



CCA Partner Reports Summary

DATE: February 2024
TO: CCA Board of Directors
FROM: Mary Van Buren
RE: 5.1 Summary of Partner Reports – Q1 2024

In preparation for the Canadian Construction Association's March Board meeting, our partner associations provided summary reports with key updates and insights into the current issues and opportunities in their regions. We appreciate the time and care they take to put these reports together. Below is a summary of their reports. ([link to the individual reports](#))

Across the reports, collaboration and partnerships to advance the industry were identified as an essential strategy to advance the industry's interests; whether with LCA's within a province, government or other stakeholders. There is also significant alignment across the industry's advocacy issues of workforce development, sustained infrastructure development, fair procurement including collaborative models and early contractor involvement.

While there is a lot of interesting insight from our partner associations across Canada, I would like to bring the following to your attention:

- BCCA's 7th edition of Construction Month occurs in April.
- CANB, launched the Centre of Excellence for Skills Trades & Manufacturing <https://centresofexcellencenb.ca/skilledtradesandmanufacturing/>
- ARCHA and the Consulting Engineers of Alberta successfully negotiated a Partnership Charter, setting the stage for more collaborative discussions on the issues impacting our industry.
- NLCA submitted a proposal to the ministry to fund a Municipal Development Coordinator to work out of the NLCA office and coordinate municipalities and the construction industry, connecting works to projects.
- ACRGTQ has identified data as increasingly important in procurement/preparation of contracts.
- Atlantic Road builders met with senior bureaucrats from all four provinces and a commitment was made to repeat this annually.
- Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan continues to broaden support with several meetings in January, including one with the Deputy PMO's office.

Common Themes

A) *Association membership & news*

- BCRB membership has grown for the first time to over 300 members.
- Warren Singh has replaced Ken Gibson, who retired after many years of leading ACA.
- Winnipeg's BuildWorks project hosting is down vs prior years; BuildCast has between \$31.5 and \$41.5B in the project pipeline.
- OSWCA's conference in January was most attended in 10 years.
- Departure of Diane Lemieux, replaced by Audrey Murray as Executive Director
- NBRB AGM saw record attendance and raised \$100K funds for Children's wish foundation; total of \$1M to date over the years.

- NLCA will focus on the value of becoming a member in an effort to grow event attendance and membership.
- Jim Organ, Executive Director HCANL is retiring in May after 12 years; a search is underway

B) Mixed Industry Outlook

- BC experienced substantial job losses in Q3 2023 and are experiencing an economic slowdown, with contractors worried about their project pipeline; roadbuilders however are optimistic with nearly half of their members expecting to grow their work in 2024.
- Saskatchewan's Government made a historic commitment to infrastructure in its 2023 budget and while the project pipeline looks strong, this may be offset by concerns about labour and the need for even more careful management of projects.
- Manitoba Premier Kinew elected in November 2023 committed to maintaining \$500M plus highways capital budget; while Winnipeg cut its capital budget. Winnipeg and Manitoba are 1 % 2% higher in permit values respectively.
- OSWCA is reporting fewer tendering of municipal projects and private projects.
- Ontario's recent budget also committed important initiatives to strengthen its infrastructure, and similar to Saskatchewan, concerns remain around having the necessary workforce.
 - Establishing an Ontario Infrastructure Bank
 - Committing \$185B over ten years, plus
 - Another \$48B over 10 years to add 3,000 new hospital beds and \$6.4B for long-term care beds.
 - \$22B over 10 years to build new schools & modernize school infrastructure.
- The Quebec Govt has stopped the development of a tramway in Quebec City due to costs, and is pulling out of extending the REM on the South Shore; meanwhile the Romaine complex kicked off.
- NS has experienced strong growth in building construction and NSRB had a challenging year between the work volume, labour shortages, inflation, forest fires and floods; and is expecting a continued volume of work from the Province and on the private side, from housing
- PEI saw a slight slow down in roadbuilding and heavy civil projects; tenders are coming in 30-40% higher and the capital budgets are not adequate.

C) Workforce

- BCCA's partnership with apprenticeship services resulted in \$13.5M in incentives for employers representing 1,775 new apprentices. With some significant projects nearing completion, the heavy civil sector & roadbuilders in BC are starting to see more labour supply in the market.
- ARHCA's new Strategic Plan (released in November) reintroduces Workforce Development as a key strategic priority for the association. ACA reports increasing concern around the lack of trained workforce to meet current and forecasted demand.
- WCA is concerned that the provincial government may revert to a 1:1 ratio from the current 2:1 ratio of apprentices to journeyperson, putting at risk 10,000 apprenticeship positions and building capacity for the future.
- The OSWCA industry promotion and recruitment campaign with BuildWitt has officially launched.
- All 5 Saskatchewan associations developed a joint vision, "To be the leading voice of the construction industry within Saskatchewan" which has been instrumental in guiding and advancing their advocacy efforts.
- WSIB in Ontario is under-going a turbulent period, with the departures over the last 24 months of the executive including, the COO, Chief actuary, two CFOs and two General counsels.
- The Government of Quebec has launched a training program for construction.
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- CANS will hold their first Construction Job Fair this Spring. In partnership with the Province of Nova Scotia's Labour, Skills and Immigration, CANS staff attended trade missions in London and Toronto on behalf of our members to connect potential newcomers to Nova Scotia with opportunities in construction, develop a database of potential newcomers, engaging them to consider a relocation to Nova Scotia.
- Workforce is a significant issue for CANB and they believe immigration is the only possible solution. They have partnered with various stakeholders, including the trades Unions, Business Councils, Multiculture Councils and others to perform an LFA and identify issues and opportunities. CANB RB Mobile Simulator Training Trailer Project is meeting the goals of attracting more students to the sector and they are considering buying more.
- NSRB expanded their training and are now providing Class 1 and 3 Trucking course to help build workforce capacity. Workers Compensation Program in NS is under review.
- PEIRB continue to:
 - Partner with the Department of Education's Essential Skills Achieve Pathway taking their simulator to schools.
 - Seeking funding for a Road Builders 101 course and student placements
 - Participation in career days at highs schools
 - Participation in job fairs

