The Act encourages fair and honest dealing. This is at the heart of Part II.1 of the Act and the province's successful prompt payment and adjudication regime. The Act must enable these statutory rights and obligations to be enforced at the least possible expense and in as summary a fashion as is possible.

### **Ontario Supporting Women at Work**

Publicized on May 6, 2024 the Province's fifth Working for Workers Act will support women in the skilled trades, protect jobseekers and improve access to skills development. The act contains a suite of measures to support workers, including:

- regulatory changes to the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act to require menstrual products be provided on larger construction sites (over 20 employees)
- The government will also propose legislative and regulatory changes to require employers at both construction sites and other workplaces to require that washrooms are kept clean and sanitary and maintain records of washroom cleaning.
- would add virtual harassment to the definitions of workplace harassment and workplace sexual harassment in the Occupational Health and Safety Act, ensuring that workplace policies to address harassment in the workplace also cover online harassment

Additional measures to address safety in construction will include a comprehensive review of critical injuries and fatalities in the construction sector and a consultation on expanding the types of life-saving equipment, such as defibrillators, to be provided on construction projects

### **Provincial Cabinet Shuffle**

Provincial Government shuffled on June 6, 2024 with the biggest change occurring with the swapping of Energy and Education Ministers. Stephen Lecce, long-time Minister of Education, moved to the newly re-named **Ministry of Energy and Electrification** and Todd Smith moved to the Ministry of Education. The speculation is that this move makes it possible the government will take a more activist role in steering the energy sector. The appointment of a new Minister of Energy and Electrification is bound to be noticed in Ottawa, where the government remains in negotiations regarding the outcome of the Clean Electricity Regulations (CER).

Notable as well is the appointment of a new position – an Associate Minister: Sam Oosterhoff becomes **Associate Minister of Energy-Intensive Industries** as part of the Ministry of Energy and Electrification. The role of Associate Minister has been used before in relation to the Ministry of Energy, but this specific carve out for Energy-Intensive Industries speaks to the demand projections associated with major automotive and electric vehicle (plus associated supply chain) manufacturing that is due to hit the grid in the next 3-5 years.

### **WSIB Updates**

The WSIB 2023 Annual Report still is not available, however, the WSIB has published on its website the usual thumbnail Q4 2023 results [here](#).

The key information is:

- Sufficiency Ratio 122.5%
- Net assets \$7.3 billion in reserve.

### **Infrastructure Ontario**

OGCA has requested a meeting with the newly appointed Procurement Management Service Providers, specifically: Colliers and BGIS, together with Infrastructure Ontario (IO) to matters pertaining to the new Vendor of Record and IO work.

Additionally, the OGCA will be requesting a roundtable discussion with all these stakeholders to discuss the transition as well as ensure that we are collectively address the following items:

- Visibility of upcoming work; specifically, the pipeline for all projects regardless of size
- Unofficial posting of results; having unofficial results posted within 48 hours of tender close
- Procedural clarification; ability to track the phase of the progress
- Forms of contracts to be used
- Maintaining an action list; tracking of all open items

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

Sincerely,



Giovanni Cautillo  
President  
Ontario General Contractors Association



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

August, 2024

### 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

- Sustainability in heavy construction
  - o MHCA has submitted draft RFP for expert support to CCA Civil NAC's working group on environmental sustainability in heavy civil equipment, materials and practices. Goal is to prepare recommendations on key issues, barriers/challenges and opportunities to enhance sustainability in heavy construction

#### WESTERN CANADA

- Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Industry conference in Maui, Hawaii in February 2025.

