



January 2004

The Canadian Construction Association – Your National Voice

The following are some of the specific achievements of the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) over the past year and priorities for the coming year:

Lobbying the Federal Government

- The February **2003 Federal Budget** included several measures in direct response to CCA submissions including increased federal funding for **infrastructure**, an increase in the **small business deduction** threshold, further reductions in **EI premiums**, and the elimination of federal **capital taxes**.
- CCA delivered its annual **2004 Federal Pre-Budget Submission** to the House of Commons Standing Committee. It calls for striking a prudent balance between more rigorous efforts to reduce Canada's national debt while also investing in Canada's future prosperity through enhanced and sustained reinvestment in Canada's essential physical infrastructure.
- CCA made a Submission on the EI rate-setting process. It is posted on the Finance Canada website at http://www.fin.gc.ca/consultresp/eiratesResp_6e.html. The CCA Submission calls for:
 - the elimination of the 1.4 employer multiple;
 - a more transparent and objective assessment of premium needs based upon true program costs;
 - an over-contribution refund system for employers;
 - a Yearly Basic Exemption (YBE) similar to CPP/QPP; and
 - the segregation of the EI fund from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- **CCA Publicly Supports Gas-Tax Fund Proposal** - CCA publicly stated its support for Paul Martin's proposal to fund the federal share of a badly-needed, long-term municipal infrastructure program from federal excise taxes on gasoline. On September 9th in Toronto, CCA arranged a special fundraiser for Paul Martin for individual CCA members to show their support for this initiative. Some 60 members participated along with a dozen or so Liberal MPs, primarily from the Liberal Highway Caucus. CCA also held a special symposium on the dedicated fuel tax initiative. The purpose of the symposium was to bring together many of the national stakeholders in an attempt to identify the issues associated with the successful implementation of a dedicated fuel tax to fund municipal infrastructure.
- **Kyoto** - CCA scored a lobbying success when, in August, the Prime Minister unveiled the federal government's first Kyoto-related initiatives, among which was an announcement of \$129 million in incentives for commercial building owners to renovate or retrofit their properties to make them more environmentally friendly. CCA, in collaboration with our association partners, will now work towards informing owners that these programs are available, with the ultimate goal being to create new commercial opportunities in the area of "green" renovation.

Industry Standard Practices

- CCA continues to strongly oppose the use of “**reverse auctions**”, in concert with its Member Associations. In several cases, association efforts have caused owners to reverse their decision to use “reverse auctions” in favour of industry-accepted practices.
- CCA has published a new guide document entitled ***A Prime Contractor’s Guide to Project Financing and Payment Security***.
- A special CCA Task Force is close to finalizing a best practices guide for contractors dealing with **mould**. It has also published an educational/awareness brochure and established a mould information page on the CCA website.
- Developed with the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) a strategy document for use by Member Associations to deal with onerous supplementary conditions in construction contracts.
- Provided contractor input into the development of the new version of MasterFormat.
- Provided contractor input into the development of the PWGSC RFP for the new AFD Facility Management Subcontract.
- As a result of serious insurance concerns expressed by members, CCA initiated a dialogue with the **insurance** community at the national level through the CCDC Insurance Sub-Committee and the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC), which has resulted in the release of helpful bulletins and other information.
- The development of a national environmental best practices guide for asphalt plants.
- ***New Standard Documents*** – Undertook the review and update of CCDC2-*Stipulated Price Contract*, the accompanying Guide, and CCDC23 - *A Guide to Calling Bids and Awarding Contracts*.
- ***New Design-Build Documents*** – Released Series 300 of the CDBI Practice Manual *Responding to RFQs/RFPs*, Document 310 *Conceptual Estimating*, and the publication of a standard format for RFPs.
- Held an inaugural Industry Best Practices Conference in Toronto.

Other CCA accomplishments/priorities include:

- In July CCA launched the new *COOLNet Canada* website, (i.e. www.coolnet.ca). It houses a national **construction project opportunity database** with links to all of its partner association plansrooms.
- ***CCA Tax Guide on Employer-Provided Vehicles*** – CCA developed a Guide for its members on the tax treatment of employer-provided vehicles. This is available from the CCA website.
- ***2003 CCA Salary & Benefit Survey*** - This biennial survey gathers salary and benefit information for construction management personnel, such as superintendents, project managers, estimators and project co-ordinators/contract administrators, employed by general contractors, trade contractors and road builders.

Priorities for 2004 and beyond:

- Ensuring that Federal candidates in the upcoming Federal election are aware of the key construction issues, especially the need for long-term, sustainable and predictable

investment strategies for key **municipal** and **highway infrastructure**;

- Publication of the new ***Mould Best Practices Guide***;
- Promotion of the **Gold Seal Certification Program**;
- Expansion and promotion of **COOLNet Canada**.
- Release of the new editions of CCDC2 and CCDC23.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Brown', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tom Brown, P.Eng., G.S.C.,
Chair CCA

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