



CONSTRUCTION COMMENT

The Official Publication of the Ottawa Construction Association • JULY/AUGUST 2020

WSIB to split G1 employers

CCA looking for CONtact mentors

Province issues P3 update

COVID Alert tracing app coming soon

Are you confused about firestop?



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Photo courtesy of Doran Contractors Limited

Construction Comment
is published by
The Ottawa Construction Association
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Ottawa, ON K2E 7V5
Tel: (613) 236-0488
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www.o.ca.ca
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*Subscription inquiries and letters
to the editor can be directed
to the address above.*

Canadian Publications Mail Product
Sales Agreement: 40583512

*Return Undeliverable Canadian
Addresses to:*
The Ottawa Construction Association,
9 Antares Drive, Ottawa, ON K2E 7V5

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INSIDE

JULY/AUGUST 2020

17 Work begins on Calabogie Generating Station

18 WSIB to split class G1 employers



20 Carleton University's new approach to procurement

22 COVID Alert app coming soon



24 Industry adapting, but concerns remain: OCS survey

30 SAC releases new bond form for IPD projects

32 PCL lends expertise to Citizen Care Pod



34 Province releases spring P3 market update

36 OGCA says goodbye to Clive Thurston,
announces Giovanni Cautillo as president

37 CCA opens applications for enhanced
CONTACT mentorship program



38 Support needed for municipal
infrastructure investments: RCCAO report

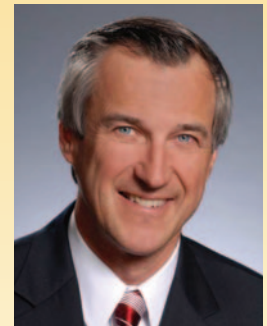


40 Conference Board sees rebound ahead in 2021

REGULAR FEATURES

- 4** President's Comment
- 5** Section Chairman's Comment
- 6** This Month's Numbers
- 9** Technology Comment
- 10** Safety Comment
- 12** Legal Comment
- 13** Financial Comment
- 14** News in Brief
- 26** Around Ottawa
- 42** OCA & You
- 46** Guess the Photo

How will COVID change federal real estate planning?



John DeVries
OCA President

At time of writing this commentary, Premier Doug Ford has announced that nearly all businesses and public spaces will reopen on July 17 as part of Stage 3 of the province's reopening plan.

It was a much-anticipated step forward and will be a welcome measure for all citizens to be able to enjoy more activities such as indoor dining, theatres, playgrounds and gyms—albeit with the now standard safety protocols of distancing, crowd controls, hygiene and mask standards.

We'll see how the transition to this new normal happens in the coming weeks and months. I am optimistic that we won't follow the unfortunate backward path of several US states such as Florida, Texas and California where governments relaxed controls too quickly.

So with each passing month, we adjust and continue with the hope that our economy and our lives will return to a pre-COVID-19 normal.

Except post-COVID-19 Ottawa is going to be altered in ways that we still can't foresee.

A big question mark to me is regarding the long-term future of the Ottawa office environment—specifically the federal government's office footprint and whether it will be transformed by a significant shift of the labour force working from home. Shopify's decision to shift their entire workforce to a home environment looms large in my thinking.

This past month, OCA held a Zoom discussion with Public Services & Procurement Canada (PSPC) representatives about the feasibility of changing the way the department con-

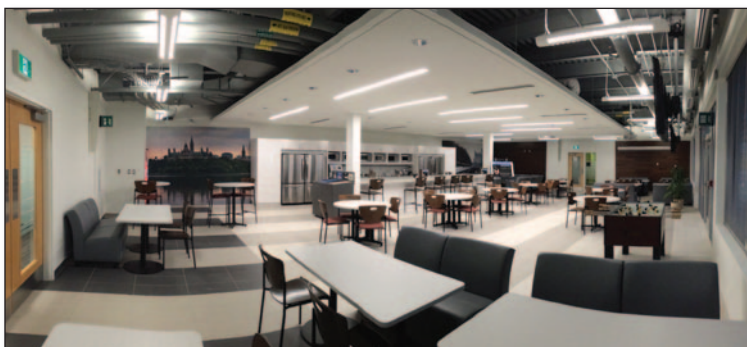
tracts for the design and construction fit-up of federal offices in the National Capital Region. It was no surprise that no one from PSPC could answer the long-term federal employment question. Our dialogue proceeded based on the assumption that federal government workforce will, for the vast majority, continue to work as before in offices downtown and across the river in Gatineau.

My gut tells me that is not realistic. It wasn't lost on me that every single PSPC official on our Zoom call was working from home.



I am sure the City of Ottawa is also thinking of the location of future federal government workforce since it has a big impact on the \$200 million OC Transpo collects in fare revenue each year.

There's lots to think about and it will play out slowly with the federal government.



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COVID-19

What we have learned, and what we must change



Tim Vizona
Vice-Chair,
Road Builders & Heavy
Construction Section

Our world has changed dramatically since mid-March when we abruptly realized COVID-19 is a threat to all of us. Canadians should be proud of how we rallied together to ensure that our limited health care resources were available to battle the pandemic. We were not perfect in our planning and decision making, but we communicated as a nation, learned as a nation, adapted and improved as a nation.

The construction industry was no different. The innovation and ability to adapt is extremely impressive, with the Ottawa and area contractors and workforce leading the way. Our industry also needs to learn from the past several months. We must incorporate best hygiene practices into our future construction contracts and culture. Costing models have shown that for a quarter of a percent of total project cost, we can significantly raise the jobsite hygiene bar. This is a small price to pay. We cannot return to adhering to and implementing minimum standards.

IT departments are integral part of our success, from Zoom meetings, to electronic building inspections, to online tender submissions and e-bonding. We need to fully incorporate and utilize technology in our industry.

COVID-19 has reminded us that people are our greatest asset. They are more important than profits. Our industry cannot grow or even survive without a skilled and expanding workforce. The importance of people is magnified in our personal lives—seniors need to be a priority. We cannot ship them out to long term care facilities with little to no oversight.

COVID-19 has provided us with the opportunity to learn from our mistakes. More importantly, it has given us the lessons learned to re-evaluate our priorities.



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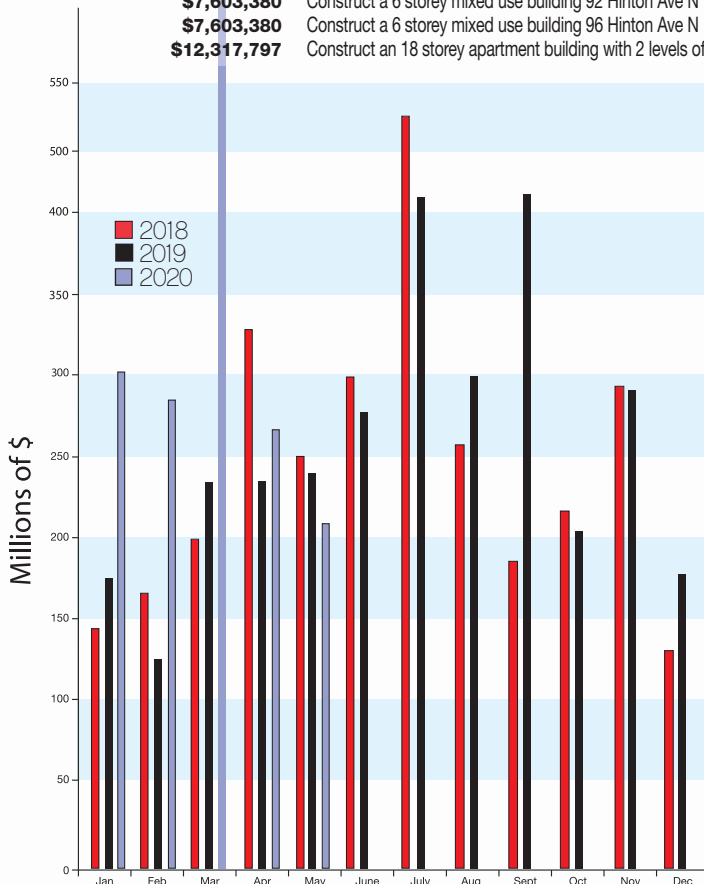
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THIS MONTH'S