#### MANITOBA

- \$150 million worth of projects to be added to tender schedule as part of the 2024 highways capital program; 90 million of which to be expended in this budget year
  - o Results from MHCA talks with Mb Transportation & Infrastructure re lack of industry work this season
- MHCA submitted brief to Premier's Subcommittee on Trade with the US, calling for Province to adopt broader trade strategy that includes pressing federal government to adopt Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan
- MHCA has engaged with an external review of the provincial Planning Act, as dictated by legislation. The intent is to preserve/improve access to aggregate resources, threatened by sterilization through municipal bylaws, development plans and council decision-making.
- MHCA and MTI "year-in-review" meetings have focused on the tendering of 2024 projects, tender ad schedule and re-instatement of the "carryover" of unexpended budget dollars to succeeding highways capital program.
- Provincial task force on Construction, Renovation and Demolition materials is working to see waste materials recovered and recycled for reuse in the economy

#### WINNIPEG

- MHCA discussions with political offices and Public Works director has focused on accelerating tender advertising; department's pre-tender estimates are unreliable and managers cannot track construction season expenditures against program budget
- MHCA continues to press City Hall to implement city/industry working group to map out funding model for future on local and regional street renewal program
- City has tendered/awarded 18 construction projects that contain social procurement clauses embedded, focusing on increasing the diversity of construction workforce.
  - o MHCA will gather feedback on pilot projects -- process (successes, challenges) and practicality of clauses, which aim to determine and track employment hours of individuals from "equity" groups.

Respectfully submitted,

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



**To:** Canadian Construction Association - Board of Directors

**From:** Shannon Friesen & Kevin Dureau, Co-CEOs (Construction Associations of Saskatchewan)

**Subject:** Saskatchewan Provincial Report

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## Advocacy Report

The province is gearing up for a busy fall as we prepare for the provincial election in October and the municipal election in November. We look forward to sharing our concerns with the political parties and candidates to ensure that the issues faced by our members are heard and acted upon. As communicated in the earlier report, based on feedback from our membership, the key advocacy priorities for the Construction Associations are:

1. Building Futures: Encouraging Youth in Construction
2. Government-Industry Partnership: Advancing Construction Success

The concerns shared by BCCA regarding *Contract A* resonate strongly in Saskatchewan, where we are noticing similar trends and concerns from our members.

## Looking Forward

As expected, the summer is jam-packed with our signature events and golf tournaments. In June, the SKCA Summer Meeting was a resounding success, and we were happy to host the CCA Chair and President Francis Roy and Rodrigue Gilbert at our event. We had our Members Gala in Saskatoon; this year, the theme was "007 Spectacular," and the name itself reflected the event's turnout. We will also be celebrating and recognizing the work of our members during the annual Saskatchewan Construction Week from September 23rd to 27th.

## ConEx: The Builders Expo

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual **ConEx: The Builders Expo** will take place on September 26th at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon. We will have more than 100+ vendors participating from across the country, and we expect to have around 550+ participants throughout the day.

## Alignment Process Update

The Alignment Process is in its final phase. We had our Members' Townhall in May to provide an update on the process and gather feedback from the members. Around 95% of our members in an online survey indicated that they are supportive of the alignment process. We would also like to thank Rod Gilbert for attending these town halls. This showcases the strength and continued support that CCA has provided to our associations.

We would also like to thank our partner associations from the Atlantic to the West Coast for sharing their voices of support and continuous support throughout the process. Lastly, we look forward to having the CCA Board visit our vibrant and beautiful province, truly 'the Land of Living Skies'—Saskatchewan.

#TogetherWeBuildSK 



Together, We Build Saskatchewan

## July 2024 Report

# Canadian Construction Association

### **Jasper Wildfires**

What happened in Jasper has our deepest sympathy for those affected by the devastating impact the wildfire had on this historic town. Our hearts go out to all those who have lost so much and are displaced by this disastrous event. Our thoughts are also with the emergency responders who have admirably battled the blaze.

The Alberta Construction Association and our construction partners offered our condolences and support to the province. As we have done before, the Alberta construction community is prepared to support the rebuild efforts with donations and in-kind support with machinery and volunteers. We also encourage the federal government to remove any unnecessary barriers and delays to rebuilding a world-class town in the heart of the Canadian Rockies.

### **Prompt Payment**

Over the past few months, ACA has been advocating on a number of files to the province. In August 2022, prompt payment legislation went into effect in August 2022 across Alberta – except for the provincial government. Since then, ACA has been working with the provincial government to develop legislative changes to include them in the *Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act* (PPCLA) provisions.

