



In This Issue

Another Reminder – Meet with
Your MPPs Over the Summer
Recess 1

Bill 148 1

COCA's CLA Task Force Swings
into Action Again 2

Executive Searches Underway 2

Busy Summer Season in Ontario
Politics 2

Who's In – Who's Out 3

Ontario Liberal's Host Annual
Patio Party 3

PC's 2017 Toronto Dinner 3

Another Reminder – Meet with Your MPPs Over the Summer Recess

This is just another reminder to schedule a meeting with your MPPs over the summer recess. When you meet with them, tell them that you and your members support Bill 142 Construction Lien Amendment Act 2017. Let them know that this Bill will be a game changer for the construction industry. Ask them to write their party's House Leader to insist that the passage of Bill 142 be a top priority. This Bill must get on the legislative agenda early in the fall session if it has any chance of passing into law. Thanks for your help.

Bill 148

We wrote in detail about Bill 148 Fair Workplaces Better Jobs Act, 2017 in the last COCA newsletter. It's quite controversial because among other provisions, if passed it will increase Ontario's minimum wage to \$15/hour over two years. The Bill's progress through the legislative process is a little unusual. It passed First Reading on June 1st and in an uncommon move, was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs before it received Second Reading. The Committee held public hearings across the province in Thunder Bay,

North Bay, Ottawa, Kingston, Windsor-Essex, London, Kitchener-Waterloo, Niagara, Hamilton and Toronto. We believe this Bill to be the top priority of the government and that it will receive speedy passage through the legislative process and be passed into law early in the fall session.

COCA's CLA Task Force Swings into Action Again

COCA's Construction Lien Act Task Force met recently to review Bill 142 Construction Lien Amendment Act 2017. Under the guidance of Task Force chair, Ted Dreyer, a construction lawyer with Madorin Snyder LLP in Kitchener, the group looked for missing links, gaps, soft spots and unintended consequences. A submission will be made to Attorney General Naqvi and it is our understanding that all submissions made at this point will be reviewed by Bruce Reynolds, Sharon Vogel and their panel of expert advisors.

Executive Searches Underway

There are several searches underway for new senior leaders for organizations related to the construction industry:

1. The Ontario College of Trades has engaged Odgers Berndtson to conduct an executive search for a new Registrar to succeed David Tsubouchi. Tsubouchi announced his retirement a couple of months ago and has committed to staying on until his successor is identified.
2. Sean Strickland left the Ontario Construction Secretariat around the end of April to take a business development and industry relations position with Pomerleau. So the OCS is in the process of looking for a new chief executive.
3. In May, Gail Smyth announced that she would be retiring as executive director of Skills Ontario at the end of 2017. The move of the Ontario Skills Competition from its long-time home at RIM Park in Waterloo to 500,000 sq ft at the Toronto Congress Centre was arguably the greatest achievement in Gail's enormously successful career at Canada's leading skills promotion organization. Skills Ontario has engaged Knightsbridge to lead the search for her successor.

Busy Summer Season in Ontario Politics

Despite the wet weather that has plagued Ontario this summer, our provincial politicians have remained above water and moving full speed ahead in anticipation of the June 2018 general election.

PC leader Patrick Brown has proven himself to be a winner in one-off by election campaigns. But can he stand the rigours, as party leader, of campaigning across the province in a general election? That's the question that's been tested over the last few weeks that had Brown, complete with a campaign style bus, travelling around the province, meeting with party loyalists, making speeches and "kissing babies". This trial should prove to be a good test of Brown's skills and stamina and an opportunity for him to hone his campaign abilities and get ready for next June.

The Liberal government has been busy in campaign fashion this summer too. It seems that every day there are multiple visits and announcements by the premier and various cabinet ministers at different locations across the province. For example today, Thursday, July 27th, Premier Wynne is visiting a women's shelter in St Thomas and a museum and farm in Chatham while the Minister of Health is making an announcement at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. Yesterday the Premier attended an indigenous people's conference and the Minister of Children's and Youth Services and the Minister of Economic Development made announcements.

Who's In – Who's Out

The 2018 Ontario General election is less than a year away and the big questions are: Who's running and who's not? With the Tories riding high in the polls and the prospect of forming the next government strong, it's expected that all current Conservative MPPs except Julia Munro will seek re-election. Ms. Munro has already announced that she will not run in the 2018 general election. For the Liberals, it's the opposite story. The possibility of being defeated or sitting in the opposition benches after the 2018 general election has some Liberal MPPs rethinking their futures. No surprise, 86 year old Monte Kwinter recently added his name to the list of Liberal MPPs who will not be seeking re-election in June 2018.

Ontario Liberal's Host Annual Patio Party

The Ontario Liberal Party will be hosting their annual Patio Party again this year. It always attracts a capacity crowd. The \$250 schmoozefest for party hacks and policy wonks will be held on Tuesday, August 22nd at the Amsterdam BrewHouse on Queen's Quay and will feature rousing speeches by leading Liberal organizers Tim Murphy and David Herle.

PC's 2017 Toronto Dinner

The Ontario PCs will hold their annual Toronto Dinner on the evening of Thursday, July 27th. The event used to be called the Leader's Dinner but under the new rules MPPs are not allowed to attend fundraising events. Special guests at the \$500 a plate dinner in the Grand Banking Hall at the One King West Hotel (a much smaller venue than the usual 3,000 seat Metro Toronto Convention Centre, to ensure a full house under the new fundraising rules) include Hon. John Baird, Maxime Bernier M.P., Hon. Erin O'Toole, M.P., and Michell Rempel, MP. Many COCA members will be in attendance including COCA directors Dan Lancia and Jeff Koller and the ECAO's Jodi Travers.