Permits over \$500,000

issued in May 2020

\$500,000	Interior alterations on the 1st floor of a 7 storey office building (Units P1 & P1A - Canadian Bank Note) 1620 Scott St.
\$599,000	Replace and restore a cooling tower to service Robertson Hall building (Carleton University) 1125 Colonel By Dr.
\$750,000	Interior alterations to replace sprinkler and standpipe system in a 4 storey university building (University of Ottawa, Minto Sports Complex) 801 King Edward Ave.
\$750,000	Interior and exterior alterations to a 2 storey elementary school (Assumption Catholic School) 236 Lewis Ave.
\$758,465	Remove and replace a 1 storey addition to a 1 storey warehouse and interior alterations to a 1 storey warehouse (due to fire) 1555 Chatelain Ave.
\$758,465	Remove and replace a 1 storey addition to a 1 storey warehouse and interior alterations to a 1 storey warehouse (due to fire) 1565 Chatelain Ave.
\$807,226	Construct an addition to a 1 storey retail building - Shell only 110 Michael Cowpland Dr.
\$851,973	Construct a 1 storey addition to a 1 storey elementary school (Roger-Saint-Denis) 186 Barlow Cres.
\$900,000	Tenant fit up on the 3rd floor of a 3 storey retail building (CF Rideau Centre, Unit # CRU 312, Canada Goose) 50 Rideau St.
\$914,893	Interior alterations to a 3 storey office building 16 Fitzgerald Rd.
\$1,312,501	Construct a 3 storey triplex 72 Armstrong St.
\$1,413,547	Interior/Exterior alterations to a 3 storey university building (loading dock) 85 Universite Priv.
\$1,482,030	Interior alterations to a 2 storey office building (replace mechanical, upgrade electrical, re-clad SW corner, partial replacement of roof deck) 3187 Albion Rd. S
\$1,489,000	Install a rooftop unit and interior alterations in a 4 storey student residence (Renfrew) 1125 Colonel By Dr.
\$1,516,017	Tenant Fit-Up in a 1 storey retail building (Farm Boy) 830 Belfast Rd.
\$1,579,000	Install a rooftop unit and interior alterations in a 4 storey student residence (Lanark) 1125 Colonel By Dr.
\$1,600,000	Interior alterations to a 6 storey institutional building (University of Ottawa - update fire alarm system and maglocks in library) 65 Universite Priv.
\$2,357,133	Tenant fit up in a 1 storey warehouse (Natural Resources Canada) 3020 Hawthorne Rd.
\$2,397,315	Construct an addition on the 5th floor and interior alterations to a 5 storey apartment 60 Stanley Ave.
\$2,508,030	Interior fit up on the 6th floor of a 6 storey university building (uOttawa STEM Complex) 160 Louis Pasteur Priv.
\$2,781,426	Construct a 2 storey retail building (vehicle service garage and showroom, washing facilities, offices and storage) 1110 St-Laurent Boulevard
\$7,603,380	Construct a 6 storey mixed use building 88 Hinton Ave N
\$7,603,380	Construct a 6 storey mixed use building 92 Hinton Ave N
\$7,603,380	Construct a 6 storey mixed use building 96 Hinton Ave N
\$12,317,797	Construct an 18 storey apartment building with 2 levels of underground parking (see BP#1904460 for FOUNDATION & STRUCTURAL ONLY permit) 1024 McGarry Terr



■ May 2020
■ May 2019

Total: \$206.1 million
Total: \$240.8 million

change: 14.41% decrease compared to May 2019

Building permit values (\$ millions)

	2018	2019	2020
January	140.7	175.7	301.0
February	161.5	123.8	281.1
March	199.4	229.9	632.7
April	320.2	229.5	266.6
May	252.7	240.8	206.1
June	293.7	278.6	
July	533.8	413.5	
August	253.5	295.9	
September	178.1	411.9	
October	211.2	206.7	
November	296.2	285.4	
December	128.8	175.7	

Total: **\$2,969.8** **\$3,067.4** **\$1,690.2**
Year to date: **10.6%** **3.28%**

2020 year to date total of \$1,690.2 million is 69.0% higher than the \$999.7 million in 2019

Housing starts: MAY 2020

	Single-Detached			All others			Total		
	2019	2020	%	2019	2020	%	2019	2020	%
May	237	282	19	421	411	-2	658	693	5
Year to date	751	951	27	1,543	2,257	46	2,294	3,208	40

NUMBERS

Building permit statistics: May 2020

(Please note that City of Ottawa building permit data now includes both new construction and renovation permit data.)







	Number of permits	Value of permits	Gross area of work (ft²)
Residential			
Apartment	26	25,962,604.28	529,636
Coach House	2	275,864.51	2,270
Det. Garage/Shed	30	759,946.95	21,918
Duplex	2	327,193.80	2,890
Rowhouse	62	60,240,073.56	481,295
Semi - Detached	16	3,766,266.86	30,462
Single	310	84,601,302.84	573,956
Total	448	\$175,933,253	1,642,426

Year to date: Residential: \$946,724,652

	Number of permits	Value of permits	Gross area of work (ft²)
Non-residential			
Demolition	26	407,500.00	-38,782.00
Industrial	5	1,009,847.68	16,922
Institutional	31	13,613,483.72	342,282
Mixed	1	50,000.00	9,957
Office	32	7,667,903.71	160,769
Other	5	468,777.59	20,175
Retail	38	8,925,214.65	130,163
Total	138	\$32,142,727	641,486

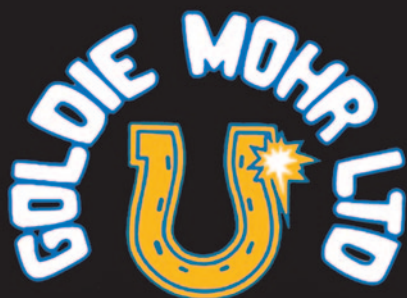
Year to date: Non-residential: \$476,893,282

Material prices

	Commodity	Latest value	% change (monthly)	% change (yearly)	
	Oil (WTI, \$US/barrel)	39.3	10.4	-33.3	▼
	Natural Gas (\$US/MBtu)	1.8	3.5	-24.5	▼
	Copper (\$US/mt)	6038	13.2	0.7	▲
	Steel (\$US/mt)	261	4.8	-9.7	▼
	Electricity (PJMw, USD/MWh)	25	-3.8	-37.5	▼
	Lumber composite (USD/1k bd ft)	422	19.2	22.3	▲

Source: data collected by and reprinted with permission from Export Development Canada's Weekly Commodity Update.
For more information, please visit www.edc.ca

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FORECASTED TENDERS

Infrastructure Services – Design and Construction Projects

July 2020 to November 2020 (Published: May 8, 2020)

Project Name	Project Type	Project Phase Status	Forecasted Date
Ottawa River Outfalls - More Complex	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
2018 Misc Drainage East and West Phase 2	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
Exp Intergrated Huron Ave	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
Queenswood Heights Replace 2 HVAC Units	Facilities	Planning	Jul-20
City Hall Level P1 Expansion Joint	Facilities	Initiation	Jul-20
Kenmore Park -Playground Replacement	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
Cobble Hill Park Re-Development	Facilities	Implementation	Jul-20
Splash Wave Pool - Entrance Remediation	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
Carp Depot -Foundation Wall Remediation	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
OC Transpo Miscellaneous Transit Work	Municipal	Planning	Jul-20
Charlie Conacher Parking Lot Resurfacing	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
OC St Laurent Stn Renovate Operator Area	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
2018 Trenchless Sewer Program	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
OC Transpo Operation - Waller St	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
Building Envelope Remediation	Facilities	Initiation	Jul-20
City Hall ActiveLiving ChangeRoom Access	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
Fred Barrett Repl Roofs 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
Nepean Sportsplex Sign Replacement	Facilities	Initiation	Jul-20
Multi-Use Pathway: Woodroffe	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
ROPEC- Elevated Platforms & Guardrails	Facilities	Design	Jul-20
Sidewalks & Roundabout	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
CARDREL Sprinkler System/Heads/Trusses	Facilities	Planning	Jul-20
Ottawa South Pumping Station Upgrade	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
Exp Ped Bridge: Terry Fox Park	Municipal	Design	Jul-20
Small Culvert Replace: 21 Rural East	Municipal	Design	Aug-20
Huron Day Care -Shade Structures (3)	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Fairmile View Park renewal	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Dulude Repl Walkways/Retaining Walls	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Hintonburg Ext Wall Assembly/Gym Floor	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Transit Int Mod: Scott Street	Municipal	Design	Aug-20
Richelieu CC Elevator Modernization Ph 2	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
March Rd Wastewater PS Conversion	Municipal	Design	Aug-20
Britannia Repair Bricks&Replace Windows	Facilities	Initiation	Aug-20
City Hall - Refurbish Supply Fan #20	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
2018 Pipe Repairs: Non Critical Sites	Municipal	Design	Aug-20
Brewer Park Office Bdg Demolish Facility	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Ray Friel Des-Customer Service Counter	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Design-Replace Playground Equipment	Facilities	Design	Aug-20
Carling Building Envelop	Facilities	Design	Sep-20
Ruth Wildgen Comfort Stn Replace Roof	Facilities	Design	Sep-20
Osgoode CC & Stuart Holmes Arena Rink	Facilities	Design	Sep-20
Richmond PS Rehab and Capacity Upgrade	Facilities	Design	Sep-20
Carleton -Chiller Replacement	Facilities	Design	Sep-20
Kizell Pond Trail System	Facilities	Design	Sep-20
Fire Stn 56 -Slab Remediation	Facilities	Initiation	Sep-20
Maple Grove Roof and HVAC Replacement	Facilities	Design	Oct-20
Hintonburg CC - VCT Floor Replacement at Gym	Facilities	Design	Oct-20
Renewal Kanata Ped Bridge	Municipal	Initiation	Oct-20
SpringHurst-Jr Playstructure replacement	Facilities	Design	Oct-20
Charles Sim - Replace Roof Area 2,4	Facilities	Planning	Oct-20
Richmond Forcemain Twinning	Municipal	Design	Nov-20
Manotick & Leonard Demolish Salt Dome	Facilities	Initiation	Nov-20
Sidewalk Program & Cummings ATM	Municipal	Initiation	Nov-20
Resurfacing Sidewalk: Heatherington	Municipal	Design	Nov-20
Don Gamble -Playground & Gazebo	Facilities	Design	Nov-20