Through the winter and spring, meetings were held to discuss how new legislation could work better for contractors, especially as they are required to pay their subcontractors and suppliers under the timelines set by the PPCLA. Government presented frameworks to amend the legislation. ACA also met with ministry representatives to discuss our concerns and to push for more to be done to meet members concerns about the application of PPCLA.

In recent discussions, ACA has been made aware that the Government intends to bring forward legislation soon to address some of the concerns ACA and others have expressed.

### **Contract Modernization**

In 2023, ACA and other stakeholders brought forward our concerns about contract modernization to Alberta Infrastructure through the Industry Liaison Committee. The government then came back to industry in early 2024 with an overview on their changes to Design-Build, Design-Bid-Build, Construction Management, Consultant and Architecture contract forms.

Overall, industry concerns do remain with the risk allocation and feel that the government is still putting much of the burden on industry. It does not mean that they had not made any positive changes. Incorporating a dispute resolution mechanism as well as a provision for cost escalation are examples of positive measures being taken to address industry concerns.

However, there are issues with recent construction management contracts. With examples such as no limit of liability for indemnity claims or overall liability, the province remaining exempt from prompt payment, extremely limited force majeure relief and other gaps for relief events, the construction industry feels there is a lot more work to be done on these new contracts to ensure proper risk allocation is upheld.

### **Workforce Development**

ACA is currently seeking partners to develop the Digital Tradesperson Project that will support our members in obtaining digital skills in virtual design and construction and building information modelling. We have worked with a number of companies and our members to develop the objectives and outcomes for the program and now are ready to build the training package. The pilot program has been in development with a target start date of early 2025 with 60 placements opening up to help create more digital skilled professionals.

### **ACA Strategic Review**

ACA has begun reviewing its priorities for the Association that will support our members for years to come on issues that matter to them. On June 7th, the ACA Board and Local Construction Association members undertook an all-day session. Discussions are ongoing and expected to continue into September as we build on our agenda for the next 3 years.

# Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA)

*As of August 12, 2024*

## Advocacy and Government Relations

- The provincial government has been slow to tender budgeted infrastructure projects in 2024, exacerbating the negative impact of an already anemic provincial budget for highways and road repairs and further demonstrating the need for progressive change in procuring and managing infrastructure projects.
- A renewed advocacy strategy is being developed for 2024 and 2025 (considering upcoming municipal, federal and provincial elections).

## What makes a good owner?

- ARHCA continued its work with the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering's to study best practices and challenges when it comes to project delivery. ARHCA has now approached the CICC to help fund this research through the NSRC.
- Developing a matrix of best practices/attributes could serve as a proxy for ranking preferred clients in a public way that has support of academic rigor and can be used to drive more progressive approaches when it comes to procurement and project management.

## Expanding access to Training

- ARHCA has partnered with Danatec Online Training and BIS Safety Software to sell the RSTS on their platforms and offer their courses for sale on the ARHCA. These offerings become available October 1, 2024. This partnership will improve accessibility of the RSTS across Canada, offer preferential pricing on additional training options for ARHCA members and increase revenue opportunities for the association.

## Member activities

- ARHCA held six golf tournaments from June to August, providing an opportunity for member outreach and networking.

## Conference

- The devastating fires in Jasper has left the Jasper Park Lodge unable to host our 2024 fall convention. ARHCA is currently searching for another venue.

## Partnering for success

- Over the last two years, ARHCA has been trying to work with the utilities sector to find solutions to the service problems with locates during peak seasons. TELUS then withdrew from Alberta's damage prevention system, including Alberta's one-call program offered by the Utility Safety Partners (USP).
- Led by ARHCA, Alberta's construction industry came together to strongly object to the move by TELUS to withdraw locate services outside of Edmonton and Calgary and sent a joint letter from industry to Alberta's Transportation Minister to express our concerns.
- The minister committed to convening a forum in August with industry members to discuss this issue to work towards a solution.

## TOP PRIORITIES

Gearing up for BC's Fall provincial election, we are focused on advocating to all Party candidates about industry priorities most pressing to our members.

