



In This Issue

Update on Bill 142 Hearings	1
Congrats Don!	2
Latest Forum Research Poll	2
Introducing New CCA President, Mary van Buren	2
Ontario Construction Companies Recognized for Safety	3
Ontario to Buy More From Small Businesses	3
Sale of Aecon to CCCC	3
Smoke Free Ontario	4

Update on Bill 142 Hearings

On Wednesday, October 24th Ted Dreyer and Ian Cunningham appeared on behalf of COCA at the public hearings convened by the Legislative Standing Committee for the Legislative Assembly to address Bill 142 Construction Lien Amendment Act 2017.

In their presentation Ted and Ian congratulated Attorney General Naqvi for his leadership on this file and spoke about the sound process that led to the creation of the Bill, including the meticulously thorough Reynolds-Vogel Expert Panel process that produced the report titled “Striking the Balance”, the Minister’s post introduction invitation for more feedback and the Minister’s sharing of the amendments that the government intends to introduce, in advance of the hearings.

They also touched on three recommendations from COCA’s July 31, 2017 letter to Minister Naqvi. They described “Striking the Balance” as a grand compromise in which all stakeholders had to put a little water in their wine and in which no single stakeholder got everything they wanted.

Also appearing at the Committee that day were CCPPP (opposed), PPO (Ron Johnson & Sandra Skivsky -

supportive), the City of Toronto (opposed), the TTC (opposed), the Carpenters (supportive) and the Surety Association of Canada (supportive).

In general, Committee members were supportive of the Bill, confident in the work that Reynolds and Vogel had done, confident in the expertise of MAG and they dismissed the Bill's opponents as parties that are clinging to the status quo and who simply didn't want to pay their bills in a timely fashion

Stay tuned; the next Committee hearings are scheduled for November 1st and then again on November 15th.

Congrats Don!

Congratulations to Don Gosen who was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF). The CAF is "the national hub for apprenticeship information and the people who support trades training."

Latest Forum Research Poll

A recent public opinion poll conducted by Forum Research released on October 26th revealed that 45% of respondents said they would support the PCs, 24% said they would support the Liberals, 22% said they would support the NDP, 7% said they would support the Greens and 2% said they would support another party. For the full story, go to <http://poll.forumresearch.com/post/2794/ontario-horserace-october-2017/>

Introducing New CCA President, Mary van Buren

Mary van Buren officially took over the role of President and CEO of the Canadian Construction Association on October 16, 2017

- She earned a BComm (Marketing) at the University of Ottawa in 1986
- She subsequently earned an MBA (International Business) from McGill University in 1988
- She has also earned the Certified Association Executive designation (CAE) from the Canadian Society of Association Executives
- Prior to her new role at the CCA she was VP marketing and technology with the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA)
- Prior to that she held various senior roles in marketing, communications and technology with CMA and affiliates, marketing and strategy positions with EDC and has experience in credit card marketing with Amex and Petro Canada
- She is bi-lingual
- She is an avid skier and volunteer ski race official

Mary succeeds Michael Atkinson who served in the role for 23 years and continues as President Emeritus.

Welcome, Mary, to our construction community.

Ontario Construction Companies Recognized for Safety

Congratulations to Walsh Canada and Kenaidan Contracting Ltd. for being recognized as Silver Winners in the Building and Construction category in the Canada's Safest Employers Awards program. The Gold Winner was Calgary-based Borger Group of Companies. Walsh also took home the Silver Winner's trophy in the Young Worker safety category. The Canada-wide awards were presented in 16 categories to 26 companies and one individual at the 2017 Canada's Safest Employers Awards Gala in Toronto on October 24th.

Ontario to Buy More From Small Businesses

During Small Business Week Ontario's Minister Responsible for Small Business, Jeff Leal, announced that Ontario will designate 33 per cent of its procurement spending to small and medium-sized businesses by 2020. This goal will be supported by initiatives to improve the process by making it easier for businesses to submit bids.

The province has also launched a new program called Small Business Access, which will provide resources online and over the phone to make it easier for small businesses to interact with the government and get the supports they need. For more information click on

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-small-business>

Sale of Aecon to CCCC

Here's what's been reported in the media about the sale of Aecon:

- On October 26th the Aecon board of directors agreed to accept an offer from China Communications Construction Company Ltd.(CCCC) to purchase Aecon for \$1.45B
- Aecon shareholders will vote to accept or reject the offer in December; a 2/3 majority is required to accept the offer
- The transaction requires the approval of the Government of Canada and the Chinese government
- Stock in Aecon, Canada's largest publicly traded construction company, has increased significantly since the company announced that it was looking for a buyer several months ago but Aecon's market capitalization at time of writing remains slightly below the \$1.45B CCCC is offering
- According to Aecon CEO John Beck, the backing of CCCC will allow Aecon to win larger and more complex projects domestically and internationally

Here's what's been printed in the media about CCCC:

- CCCC is 63% owned by the Chinese government
- CCCC is suspected participating in the construction of the controversial artificial South China Sea Islands; the islands were built to strengthen China's claim over the South China Sea
- Because of bid rigging and collusion, in 2009 the World Bank banned CCCC from bidding on its construction projects

Political fall-out:

- Consideration of this transaction will be a significant test for the Trudeau government
- The federal Tories have asked for a full national security review of the transaction because CCCC is state-owned and because sensitive communications technology is integrated into the types of infrastructure that Aecon typically bids on
- An Aecon owned by the Chinese could face sanctions or be forbidden from bidding on US related projects

Smoke Free Ontario

The province released the final report from its executive steering committee on "Smoke-Free Ontario Modernization." It includes recommendations towards meeting the goal of reducing smoking prevalence to less than five per cent of the population by 2035. Currently 17.4 per cent of the population smokes.

The full report can be accessed by clicking on the following link

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/ministry/publications/reports/sfo_modernization_esc_2017/sfo_modernization_esc_report.pdf