Contact tracing goes digital

Being able to track everyone on a jobsite has taken on a whole new level of concern during this pandemic. Teams work closely together and that has the potential to be a perfect place to spread viruses.

Contact tracing is an old idea that has suddenly become an important part of life. In its simplest, contract tracing is done by writing down the name and contact details on a piece of paper for every single person that comes to a site. Then, if anything goes wrong, there is a quick and accurate way to know every single person that was around.

Many jobsites have already been contact tracing by asking people to check in with an office when they arrive. In reality, there are many people that come and go all day long. Plus smaller jobsites have no chance of being able to know everyone that was around on a specific day.

Along comes technology with a new type of instant contact tracing. Practically everyone owns a smartphone, and carries that phone everywhere all day long. That phone has become the perfect way to generate an automatic contact tracing list that can be accessed if needed.

Early in the pandemic, several tech developers saw an opportunity to help and created tracking apps. Alas, none of the early apps worked very well. They all needed you to remember to start the app whenever you went anywhere. And some of those apps needed to be running in the foreground with the phone unlocked to work. Very few people would actually go through all the steps and the apps eventually faded.

Then, a very big surprise, Apple and Google took an unprecedented step and started working together! The two tech giants obviously control the vast majority of smartphones in the world through either iPhone or Android. They created a way to do contact tracing that is built into the phone. You need to activate the tracing, then it runs silently in the background.

The system that Apple and Google created has very strong privacy protections. The tech companies are very aware that people generally do not like to be tracked. What they created can only be shared through health authorities and only with the permission of individuals that allow themselves to be tracked.

Now we are seeing apps that make use of the foundation that Apple and Google created. The apps provide a friendly interface that advises us that tracking is being turned on and how the information will be used.

Canada's official app is called COVID Alert. This app is based on code written by volunteers at Ottawa's Shopify on top of the system created by Apple and Google. Blackberry is also part of the team by providing security protection for the entire system.



This new contact tracing uses Bluetooth to track other phones that come nearby. Phones will silently connect with each other to share and store private random codes. Should someone test positive, then a health authority will ask that someone for access to their installed COVID Alert app. That will let them see all the phones that a person has been near. The health authority will send out a message to the potentially infected individuals with instructions on how to properly get tested.

There are many security concerns about this plan, so the people behind it are being careful to be very transparent. The Canadian code is actually available for inspection by anyone. This allows experts (and the rest of us) to look through the entire system and check to make sure that it is safe to use. So far, it all seems to be on track.

The next step is widespread adoption and that will take leadership. That leadership will need to come from politicians, doctors and employers. Will our bosses be the first to install the app? Will there be checks at jobsites, stores and restaurants to make sure that everyone has actually installed the app?

The true impact of this plan won't be known for months. But anything that can be done today to slow the spread of COVID-19 is worth the effort.

David Schellenberg is an Ottawa-based technology consultant.

Safe lifting at work

Editor's note: this infographic was created by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety. For more information, visit www.ccohs.ca.

Many tasks at work involve lowering, pushing, pulling, carrying, holding, or restraining objects. This manual materials handling is the most common cause of occupational fatigue, low back pain and lower back injuries. Lifting is always hazardous, but the level of hazard depends on what you are handling, what the task is, and what the conditions are at the workplace or work site.

This infographic that outlines way employers can decrease lifting demands, steps to lift safely, and some tips for workers.

Manual materials handling involves moving objects by lifting, lowering, pushing, pulling, carrying, holding, or restraining.



STEPS TO LIFT SAFELY

- 1 Before lifting, check to see if mechanical aids such as hoists, lift trucks, dollies or wheelbarrows are available.
- 2 Plan and prepare for the lift. Protect your feet and hands with sturdy shoes and work gloves. Test the load for weight and stability. Get help with heavy or awkward loads.
- 3 Grasp with both hands. Keep the item stable.
- 4 Slide and/or pull the load toward your stomach, tightening the muscles as you get ready to lift.
- 5 Lift the load as close to your body as possible.
- 6 Stay centered. Hold the load between shoulder and knee height and don't overreach.
- 7 Step or pivot while moving with a load. Don't twist or side bend.
- 8 Try not to bend. If you must, bend your knees to reach or place low-level objects.



SAFE LIFTING AT WORK



TIPS FOR WORKERS

- Take rest breaks to relax tired muscles and prevent fatigue from building up.
- Report any discomfort you experience during work.
- Know how to recognize a lifting hazard and report concerns.

HOW EMPLOYERS CAN DECREASE LIFTING DEMANDS



- Eliminate heaving lifting tasks.
- Plan the work flow. Poor planning of the work flow may result in repeated handling of the same object.
- Decrease the weight of handled objects to acceptable limits.
- Reduce the weight by assigning two people to lift the load or by splitting the load into two or more containers. Use lightweight but sturdy containers to help decrease the weight of the load.
- Change how the load is moved. Lowering objects causes less strain than lifting. Pulling objects is easier than carrying. Pushing is less demanding than pulling.
- Change work area layouts. Reduce the horizontal and vertical distances to lower work demands. Reduce the travel distances as well.
- Pace the work appropriately, especially repetitive handling tasks. More time between tasks reduces the frequency of handling and allows for a rest period.
- Alternate heavy tasks with lighter ones to reduce the build-up of fatigue.

Note that there is no single correct way to perform every lift. Onsite, task-specific training is essential.

 **CCOHS.ca**
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

Trust provisions can be a powerful tool for unpaid contractors

Earlier this year, the Ontario Court of Appeal released its decision in *Urbancorp v. Cumberland 2 GP Inc.*

Why is this decision important? Because it confirms that a trust created under section 9(1) of the Ontario *Construction Lien Act* (and the *Construction Act*) can be effective in federal insolvency proceedings thereby giving s. 9(1) trust claimants priority over other claimants, unless there is a specific conflict with a priority under the federal legislation.

Section 9(1) states that:

9(1) Where the owner's interest in a premises is sold by the owner, an amount equal to,

(a) the value of the consideration received by the owner as a result of the sale,

less,

(b) the reasonable expenses arising from the sale and the amount, if any, paid by the vendor to discharge any existing mortgage indebtedness on the premises, constitutes a trust fund for the benefit of the contractor.

(2) The former owner is the trustee of the trust created by subsection (1), and shall not appropriate or convert any part of the trust property to the former owner's use or to any use inconsistent with the trust until the contractor is paid all amounts owed to the contractor that relate to the improvement.