Focus:

- Prompt Payment, Adjudication and Lien Reform
- Labour Costs and Shortages
- Public Sector Procurement Practises
- Contract Terms

## GENERAL CONCERNS

- Economic slowdown
- Growing insecurity with regards to economic prospects

## NEW ADVOCACY EFFORTS

**Companion piece to the Cross-Jurisdictional Analysis commissioned by BCCA and submitted to the Attorney General, Minister of Finance, and the Premier in May.**

The document outlines the objectives and benefits of Prompt Payment Legislation and Adjudication which affect government, construction businesses, workers and the taxpayers of British Columbia.

View **"The Time to Act Promptly is Now: A Paper on the Benefits of Prompt Payment and Adjudication Legislation"**

We expect to see a new report from the Attorney General's Office this summer, capturing efforts of the Prompt Payment Working Group.

### **Industry Alert: Removal of "Contract A"**

The purpose of the alert was to inform our members and to pressure public sector owners to maintain "Contract A" in procurement processes. By issuing this industry alert, BCCA warned the public and contractors of unacceptable levels of risk following the explicit removal of "Contract A" by naming the growing number of public owners who have adopted the practice. An information session was held on June 25th to provide further support to industry members.

Visit the Industry Priorities section of the BCCA website for details:

<https://bccasn.com/industry-priorities/contract-a/>

## NEW ADVOCACY EFFORTS (CONTINUED)

### Pre-election survey

In preparation for our public-facing 2024 provincial election efforts, we asked members of BC's construction industry to send us questions they would ask candidates. This survey was distributed through regional association channels in July, and will help form the basis of an advocacy microsite to be launched in the coming weeks.

### "Owners Only" webinar series for public sector owners

We held one session prior to taking a summer break. Owners Only will resume in September.

- Exploring Project Delivery Methods: IPD, 177 registrants

## BUILDERS LIFE TALENTCENTRAL

On June 4th, BCCA launched BC's first province-wide construction industry-specific job board.

Leveraging the strong brand value of BCCA's Builders Life ad campaign, Builders Life TalentCentral addresses the challenges of severe workforce shortages by offering job seekers an efficient way to be matched to employers, while easing the hiring process for BC's construction industry employers.

Visit [TalentCentral.ca](https://TalentCentral.ca)

## BUILDERS CODE

Builders Code has amassed over 1,850 signatories of the Builders Code Pledge for an Acceptable Worksite since its creation five years ago.



## MEMO

Date: Aug 8, 2024

To: Lynn Perrault, CCA

From: Matt Pitcairn

Cc: Steve Drummond, Kelly Scott

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

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### CURRENT STATE:

Road building/maintenance and heavy construction contractors, are having a steady 2024, and the industry remains strong as we enter the tail end of summer. The current NDP government has committed to spend more than \$43 billion to deliver critical infrastructure over the next three years, with 15 billion committed to transportation infrastructure specifically. There is a current focus to rebuild the flood ravaged highway system, and the expansion of Highway 1 in the Fraser Valley. Note that BC has a provincial election this October, which will be a contest between the NDP and the renewed BC Conservative Party, with the BC Liberals, now BC United, falling further and further in the polls.

### 2024 PRIORITIES:

- Strategic Plan 2024 is focus on:
  - Advocating for **increased and sustained investment** in resilient core infrastructure. This includes educating the public on the benefits of predictable and consistent infrastructure investment.
  - Providing 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.
- We have launched a Province wide tour called the [Road Show](#), centered on innovative simulator technology, housed in a mobile trailer. Our intent is to bring increased attention to the career opportunities in our industry. Launched in Q1 2024, we have begun a multi-year tour of British Columbia promoting employment in the road building and maintenance sectors.
- [CleanRoads Innovation Program](#): Working with our members we have developed a program 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. The CleanRoads Innovation Program is a groundbreaking program, designed to reduce the carbon footprint of road building and maintenance activities in British Columbia and beyond. It is a first of its kind program worldwide, where industry is taking a leadership role in implementing a sector-wide carbon credit program. The program will offer the industry the opportunity to have their voluntary efforts quantified and recognized in the form of verified emission reductions through an industry specific Program