D) Advocacy/Legislation

- Several provinces are focusing on prompt payment legislation:
 - BCCA continues the drive for prompt payment; a potential election issue.
 - ACA is working to hold the government to account and not allow large contracts to be exempt from prompt payment legislation.
 - CANS continues to work with the government on a prompt payment model.
 - NB's prompt payment legislation received Royal Assent but there have been no draft regulations released.
 - NLCA received positive news in that the government is initiating a public consultation on prompt payment.
- BCRB's priorities:
 - In Q1 of 2024 we are launching a province wide outreach tour called [The Road Show](#). The intent is to promote employment in the road building and maintenance sector using cutting edge simulator technology.
 - Continue to advocate for increased and sustained investment in resilient core infrastructure. This includes educating the public on the benefits of predictable and consistent infrastructure investment.
 - Provide ongoing participation with all owners on improved procurement practices, with the ambition to work with the relevant regulatory stakeholders on implementing a procurement process that maximizes value for the project and rewards continued innovation.
 - Launching the CleanRoads Innovation Program, a first of its kind, industry wide GHG measurement and reduction platform for our members to use.
- ARHCA: Provided input into Alberta's provincial budget, urging government to provide sustainable, predictable funding.
- The Saskatchewan associations will be hosting a Lobby day in the Spring; with a focus on:
 - Cultivating careers in construction
 - Engagement with the Ministry on early contractor involvement in procurement
- The OSWC Association has intervened in a jurisdictional dispute (JD) between the UA and LiUNA over who has jurisdiction to install sewage force mains. The UA is arguing that laborers lack the necessary expertise to safely install sewage mains under pressure. The Association in intervening on

the side of the laborers and have provided dozens of project examples of when laborers have done these exact types of projects.

- OGCA's asks for the Spring budget Include:
 - Investing in construction in all sectors through the Skills Development Fund
 - Increase speed of projects by increasing the number of inspectors
 - Simplify construction contracts & fair risk allocation.
 - Expand the use of collaborative procurement models where appropriate.
- In Quebec, Deposit of new legislation : du Projet de Loi-51, Law to modernize the construction industry
(https://www.assnat.qc.ca/Media/Process.aspx?MediaId=ANQ.Vigie.Bll.DocumentGenerique_195713&process=Original&token=ZyMoxNwUn8ikQ+TRKYwPCjWrKwg+vIv9rjij7p3xLGTZDmLVSmJLoqe/vG7/YWzz)
- CANS will continue to place focus on our key priority areas, as identified through our Strategic Plan – Government and Industry Relations, Workforce Development, Industry Education and Training, and Innovation and Technology.
- CANBRB is working on a fuel adjustment clause with the provincial government.

E) Fair procurement

- In response to concerns raised by ARCHA, the Hon. Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, held a procurement summit in October. A delegation of ARHCA provided full and frank answers to government's concerns that project pricing has been far exceeding their estimates. The department provided a summary document accurately capturing the candour of the discussions and has signalled that they are willing to have further discussions.
- ACA: Other key advocacy priorities include pushing for stable infrastructure spending; in addition to green infrastructure. ACA is working with Alberta Infrastructure on the Vendor Performance Management Program to ensure checks and balance against any bad actors in the system and ensure consistent reporting.
- City of Winnipeg is including a social procurement questionnaire in RFPs to be considered when evaluating proposals.
- Ontario has proposed new surety bonding requirements for Large non P3 infrastructure projects. OGCA has advise the ministry that the industry would be better serviced with smaller projects, rather than massive, multi-billion dollar projects.
- A significant p3 project completed on time and on budget in NS; and the province is interested to continue with this model in the future.

F) Greening of the industry is becoming a core focus area

- MHCA is proposing a national industry initiative to map out advances to move toward environmental sustainability in heavy civil equipment, materials and practices
- Hydro-Québec is considering the return of nuclear energy in Quebec; a preliminary study is positive despite concerns of citizens. Likely to start with the re-launch of Gentilly-2. ([Hydro-Québec : « Aucune barrière majeure au redémarrage de Gentilly-2 » | Radio-Canada](#))
- Adoption of a regulatory omnibus regarding the environment [Omnibus réglementaire 2023 modifiant 24 règlements \(gouv.qc.ca\)](#)
- CANS is a foundational partner member of Building to Zeron Exchange, a coalition stakeholders committed to building capacity for net-zero buildings.

G) Other than following the change in value of the residential sectors, housing has not been a key issue in the latest partner reports