The facts

- The Cumberland Group consisted of a number of related entities, including Edge on Triangle Park Inc. which was the owner/developer of a residential condominium development (the Edge Project). In 2011, Triangle began construction on the Edge Project, entering into agreements with Toro Aluminum, Speedy Electrical Contractors Ltd., and Dolvin Mechanical (the contractors). In the spring and summer of 2015, most of the units were sold.
- In 2015, Triangle transferred 32 units, parking spots and storage units to Edge Residential Inc., another Cumberland Group entity, for \$2. Together they owned 37 residential units, 5 retail units, 22 storage units and 16 parking spots.
- In 2016, each Cumberland Group member filed a notice of intention to make a proposal under s. 50.4(1) of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (BIA) and a proposal trustee was appointed.
- In October 2016, an order was made granting the Cumberland Group protection under the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act* (CCAA) which included an order appointing the proposal trustee as monitor and authorizing the sale of the units. At that time, the contractors were owed \$3,864,428.72.

After payments were made to cover the costs of the CCAA proceedings, there remained \$6,091,714.17. Once the mortgagees were paid, the remaining net proceeds were \$4,246,963.46.

- The monitor sold the units for in excess of \$11 million. After payments were made to cover the costs of the CCAA proceedings, there remained \$6,091,714.17. Once the mortgagees were paid, the remaining net proceeds were \$4,246,963.46.
- The contractors claimed a trust against those funds pursuant to section 9(1) of the Ontario *Construction Lien Act*. The monitor brought a motion for a determination whether the sale proceeds were impressed with a trust in favour of the contractors. The motion judge found that they were not. The contractors appealed.

The Court of Appeal's decision

A trust under section 9(1) of the *Construction Lien Act* (and the *Construction Act*) may be effective in federal insolvency proceedings under the BIA or the CCAA or both, even if, as in this case, a sale takes place after a CCAA filing has occurred, as long as giving effect to the trust would not conflict with a specific priority in the federal legislation. The Court of Appeal agreed with the contractors that the sales of the units by the monitor satisfied the criteria under s. 9(1) as a sale by the "owner". Where, however, there is a conflict with the federal legislation, federal paramountcy rules would result in the section 9(1) trust being inoperable and ineffective, either in full or in part.

The facts in this case were different from those in the Court of Appeal decision in *Veltri Metal Products Co.* In *Veltri*, the Court found that there was no trust pursuant to s. 7(1) of the *Construction Lien Act* because, among other reasons, the assets sold in that case were subject to a creditors' security and the secured creditors were owed more than what was recovered on the sale.

The contractors had priority over the sale proceeds which was ordered to be paid out to each of them on a pro-rata basis.

Take away

The trust provisions under Part II of the *Construction Act* can be a very powerful tool for the unpaid contractor or subcontractor, even where the payor owner or contractor has initiated insolvency proceedings under federal legislation.

This article was written by Allison Russell, a partner with Kelly Santini LLP. She can be reached at 613-238-6321 and arussell@kellysantini.com.



Opportunity in uncertain times

We are living in a time of great uncertainty and rapid change. By the time you are reading this the economic situation in Ottawa (and the world) could be very different from the situation we are in at the time I am writing this.

If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is the importance of being agile and able to adapt rapidly. All this change and uncertainty brings significant negativity. However, in these times there are also areas of opportunity and optimism.

Let's focus on three areas of opportunity we are seeing as a result of this current environment.

1. Reorganization planning

As a business owner, this economic uncertainty presents an opportunity to maximize the potential benefits of certain common estate-planning strategies. Specifically, opportunity lies in the ability to implement an estate freeze at the current depressed values.

The purpose of an estate freeze is to restrict the unrealized gain a business owner may be holding in their company and thereby limiting ultimate tax liability on death. It can also be used as a tool for succession planning if the business owner was intending to bring family members into ownership of the business.

By using the current uncertainty and depressed values of the company to implement an estate freeze, the opportunity lies in the ability of a business owner to restrict their unrealized gain and expected tax liability to a lesser amount than it would have been pre-pandemic or than it will be in the future as the value comes back. At the same time, a common strategy can be implemented which allows the business owner to share in the future growth without increasing their future tax liability. This can be achieved through the introduction of a Trust as the common shareholder which can allow the individual to access additional value in the future over and above the frozen value.

Another opportunity presents itself in this environment which involves a re-freeze to an existing freeze. Where an individual has previously implemented an estate freeze, if the overall value of the corporation has declined to below the redemption value as a result of pandemic a re-freeze transaction can further limit the business owner's unrealized gain and thereby their future tax liability.

A little bit of planning at these times can result in significant tax savings.

2. Acquisition and growth

If your company has been considering growth through acquisition, the current environment presents opportunity to take advantage of bargain prices and distressed assets. Whether

your company is looking to grow by expanding its market share through acquiring a competitor or adding complementary service lines, now may be an optimal time to capitalize on some of those desires. Unfortunately, there are companies out there that do not have the financial strength to weather the pandemic "storm" or the owners may not have the desire to work through the uncertainty and rapid change that is coming. In some cases, a sale may be a welcome (and even needed) exit. Many of these companies have quality contracts, quality connections and skilled staff. If your company has the financial flexibility for an acquisition, now may be an optimal time.

Alternatively, if your company is growing organically and acquisition may not be in the cards. Now may be an optimal time to update your equipment. Financing rates for heavy equipment and trucks are attractive. Discounts are also available as suppliers try to move inventory and recover from months of minimal sales.

3. Virtual and contract workforce

As we all adapt to some of our workforce working remotely and as the government programs and subsidies increase red tape and regulation, there lies opportunity to supplement your workforce with virtual/contract finance or human resource professionals. In many cases, these are highly skilled individuals with many years of experience and training.

As your company deals with the strain of the current working climate, adding a virtual chief financial officer can help supplement your accounting team to ensure the company stays focused on the big picture, instead of getting caught in the weeds. They can also support the organization to ensure all relevant applications for government programs are prepared and they can even aid in financings or re-financings as needed.

In a similar vein, a contract human resources professional can support an organization through these challenging employment conditions. If your company is hiring, firing, bringing back staff from temporary layoffs or simply applying for wage subsidies additional HR support may be beneficial. Having a high-level professional on a part-time basis can help navigate the current environment so the organization avoids pitfalls from all the confusion in the employment market.

In conclusion, uncertainty breeds opportunity. Focus on ways to strengthen your business so you can come out of this pandemic stronger.

This article was written by Peter Berry, a partner with Welch LLP. He can be reached at 613-236-9191 ext: 224 and pberry@welchllp.com.



WACCA

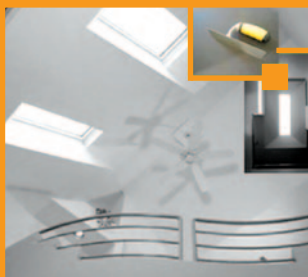
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IN BRIEF

April building permits battered

Statistics Canada's building permit report for April shows a country-wide drop of more than 17 percent in total values. The decrease was the largest since October 2008—when the financial crisis of that year was in full effect.

Combined with a significant decline in March, the value of building permits has fallen by 28.1 percent from February levels.

Nationally, builders took out \$6 billion worth of permits for the month—more than \$1.2 billion less than in March, and more than \$3.3 billion less than in January.

Eight provinces reported drops in permit values. Chief among these was Quebec, which lost more than 34 percent. Ontario lost 20 percent, recording \$2.69 billion worth of permits. Both provinces' decisions to down non-essential construction activity to the COVID-19 pandemic led to those declines.

The total value of residential permits fell by 14.2 percent to \$3.9 billion nationally. Nine provinces reported drops. Permits for single-family homes were hardest hit in April. Indeed, the drop of nearly 36 percent—to \$1.4 billion—was the highest monthly drop recorded by Statistics Canada since 2002, and nearly double the next-largest monthly decrease.

The multi-family component was the only one—residential or otherwise—to show an increase in April. Values rose by 4.8 percent to \$2.6 billion. Ontario (13.9 percent) posted a gain thanks to strong demand for such buildings in Toronto and Ottawa. Demand in Vancouver similarly propelled permit totals in British Columbia to an increase.

Across the country, the value of non-residential permits dropped by nearly 22 percent to \$2.1 billion. All three components reported losses. The value of commercial permits dropped 21.5 percent to \$1.2 billion—with a drop of more than 56 percent in Quebec.

Industrial permits fell by 34.7 percent to \$377 million, while the value of institutional permits, which performed well in some provinces, was pulled down by significant drops in Ontario (-46.2 percent) and Quebec (-28.2 percent). In total, institutional permit values dropped 10.5 percent to \$533 million.

May LFS data shows slow recovery

Canada's labour market is slowly coming back to health.

