

New Methods of Procurement

The delivery of major public infrastructure projects in Canada is changing. This indisputable fact may either be perceived as a threat to your traditional business model or be viewed as an opportunity to open exciting new possibilities to expand your current markets.

The governments of British Columbia and Ontario have been leaders in the development of innovative project delivery strategies for the execution of major programs within this dynamic environment. Senior representatives of Infrastructure Ontario and Partnerships British Columbia will discuss the adaptations required to position your organization to take advantage of these opportunities.

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Most Current Legal Issues

At the 2007 CCA Conference in Puerto Rico, we explored the hottest legal issues of 2007 confronting the construction industry. This session will pick up where we left off by considering the hottest legal issues existing or anticipated for 2008. A team of legal experts from the Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa and Montreal offices of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP will explore some of the more critical legal principles affecting the business of construction from procurement (such as bidding and contract matters in changing economic times) to project delivery (such as delay or impact claims, claims for extras, the importance of notice provisions, limitation periods, occupational health and safety, insurance, bonding and others), public private partnerships to practical dispute resolution for contractors, subtrades, and construction fraud. If your business is construction, you cannot afford to miss this session! The concepts of each issue will be covered in a succinct presentation, including any misconceptions, leaving ample time and opportunity to ask questions of the legal experts.

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Succession Planning: Ready or Not?

Succession Planning is the key to ensuring your organization will have the leadership it needs to move into the future. Yet few organizations have given it the attention it deserves. A preoccupation with short term results, insecurity among incumbents and a lack of organizational processes are a few of the reasons why organizations find it difficult to even start. Catharine Larkin, of MICA Consulting Partners, has worked with some of Canada's leading organizations, helping them define and implement successful succession planning strategies. She will discuss ways to: demystify the ins and outs of a robust succession planning process; implement the ten commandments of succession planning; achieve seamless leadership transition; and take your organization's leadership to the next level.

A Look into the Future, IT and the Construction Industry

This session will focus on emerging technologies and their effects on the business world. Specifically, the session will discuss how the construction industry is being impacted by security challenges and threats in the post 9/11 world. Smart building will also be a topic of discussion as well as IT applications for infrastructure projects.

Our speaker is Jeff Wacker, Director of Strategy for EDS, and a member of the World Future Society. Mr. Wacker is a keynote speaker and works with international think tanks and universities on emerging technologies and regularly speaks to global business and political leaders on how to get ahead of existing technologies to meet their future business needs. He sees the future coming before it happens. A presentation on the BIM system will also be part of the session.

The 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics — Construction Challenges

Hosting the Olympic Games is a massive organizational and logistical undertaking and yet, it is a challenge that the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee (VANOC) accepted in 2003 when it was awarded the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of the planning for the Games has been the construction of the required athletic and support facilities. Attend this session to hear first-hand from the Mr. Dan Doyle, Executive Vice-President-Construction, speak about the challenges that faced VANOC in its construction program. Also, receive an up-to-the-minute update on the progress of Olympic venue and installation construction and the two-year path leading up to the 2010 Games. We promise that you'll walk away touched by a bit of the Olympic spirit!

The Owners' Experience with Gold Seal Requirements

Gold Seal is being cited as a condition of contract in more and more areas across Canada. Provincial and municipal governments, as well as private owners, are exploring this method of promoting management quality. As with any progressive measure the learning curve, for administrators and contractors alike, is steep. This session will cover the pros and cons of this emerging trend — from a ground-level practitioner's viewpoint. What does it take to make condition of contract work? Issues will include choice of certification level, the need for good communications among construction partners and the critical role of the local construction association.

The Worst Practices in the Industry . . . As a Way to the Best

Working without a contract? Accepting bad risks? Chasing every job that comes? That's nothing! The worst practices in the industry can make these common sins pale by comparison.

Bad industry practices reflect patterns of behavior that repeatedly result in less-than-optimal outcomes, including low profitability, high turnover of personnel and an excessive number of claims. Invariably, they can be traced back to certain attitudes and cultures — attitudes and cultures which are markedly different in those companies which enjoy consistent success.

There is much to be learned exploring the construction industry's "chamber of horrors", including new insight into nurturing the industry's best practices — those that make construction exciting, stimulating and profitable. This discussion by a seasoned panel of industry experts promises an engaging and interactive session about all that is truly awful, and about the best it can be!

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Three Generations — One Workforce

Today's workforce contains 3 generations — the Kidplovees (15-25 years), the Mature Generations (26-55 years), and the Retired & Semi-retired (55+ years). Each generation presents unique challenges to recruiters and managers. Tim Brennan's 2-hour presentation will show you how to recruit and keep top performers in each category. Tim's unique case-based format uses real-life examples to entertain and educate in a practical way. He is the Chief Visionary Officer of HiringSmart Canada, and since 1988, he has been helping businesses improve their results by providing the tools & advice needed to develop successful hiring & employee retention programs.

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LEED for Construction course

Back by popular demand, the LEED for Construction course is a half-day course delivered by the Canada Green Building Council designed to introduce the LEED rating system and sustainable design issues that affect general and trade contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers. It provides tips on construction waste management, commissioning green buildings, managing a sustainable construction site, and what materials to choose and why. The course will provide information on the role of builders in obtaining LEED points, and the opportunities it creates for your business. A Green Construction manual, complete with ready-to-use forms, will be included. The LEED for Construction course also counts towards a credit under the Gold Seal certification program. The course is free for pre-registered delegates. Space is limited.

Construction in the New Economy

The national economy, globalization, new technologies, changing labour markets...All of these areas have a direct effect on how companies are, and should be doing business. Learn from our panelists what trends will help take your business into tomorrow. This session will be divided into three segments. First, a presentation on global forces having an impact on the Canadian economy will take place. Secondly, a presentation will be made about the Canadian economy with specific focus on the oil, manufacturing, service and retail sectors — a construction forecast will also form part of this presentation. The last segment will be entirely focused on labour market information.

Learn the Essentials of Effective Communication

This is a humorous look at all of the ways the human communication breaks down and how to increase your possibility of success during communication. The speaker, Geoffrey Lane, will introduce the Cognitive psychology model of communication and how each of us relates to the world from our own paradigm of reality; sometimes with spectacular results, funny and tragic — such is the story of human communications. The presentation will bring awareness to the audience of the price of poor communications and the amazing rewards of powerful communications. You will learn to: identify barriers to effective communication; listen, communicate and question; communicate to solve other people's problems; learn to ask the right questions at the right time; learn to listen to the real meaning of the answers you get; and feedback what you think you heard.

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