



Report to the 2004 WCRHCA Annual General Meeting
Submitted by the Alberta Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association
Delivered by Gil Brulotte, ARHCA Chairman and Director at Large, WCRHCA Board
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Over this past year, the Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association staff and volunteers have worked on many important issues that affect all members. Some ARHCA accomplishments that have had a particularly strong impact on the ARHCA's members this year are:

ARHCA Presentation to the Alberta Financial Management Commission – As a result of the ARHCA's efforts to address the lack of sustainable and predictable funding from the provincial government, the members reaped some benefits in 2003. The Alberta government created a Sustainability Fund and a Capital Account to help stabilize provincial spending. Although the long-term effects of these initiatives remain to be seen, they are certainly positive for our industry, and include many of the recommendations the ARHCA made to the Financial Management Commission.

The Transportation Awareness Partnership (TAP) – The ARHCA is one of the founding members of the Transportation Awareness Partnership (TAP), and this public awareness initiative is continuing to develop. The initiative will reach a milestone in January, with a national meeting in Ottawa to determine if this initiative can grow to encompass all modes of transportation in all regions of Canada. Regardless of the outcome, the ARHCA is committed to bringing the message to the general public that transportation is vital to our economic prosperity and the standard of living that Canadians enjoy.

Roadbuilding and Heavy Construction Pre-Employment Program Launch, and the Transportation Infrastructure Career Development Program – The ARHCA worked with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) this year on the development of a Roadbuilding and Heavy Construction Pre-Employment Program (RHCPEP). The 120-hour course is designed to bring new people into the industry and train them to be a member of a heavy construction crew. As an added benefit to ARHCA's regular members, contractors can volunteer to have exclusive "first access" to these students as they prepare to enter the work force, either with a tuition reimbursement scholarship, or to interview these students for jobs after graduation. The first course runs January to March 2004. Long-term plans include expanding the program across Alberta, and offering the course in a condensed format to existing ARHCA member employees, so that all ARHCA regular members can benefit from this training.

The ARHCA is also continuing its partnership with Alberta Transportation and the Consulting Engineers of Alberta to recruit engineering students into the transportation sector. The Transportation Infrastructure Career Development (TICDP) program allows co-op engineering

students to spend a work term with a contractor, one with a consultant, and one with Alberta Transportation.

Safety Issues – This year the ARHCA Safety Committee worked on several key items that affect our entire industry. Representatives from the Safety Committee participated in the Work Safe Alberta initiative, developing a mentoring program for safety that will be implemented in the new year. The ARHCA also worked with the Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA) and Alberta Transportation (AT) to develop a Work Zone Management Seminar, to reinforce safety awareness in our construction work zones. These seminars were attended by more than 250 ARHCA and CEA members. Perhaps the most important work the Safety Committee is undertaking right now is the continuing effort to help ARHCA member companies develop fatigue management systems in order to comply with the ARHCA's Extended Hours of Work Permit. This Permit is extended only to ARHCA members, and only on the condition that each company implements and maintains its own fatigue management program.

Partners in Road Construction Safety – The ARHCA took a leading role in a new partnership in 2003, the Partners in Road Construction Safety (PIRCS). This public awareness program urges motorists to slow down in road and utility construction zones. The long-term goal of the campaign is to improve driver attitudes and behaviors toward flag people and other workers operating around traffic. The campaign ran on Alberta billboards and radio stations during the 2003 construction season, with particular focus on the long weekends of summer. The slogan for the campaign was a hard hitting one: "Don't RIP through Construction Zones" with the word "RIP" being printed on a tombstone. PIRCS had great support and participation from nine public and private sector partners, including Alberta Transportation, the City of Edmonton, the City of Calgary, and Alberta utility companies EPCOR and Enmax. The campaign is slated to expand in 2004, with other municipalities and industry associations signing on, and the group is planning to expand the campaign to include a television public service announcement.

Environment Issues – The ARHCA Environment Committee has grown into one of the largest and most active committees at the ARHCA. This year, they have tackled a variety of issues. The ARHCA takes an active approach and acts on behalf of the membership to influence and assist with the development and implementation of environmental legislation and guidelines. The Environment Committee and other ARHCA Sector Committees are participating in the review, development and/or implementation of many environmental initiatives including: Alberta Environment Codes and Practices; the Alberta Transportation Erosion Control Manual, and the Particulate Matter and Ozone Management Framework.

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