Statistics Canada's latest Labour Force Survey report shows that employment rose by 1.8 percent—or about 290,000 jobs—in May. This comes as provinces gradually started re-opening their economies and easing restrictions on social interactions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Over the period from February to April, 5.5 million Canadians were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Three million of those were directly out of work, while a further 2.5 million identified as being absent from work. May's employment gain combined with a reduction in the number of people who worked less than half of their usual hours therefore represents a job-market recovery of 10.6 percent for those affected by the pandemic.

Despite this news, the national unemployment rate ticked up in May. The rate now stands at 13.7 percent — the highest level since Statistics Canada began collecting such data in 1976. The agency says the total number of Canadians without jobs doubled between February and April. This surge, it says, was driven by temporary lay-offs. Most people counted in this metric said they expected to return to their previous jobs within six months, rather than pursuing new work elsewhere.

The good news is that employers are starting to respond to the opening up of the economy in part by increasing the number of hours employees work.

Total hours worked across all industries grew by 6.3 percent in May. The increase followed a cumulative decline of 27.7 percent from February to April. Construction (19 percent) led the way among sectors that recorded more hours worked. Other services (13.2 percent); wholesale and retail trade (11.0 percent); manufacturing (10.9 percent); educational services (9.4 percent) and natural resources (9.2 percent) all recorded increases. In each case, the growth in total hours worked was greater than the growth in employment.

Construction and manufacturing were two of the industries that recorded the greatest job gains nationally in May. Construction employment rose by 73,700, while manufacturing rose by 79,100. Employment across the goods-producing sector, of which construction and manufacturing are components, rose by 164,700.

Building construction investment drops 46 percent in April

Total investment in building construction across the country took a massive hit in April, Statistics Canada reports.

Public health measures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 caused a slowdown across the construction industry, and even widespread site shutdowns in Ontario and Quebec. As a result, total construction investment dropped by nearly 46 percent to \$8.4 billion.

The drop of more than \$7 billion was the largest-ever month-over-month change since Statistics Canada tracked this metric in 2010. Investment dropped in all provinces and territories, with Ontario (-\$3.2 billion) and Quebec (-\$2.5 billion) reporting the largest declines.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Investment in the residential sector fell by 49.2 percent to \$5.36 billion. All provinces and territories reported double-digit declines, with Quebec (-77.6 percent to \$457 million) and Ontario (-46.8 percent to \$2.4 billion) reporting the largest losses.

Investment in the non-residential sector dropped by 38.8 percent in April to just under \$3 billion. Because work in Ontario was shut down on all but essential construction projects, the value of non-residential investment dropped by more than \$1 billion. Meanwhile, the value of non-residential investment in such provinces as Manitoba (+1.6 percent), Saskatchewan (+1.3 percent) and British Columbia (+0.9 percent) increased slightly due to ongoing work.

Across the country, investment values in the commercial component dropped by more than 49 percent. Ontario's sector in particular lost more than \$900 million in value, while Quebec's lost more than \$520 million.

The value of institutional investments dropped by more than 22 percent (or \$247.5 million) nationally—on the back of a drop of more than \$190 million in Quebec. Ontario's institutional investment dropped by more than \$53 million. Finally, industrial investments dropped by more than 25 percent nationally to \$664 million. Quebec (-92.8 percent) and Ontario (-18.7 percent) recorded the greatest losses in that sector, while four provinces reported small gains.

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Work begins on Calabogie Generating Station



A \$180-million project west of Ottawa will see the construction of an all-new electrical generating station that will more than double the output of its predecessor.

Construction on the new Calabogie Generating Station is now underway.

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) announced plans to rebuild the 5MW facility in Calabogie after the century-old powerhouse was damaged by a tornado in 2018.

A new higher-capacity powerhouse, which will increase output to nearly 11MW, is being built about 50 metres upstream from the original facility. The building is expected to come into service in 2022, and the value of the construction project is approximately \$180 million.

OPG selected a joint venture of designers SNC-Lavalin and builders M Sullivan & Son to perform the work. The cost-reimbursable contract is valued at over \$100 million, and will take two years to complete.

“The redevelopment of OPG’s Calabogie Generating Station will see SNC-Lavalin apply its experience and best of class hydro expertise into one of OPG’s oldest and storied generating stations,” said Sébastien Mousseau, vice-president,

power grid & industrial solutions. “Our combined effort with M. Sullivan & Son continues a successful power project partnership that OPG can count on to deliver a first-class modern outcome for a generating station with a century of history.”

The new, two-unit power station will draw even more power from the Madawaska River on which it is situated. As per OPG’s plan for the project, more water will be drawn from a redesigned forebay—the pool of water that feeds into the station—and sent through the powerhouse. Capacity at the station will increase from 66 cubic metres per second to 160 cubic metres per second. Water levels and flows are also not expected to change as per the existing Water Management Plan.

“The whole site has had to be redeveloped for this rebuild. It’s so much more than just a building,” said Ontario Power Generation renewable generation division project manager Kevin Kaczmarczyk. “We had to make sure all the hydraulic conditions are satisfied, and the entire forebay had to be reshaped and opened up.”

Construction crews performed some preparatory work for the site earlier this year, including widening and strengthening roadways for dump trucks and clearing the site of vegetation, and preparing the old, damaged powerhouse to act as a barrier to keep the new site dry.

OPG also stated that there will not be any flooding associated with the rebuild and the overall footprint of the new site will remain on 10 hectares of area.

WSIB to split class G1 employers



The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board will split employers in the class G1 group along residential and non-residential lines.

Effective January 1, 2021 the more than 26,000 employers grouped in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's (WSIB's) G1 – Building construction class will be separated along residential and non-residential lines.

Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour Training and Skills Development, announced the change during a webinar hosted by the League of Champions on June 17. He indicated that the WSIB's board of directors voted to amend its general regulation 175/98 to allow the change. The proposal will be brought to the provincial cabinet to be enacted into law.

"The change recognizes that the residential and non-residential sectors are large enough to be their own separate classes, and for the premium rates attached to each reflect the different risk profiles for each," said the minister.

That last point is important, says David Frame, director of government relations with the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA).

When the WSIB announced its new rate framework model for setting employer premiums, it reduced the number of classes (or groups, as they were previously known) from 13 to five. The G1 class brought together the province's residential builders and developers with its general contractors.

Since that plan was announced, the OGCA has been lobbying the board to

2020 Premium rates: Class G1 - Building construction

Number of businesses	Percentage of all Schedule 1 businesses	Percentage of all Schedule 1 insurable earnings (2018)	Percentage of class at or below class rate (2020)	Percentage of class above class rate (2020)	Percentage of class projected below or at class rate	Percentage of class projected above class rate
26,001	9%	2%	15%	85%	15%	85%

Class G1 - Building construction	Number of businesses	Percentage of businesses in the class	Percentage of class insurable earnings (2018)	Percentage of businesses at or below the class rate (2020)	Percentage of businesses above class rate (2020)	Percentage of businesses projected below or at class rate	Percentage of businesses projected above class rate
Non-residential building construction (2362)	3,894	15%	51%	85%	15%	83%	17%
Residential building construction (2361)	22,107	85%	49%	2%	98%	2%	98%

separate the groups. Non-residential employers have consistently demonstrated better safety performances than their residential counterparts—including through initiatives such as lobbying to introduce the Certificate of Recognition program and building the League of Champions program.

Indeed, the safety performance of general contractors—as measured by the percentage of builders that pay more than the class rate—is significantly better than those of non-residential builders. Eighty-five percent of general contractors were at or below the class G1 premium rate in 2020, while just 2 percent of residential builders were at the same level.

"The board actually committed to this change about a year and a half ago when they were able to collect and study data that supported our claim," says Frame. "Their policy required a certain performance gap be established [between residential and non-residential builders] and maintained for three years before any adjustment could be made."

It's not yet clear to what extent the shift will change employers' premiums for 2021. Although residential employ-

ers account for 85 percent of the total number of employers in the G1 class, non-residential builders account for a slightly larger percentage (51 percent) of the total insurable earnings in the class.

The WSIB typically releases the following year's employer premiums in September.

Funding announced for League of Champions

The WSIB change wasn't the only announcement made by McNaughton during the webinar. He also indicated the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Developed had entered into a partnership with the OGCA to support the League of Champions program.

Under the arrangement, the government will provide \$75,000 in funding to support programs and initiatives being run by the league.

Craig Lesurf, chair of the League of Champions, explained that the group has struck a steering committee to decide how to use the funding.

"We will be supporting members and the construction industry as a whole," he said.

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Carleton University's new approach to procurement

A new director of facilities management has helped to transform some of its procurement practices, and put a number of ambitious new projects on its books.

