

Calgary Construction Association (CCA) Report for GAMA Board Meeting-2023-10-05

Since our last meeting, 2023-09-07, with summer closing out and fall in full force, the CCA is once again very active.

The CCA executive met 2023-09-07, with discussions on the year thus far, membership (up to 717), completion of the CCA renovations (for now), reflections on the opening/dedication of the CCA member space, building leasing (offers to renew on the final two spaces in the building-we are full), ongoing meetings with Canadian and other locals, and discussions around ICBA wanting to partner with CCA to provide benefit options to members. ICBA is also heavily involved in advocacy which may be a great fit with CCA. As usual, the talent pool, or lack thereof, was first and foremost amongst our strategic objectives with the situation potentially growing worse. CCA will have a booth at Buildex to discuss talent pool concerns with attendees. We need to better understand the issues people are facing, strategies they are employing to deal with the situation, and which of the many programs out there are helping. We talked for the first time about a labour force coordinator to understand and coordinate between the varied programs out there, many at odds with each other, to develop a strategy to help our members. Buildworks now has a full-time, contract coordinator which should help to make the platform more usable. CCA will again be hosting a breakfast at Buildex with Corey Hirsch, ex-NHL goaltender who will be addressing mental health, another key strategic objective. ICBA will be co-sponsoring this with CCA. Per recent US statistics, construction employees are four times more likely to commit suicide than all other industries combined. Not a good stat.

There was an open house at the new member centre, on 2023-09-08, which I missed (out of town), but 180 attended.

The full board met 2023-09-14, where we discussed our budget (ahead in memberships, advertising, and sponsorship revenues), raising memberships \$100.00 (5.55%, the first increase in 6 years), plus many of the same topics discussed at the executive. The membership increase was approved, it was decided to do an RFP with four participants (ICBA, Open Circle-member, BCCA, and Northridge-member) to see what we could come up with for member benefits, and discussed ideas for 2024, the CCA's eightieth anniversary. We again had a long discussion on the talent pool. CCA has posted a page with resource that are available, but it is already out of date, as programs are highly fluid. We discussed further the idea of a dedicated resource for this initiative. Media activity remains high, as CCA is front and centre on many of today's hottest topics. We discussed our upcoming involvement with the field house proposal (CCA has forwarded the City a letter of support dated 2023-09-06 and further urged the Alberta Government to participate 2023-09-19), the housing crisis (read labour shortage), and the net zero building exchange. Lastly, as the province has gone silent, on the DOW/Prompt Payment (PPCLA) issue, we are assuming that the DOW exemption is truly a done deal.

With the approval of the Calgary Housing Strategy, CCA published a document listing next steps, including zoning changes, action on the labour shortage, and the impact of the housing crisis on Calgarians and our economy.

The province announced \$12.4M on 2023-09-26, to create 2000 additional trade apprentice spots. However, this money was simply switched from other programs (robbing Peter to pay Paul), and the issue is not in creating seats for apprentices. We cannot fill the seats we already have. We need a strategy to get shop classes back into schools, a strategy to inform students, and their parents, that the trades are a viable and worthy career pursuit, and we need a focus on cultivating, recruiting and training the skilled trades of the future. Interestingly, the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act and the Designated Trades and Restricted Activities Regulation (STAE/DTRA) are both working to limit who can do the work that desperately needs to be done. Again we need a focussed, coordinated strategy, not a hodge podge of disjointed strategies that work against each other.

On 2023-09-27, I attended the last CCA 'Meet the GC' for 2023. It was a very well attended event where the focus was squarely on the skilled trades shortage.

CCA continues working together with the Alberta Trade Contractors Council (ATCC). Karen Rutherford of the Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) attended the Global Apprenticeship Summit in Ottawa 2023-09-28. We look forward to her report on ideas and strategies that are being employed around the globe to deal with attracting youth to the trades.

Of note, Monte McNaughton, the Ontario Minister of Labour, who has been responsible for a 24% increase in enrollment of apprentices in Ontario, over the past year, is the third of Doug Ford's ministers to announce his resignation, effective immediately, moving back to the public sector. CCA and ATTC are both trying to learn more on how McNaughton was so successful and why he has chosen to leave.

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