

To our members of COCA.

A few days ago Ian Cunningham asked me if I would like to attend the hearings on Bill 142 at Queens Park. I thought it would be good to show up and wave the flag, and learn more about how the process works to finally get a Bill proclaimed.

Ian and Ted Dryer were scheduled to make a short presentation and then answer questions for the all party committee members.

When I arrived at Queen's Park there were some fellow COCA members there. This included John Mullenhouer, Jeff Kolher, Ron Johnson, and Sandra Strivsky. Ron and Sandra were there to make a presentation on behalf of Prompt Payment Ontario (of which COCA is a member), but in affect carry the same message to the committee.

At the hearing, I was impressed by the respect afforded COCA and Ian by each MP on the committee. They each expressed in complimentary terms the good work done by COCA and our task force. I believe this was not merely a courtesy by the MPs. It was a genuine appreciation of our work and the respect they had for COCA's opinions and submissions. The needed to hear from the industry, which is COCA.

I am writing this letter to highlight this one specific instance of COCA working on behalf of our members in a very quiet way, being involved at the very core of creating legislation, meeting its mandate to represent or members.

I have attended other meetings with ministers, other associations, different ministry staff, and formal events where COCA is making itself known and COCA is working to influence opinions and to educate everyone about the issues. At most of these there are some COCA members in attendance. The cumulative effect of this continuous interaction with the many diverse players in the construction industry is to increase the ability of COCA to support our members, and our industry. This requires a lot of hard work, by Ian and Martin Benson. I am always impressed by the reception we get when we are introduced at meetings that we represent COCA. COCA is known as a strong and positive advocate for the construction industry.

I cannot say enough about the respect Ian has personally, as our flag bearer. He is always taking the high road, not afraid to state the facts clearly, but has a professional bearing that gives COCA its much valued reputation as the voice for construction in Ontario.

Even more important, in my opinion, is the very active participation of our members, who as volunteers, give their time, expertise, and commitment to supporting each other. Yesterday was an example, Ron, Sandra, Jeff, Ted Dryer (who has gone beyond the call with Bill 142), and John taking their time to make sure the COCA members were represented. There are other occasions, events and meetings that other members of COCA have given their time and expertise.

As your chair, and as a member of COCA representing my own Association, I want to say thank you to each of you. The work we do is worth our efforts. The process of government demands that we are present at the table when decisions are made. I have come to appreciate the value of each person's expertise, knowledge, and experience. It is even more impressive that so many of you are giving your time and energies to contribute to the whole. We are fortunate to have each of you as part of COCA

We have people working on health and safety, the OCoT board, WSIB committee, the appointments council, Skills Canada, COO committee, OCoT Committee, Executive Committee, Sect. Treasure, AGM planning, and others. As we go about our own work each day; COCA is quietly, relentlessly, in a planned way, supporting the membership. It is a credit to everyone that COCA is a respected Voice. We are not here for the short term, a single issue flash in the pan, here today, gone tomorrow. We are working together, we are making a difference, are doing the grunt work day in day out.

I think it okay to once in a while appreciate and smell the roses. We have more work to do. We need each of you to continue supporting our efforts. COCA is a successful Association because of you. I just wanted to say thank you. It was clear to me yesterday as I sat in the back row and listened, just how rewarding it is to see our hard work pay off..... because of you.

Thank you.