There's a new approach to construction procurement at Carleton University—and a new face in charge of its oversight.

Gary Nower is the university's assistant vice-president (facilities management and planning). He joined Carleton in September 2018 and boasts a career in facilities management in the post-secondary sector that spans more than 30 years.

When Nower joined the team at Carleton University in 2018, he undertook a deep review of not only the university's facilities portfolio—which includes more than 50 buildings—but also of its procurement practices. The latter involved meeting with representatives from OCA as well as the General Contractors Association of Ottawa (GCAO).

“At the time, we heard about a few challenges with regard to our approach to procurement,” he says. “It was my intent to make things better—not only for Carleton University but also for our business partners. Fairness is important to me.”

The consultations with industry led Carleton to hire consultants Ernst & Young to conduct a thorough review of the university's procurement practices. That audit was completed last year, and yielded a number of important findings, many of which the university either has put in place, or is in the process of putting in place.

For example, the university heard that its vendor of record program lacked transparency. The university typically awarded vendor of record status to as many as 23 contractors in a given year, and was criticized for not providing bid feedback quick enough. Nower says Carleton has reduced the number of firms on its vendor list to up to nine, and that all contractors will be invited to bid on projects as they arise.

“The new vendor of record lists will also focus on special areas, such as building envelope, interior finishes and mechanical and electrical projects,” says Nower.



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Other changes will see the university move away from stipulated-sum contract arrangements to construction management and, in some cases, integrated project delivery methodologies—particularly for more complex projects. It has removed a requirement for general contractors to work with only pre-qualified subcontractors, and taken away the additional two-percent holdback it required for deficiencies.

“We also heard that we are slow to pay,” says Nower. “With an eye on the changes brought in by the new *Construction Act*, we’re rolling out a pilot project that will cut down on the number of people that review invoices before they are paid. Our goal is to turn around payment in 10 days. So we’ve taken a number of steps—including asking for invoices to be submitted electronically—that will help us meet that goal and keep pace with the provincial prompt payment rules.”

Down the road, the university also plans to introduce a performance evaluation program that rates contractor performance and would influence contractors’ standing on the vendor of record system—similar to the Vendor Performance Management system being used by the City of Ottawa.

In terms of forthcoming projects on the Carleton campus, Nower says there are a few plans in the works. The university has a budget of about \$18 million to spend on capital projects over the next five years. Some of the bigger projects underway at the moment include envelope work on its Loeb Building, renovations to its Paterson Hall, construction of the

Engineering Design Centre, which has been awarded to EllisDon, and construction of a new residence building, which is being performed by M. Sullivan and Son.

“We’re also hoping to position ourselves to take advantage of any stimulus funding coming from the federal and provincial governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Nower. “We have submitted applications for funding for a \$100-million wellness hub, and we’ve gone out for market for design work on a new engineering building.”

The final, and perhaps most ambitious, project on the university’s list calls for the campus to go completely carbon neutral by 2050. The facilities management team is in the latter stages of developing its energy master plan, which will complement its sustainability master plan. It is considering how converting to hot-water heating and adopting ground source heat pumping can help the university achieve this ambitious goal.

“We also have an open-space master plan in development which looks at how we can move the university away from the car-and-drive environment into something that is friendlier to bikes and feet.”

In just two years of leading Carleton’s facilities group, Nower has put his stamp on not only the university’s approach to procurement, but also its long-term goals for development. He’s eager to continue the challenge, and credits OCA and its members for sharing information and ideas to keep new ideas foremost in mind.

COVID Alert app coming soon

An official from Ontario Digital Services spoke to the League of Champions about COVID Alert, the new exposure notification app developed by government.



The Government of Ontario expects to roll out its new COVID-19 exposure-notification application within the next two weeks.

Jacob Korenblum, the senior manager of policy at the Ontario Digital Service, spoke to a League of Champions webinar on June 29 about the impending roll-out of the province's COVID Alert app, and the principles behind its design.

"The idea behind the app is to prioritize the safe return to work for folks across all sectors of Ontario's economy—all while protecting users' privacy," he said.

COVID Alert is being designed and developed by Canadian Digital Services using open source code called COVID Shield that was developed by volunteers from Ottawa-based e-commerce giant Shopify. It will be customized for use and appearance by the various provinces, and distributed for use on mobile devices through Apple's App Store and Google Play.

The app uses Bluetooth technology to capture data relating to interactions between two people. Korenblum called the interactions "digital handshakes." They are unique strings of code that capture data such as proximity between two users, duration of exposures, the number of days that have elapsed since the encounter, and the overall risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the user's province.

If a user tests positive for COVID-19 at a public health laboratory, he or she is given a code to enter into their COVID

Alert app, should they choose. The app then notifies all the people whose interactions with that person that have been logged via those digital handshakes may suggest a risk for COVID-19 transmission. All notification information is anonymous.

"The factors logged in the digital handshake are combined using weighted averages," Korenblum explained. "So you're unlikely to get a notification if you were in contact with someone for a very short period of time, or if you were more than two metres away from a carrier. On the other hand, if you do get a notification, you can be confident the information is accurate."

The idea behind the app is to notify as many people as possible about their potential exposure to someone carrying COVID-19 and to enable those people to self-isolate and get tested for the virus.


The app is a marked improvement over relying on a COVID patient's memory of his or her encounters over a two-week period, and relying on public health officials to contact all those people directly.

Plus, says Korenblum, user privacy is paramount.

"One of the reasons Canada Digital Services chose the COVID Shield solution is that it is highly privacy protective," Korenblum explained. "It does not record a user's personal data or personal health information. It does not use a phone's GPS technology, and it destroys all anonymized data after 21 days."

"You will never know who you were in contact with who may be carrying COVID-19."

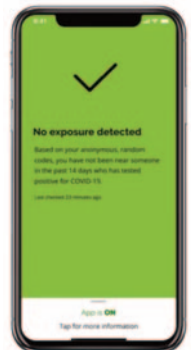
COVID Alert is expected to roll out across the country in early July, with updates planned as the pandemic evolves and public health guidance adjusts.

Ontario 

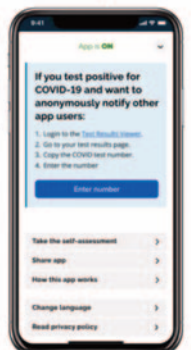
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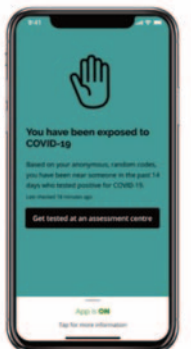
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Industry adapting, but concerns remain: OCS survey



The third in a series of surveys conducted by the Ontario Construction Secretariat shows contractors are taking a variety of steps to manage the impact of the pandemic on their sites and their operations, but worry about the effects of any potential second wave.

As contractors continue to operate their businesses and their work sites at full capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, their concerns are focused on ongoing health and safety, worker availability, and taking steps to prevent a second wave.

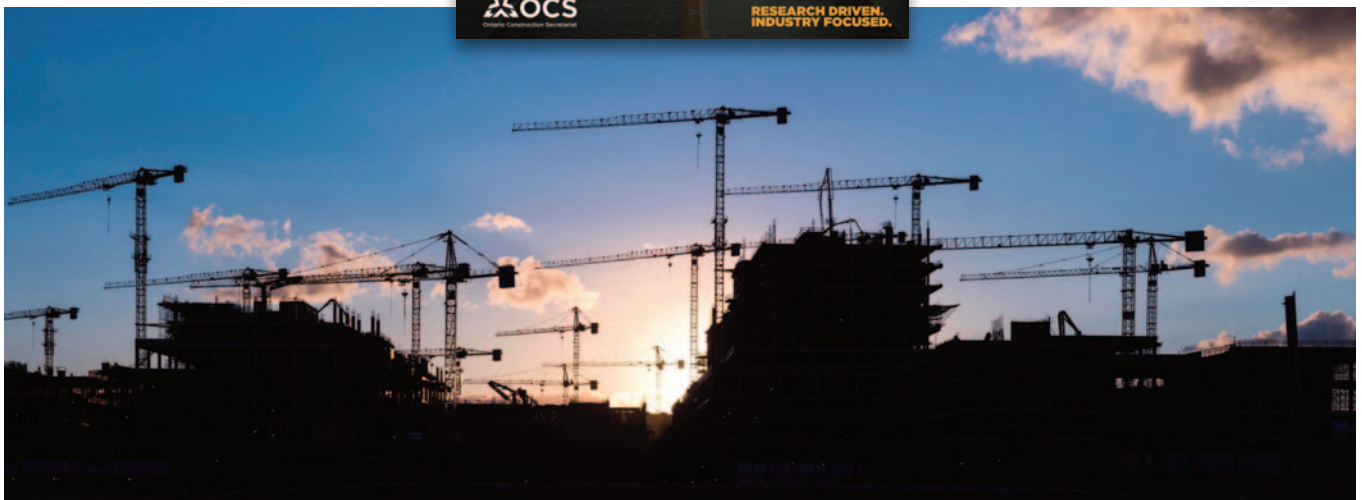
These were the findings of the third in a series of surveys conducted by the Ontario Construction Secretariat. Held over a week in the middle of June, the survey asked more than 200 contractors from the province's industrial, commercial and institutional sectors about the steps they are taking to adapt to the new reality forced on them by the pandemic, and the impacts of the pandemic to date on their businesses.

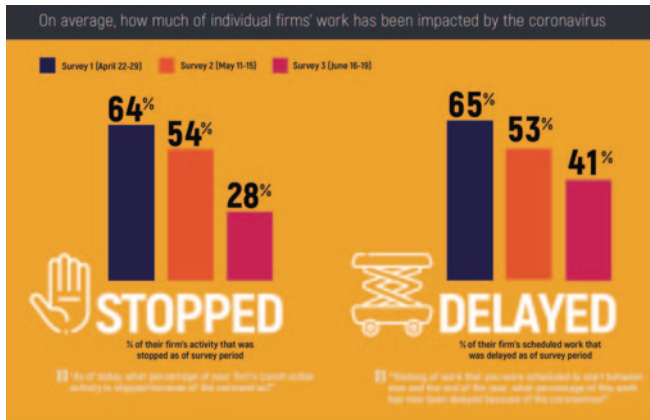
Contractors' principal concern as they return to work is the potential for a second wave of COVID-19 cases in the province. Their second concern: ensuring workers' health and safety. Of note is that since the second edition of the OCS survey, there has been a significant increase in contractors' concerns over their ability to get skilled workers, and the impacts of supply chain disruptions. Other concerns included maintaining productivity while practising physical distancing, and the speedy approval of shovel-ready projects.

Asked about the extent to which their work had been impacted by the pandemic, only 28 percent said their work had been stopped at the time of the survey. That figure was down

from 54 percent in OCS's second survey and 64 percent in the first survey. Delays, however, remain a problem for contractors. Forty-one percent of respondents' work was delayed at the time of the survey. One in three respondents said they have experienced significant delays in getting building permits processed.

Procurement is starting to trend in the right direction on the strength of more contractors saying they are doing more work than usual, and fewer saying they are seeing less bidding than usual. More than half of respondents said they are doing the same amount or more bidding than usual, compared to 38 percent at the time of the previous survey.





Bidding is changing as a result of the pandemic. Nearly 90 percent of contractors reported that owners are now including new health and safety requirements on projects. More than half are also saying that there is a redistribution of risk sharing, and one in four saying they are issuing higher bids than usual to accommodate for pandemic-induced changes.

With relevance to worksite trends, 93 percent of contractors believe they are meeting enhanced sanitation standards on their sites and 42 percent of contractors consider the morale of their workers to have improved for that reason. Over two-thirds (68 percent) of contractors want enhanced sanitation practices to continue permanently and just over half (52 percent) of contractors have observed an increase in government enforcement of health and safety standards.

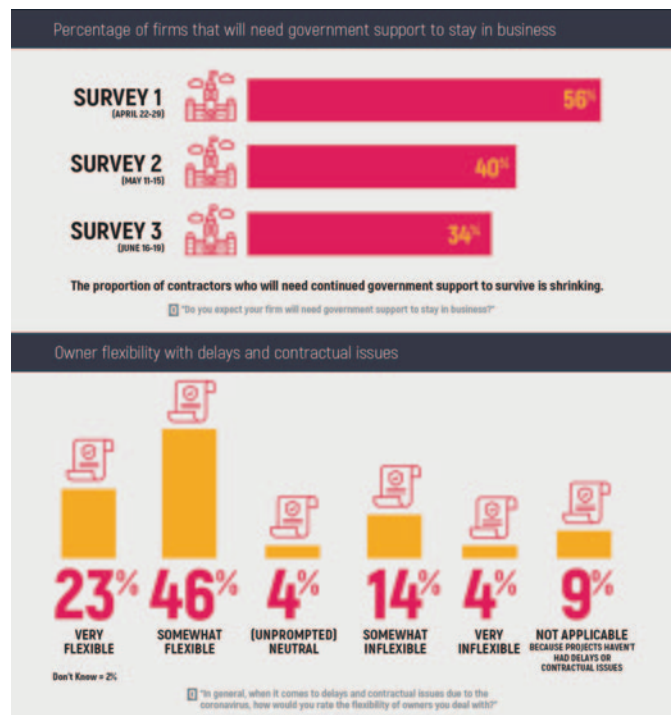
Some of the measures contractors have put in place to promote or maintain physical distancing include additional washroom facilities (45 percent), additional break trailers (30 percent), and adding more parking spaces to help workers avoid carpooling (26 percent).

Not surprisingly, revenue for the year to date, and revenue expectations for the year as a whole, are down. Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of firms said they have less revenue compared to this time last year. The average loss was 29 percent. The same percentage forecasted less revenue in 2020. They expect to earn 23 percent less in 2020 than in 2019.

Contractors expect that project costs will increase by 13 percent due to the new personal protective equipment and physical distancing requirements. Some of the factors driving those costs include the need for additional equipment, adjustments to site production schedules to meet physical distancing requirements, time spent cleaning sites and equipment, and daily worker tracking and monitoring.



So how has the pandemic changed contractors' thinking? The survey asked about new investments contractors planned to make. These included strengthening supply chains (45 percent), augmenting temperature checking capabilities (36 percent), digitizing processes (34 percent), strengthening or adopting collaboration tools such as BIM (27 percent), and adopting or increasing their use of modular and offsite construction (14 percent).



"It is now over 100 days since our lives were turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic," says Katherine Jacobs, director of research with the OCS. "Contractors by their very nature are born adaptors and this survey shows how the industry continues to adapt as it re-emerges from this global pandemic."

"Health and safety remains top of mind, but concerns of a second wave of shutdowns and more immediately, the supply of labour are weighing on contractors. Although far from normal, contractors are adapting to new requirements, seeking out new supply chains, bidding work and restarting delayed projects. It's not business as usual, but the industry is adapting and looking forward to the announcement of new shovel-worthy infrastructure projects."

AROUND OTTAWA A HOT SPREAD

PHOTOS BY DORAN CONTRACTORS LIMITED



Waterford Barrhaven Town Centre

Project Address: 125 Marketplace Avenue
General Contractor: Doran Contractors Limited

Consultants and OCA member participants

Structural Engineering

Civil Engineering

Landscape Architect

Mechanical &

Electrical Engineering

Commissioning

Building Envelope

Geotechnical

Traction Elevators

Architect & Interior Design

Project Manager

Excavation & Backfill,

Site Services

Formwork

Reinforcing Steel

Concrete

Masonry

Structural Steel

Roofing

Plumbing

HVAC

Electrical

Drywall

Painting

Elevator

Cleland Jardine Engineering Ltd.

Robinson Consultants Inc.

Lashley + Associates Corporation*

Le Groupe Dupras Ledoux Inc.*

Multivista Systems LLC*

Buchan, Lawton Parent Ltd.*

Kollaard Associates Inc.*

Rooney, Irving & Associates Ltd.*

Neuf Architect(e)s SENCRL*

Steve Strathearn

Dufresne Piling Company (1976) Ltd.

Bellai Brothers Construction Ltd.

AGF Steel Inc. (Ottawa Division)

Lafarge Canada Inc.

George and Asmussen Limited – G & A Masonry

Simcon Steel Ltd.

DWS Roofing and Waterproofing Services Inc.

S & R Mechanical

X-L-Air Energy Services Ltd.

Ziebarth Electrical Contractors Ltd.

Korban Ltd. – Drywall Contractors

Piamonte Painting and Wall Covering

OTIS Canada Inc.

* denotes non-member firm





PHOTOS BY FIA GROUP



Ottawa Real Estate Board

Project Address: 1826 Woodward Drive
General Contractor: FIA Group

Consultants and OCA member participants

Consultant	Adjeleian Allen Rubeli Ltd.
Designer	InTempo Design Studio*
Project Manager	Tony Pimentel, GSC
Concrete	Modernized Construction Services Inc.
Masonry	Malwood (9135545 Canada Inc.)
Plumbing	Delangis Plumbing Inc.
Electrical	Lamarche Electric Inc.

* denotes non-member firm



AROUND OTTAWA

A PHOTO SPREAD

PHOTOS BY TERLIN CONSTRUCTION



Body and Mind Athletics

Project Address: 5517 Manotick Main
General Contractor: Terlin Construction

Consultants and OCA member participants

Consultant	Goodkey Weedmark & Associates Ltd.
Designer	TRUform Interiors*
Project Manager	Cosmin Vapit
Excavation & Backfill,	AJ Construction (Ottawa) Ltd.
Site Services, Concrete,	
Cutting & Coring	
HVAC	Midnight Mechanical
Doors and Frames	Merlin Door Systems Ltd.
Millwork	Terlin Construction
Flooring	Adriatic Tile & Flooring Ltd.

* denotes non-member firm





PHOTOS BY VCL

Farm Boy – Ottawa Train Yards

Project Address: 830 Belfast Road

General Contractor: VCL

Consultants and OCA member participants

Consultant	McRobie Architects + Interior Designers
Structural Engineering	SNC Lavalin Environment
Mechanical Engineering	The Mitchell Partnership*
Electrical Engineering	Hammerslag & Joffe Inc.*
Soils & Material Testing	Paterson Group Inc. Constr Geotechnical & Enviro
Project Manager	Dax Buckberrough
Site Superintendent	Michael A. Nickoluk - GSI
Excavation & Backfill, Site Services	R.W. Tomlinson Limited
Reinforcing Steel	Acier DM Steel
Concrete	Tomlinson Ready mix
Structural Steel	Simcon Steel Ltd.
Roofing	DWS Roofing and Waterproofing Services Inc.
Plumbing	S & R Mechanical
Electrical	KE Electrical Ltd.
Sprinkler Systems	Viking Fire Protection Inc.
Glazing	Transit Glass & Aluminum Ltd.
Drywall	Ottawa Acoustic RL Inc.
Flooring	Adriatic Tile and Flooring Ltd.

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SAC releases new bond form for IPD projects

The \$180-million Third Crossing bridge project in Kingston is the first project of its kind to be delivered under the IPD model.

Designed to be used in conjunction with the CCDC-30 Integrated Project Delivery Contract, the new bond protects against default of one of the project principals.

The Surety Association of Canada (SAC) has released a new specialty bid form designed for use with Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) models.

As IPD is increasingly being used on projects throughout the country—including on the Third Crossing Bridge in Kingston and the Royal Canadian Dragoons project at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa—the organization identified a gap in the use of bonds.

It found that IPD proponents tended to dismiss concerns about the need for protection against contractor failure. Contractors told SAC that the all-hands-on-deck approach of the IPD arrangement and a coordinated focus on the common interest among IPD partners diminished any such risk to the point of being insignificant.

SAC president Steve Ness suggests that attitude may overlook some risk elements.

“Bonding companies have learned the hard way that the risk of contractor default doesn’t always originate within the

four walls of the project itself,” he said. “Many and perhaps most of the issues that give rise to project contractor failure are business or finance related and may have little or nothing to do with that contractor’s ability to successfully perform the work on any particular project.”

Ness pointed out that replacing a failed contractor midway through a construction project can be an expensive proposition, which begs the question: What would happen if a major participant in an IPD contract were to become insolvent?

SAC says its new template performance bond responds to the particular structure and working dynamics of the IPD project arrangement. In creating the product, SAC said it undertook a comprehensive review of the relationships among IPD contract. It further identified the points of vulnerability to the risk of failure of any of the participants to the IPD team.



Royal Canadian Dragoons project at Canadian Forces Base Petawawa

The new bond template has been designed to be used in conjunction the CCDC-30 – Integrated Project Delivery Contract, and can be modified to suit variations on the IPD theme. Highlights of the new tool include:

- an arrangement that suggests each project participant posts its own bond as a way of guaranteeing its performance under the IPD contract,
- identifying the project owner as the sole obligee under the bond,
- protection for the owner from any increase in costs that result from a principal's default and termination, and
- a claim on the bond that can be advanced when the principal is in default of its obligation and its participation in the project has been terminated by the other members of the IPD team.

"The risk of a major contractor insolvency or failure, if not adequately managed can have catastrophic consequences to the project and all of its participants," says Ness. "A surety instrument specifically created for use on IPD projects will go a long way to mitigating that risk."



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PCL lends expertise to Citizen Care Pod



A mobile COVID-19 testing unit is being developed by a group of leaders from the design and construction industries.

PCL Construction is part of a team of Canadian businesses that has designed and built customizable mobile COVID-19 testing units.

Launched on June 16, the Citizen Care Pod is a smart screening and testing pod that integrates intelligent technology in a modular design. Each pod is customizable, and out-

fitted with the capabilities to enable turnkey mobile COVID-19 testing in high-traffic environments. The goal of the service is to not only provide relief to hospitals, but also empower businesses and communities to be leaders in health promotion and disease prevention.

"The Citizen Care Pod is a turnkey solution that accelerates recovery for businesses and public institutions, such as airports, offices, sports and entertainment complexes, and construction sites," says Carl Demarco, the co-founder of Citizen Care Pods Corporation.

PCL's role in the project is in part as constructor of the units. The company is using modular construction methods to manufacture and assemble the pods. It is retrofitting ship-

ping containers with customizable options to support rapid delivery and installation to any site, including high-traffic or remote locations.

Each pod is a retrofitted 20-foot or 40-foot shipping container that is equipped with four to 10 testing stations that separate front-line testing administrators from patients to be tested or screened.

PCL has also brought its Job Site Insights technology system to bear on the project. The software is being used to monitor climate conditions such as temperature, pressure and humidity within the pod, and can notify occupants when thresholds are exceeded.

Supplementing Job Site Insights is the Insight Connected Platform, which enables care givers to monitor wait times and crowd sizing via a single dashboard.

“At PCL, we anticipate challenges and are proactive in developing solutions that make construction safer, more efficient and more sustainable,” says PCL’s vice-president and district manager Kelly Wallace. “The Citizen Care Pod’s modular construction and integrated technology make it a sustainable, plug-and-play solution that can be rapidly deployed to support the safe reopening of our economy.”

PCL is manufacturing the Citizen Care Pods at two Canadian facilities: in Etobicoke, Ontario and Nisku, Alberta, as

well as at a handful of locations across the United States. Using modular enables the company to build and prepare units for quick installation, cut down costs using economies of scale, standardize work and automate processes, and reduce embodied energy and waste.

Each completed pod can be installed with a forklift or positioned in place from a flatbed truck.

Also working alongside on the project are WZMH Architects. Partner Zenon Radewych co-founded Citizen Care Pods Corporation with Demarco.

“Even though the benefits of the Citizen Care Pod are far-reaching, the design and construction process was uniquely local because we could only use local materials and parts,” says Radewych. “The story of the Citizen Care Pod is really a story of the entrepreneurial spirit during the coronavirus pandemic.”

The creators believe Citizen Care Pod has applications beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. It can include capabilities for testing and screening for flu season and viral outbreaks, delivering vaccines, and can be further augmented to address future public health needs.

Citizen Care Pods Corporation is in negotiations with a national lab diagnostics company to deliver a reliable testing experience for Citizen Care Pod patients.



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Province releases spring P3 market update

Five new projects were added. Expect a fuller update in the fall, says Infrastructure Minister.

The Government of Ontario released its Spring 2020 P3 Market Update on June 18, and while the document lists 37 projects—worth a combined total of more than \$60 billion—that are in various stages of procurement, the update offers information on only five new projects.

Added to the list since the fall 2020 update are the expansions of Highway 3 from the Town of Essex to Leamington (worth less than \$200 million), the expansion of Highway 17 from Arnprior to Renfrew (worth between \$200 million and \$499 million), planned RFPs to be issued for the Scarborough Subway extension and the Eglinton Crosstown West extension (both valued at more than \$1 billion), and the Brampton Courthouse Addition phase 2 and Toronto Regional Jail Centre.

Also included on the list are two of the three requests for qualifications for the Ontario Line subway system—one for the rolling stock, systems, operations and maintenance, and the other for the southern civil work, stations and tunnel—that were announced by the province earlier in June. The third RFQ is expected to come to market in winter 2022.

In total, the update includes 17 civil projects, 16 health care, three community safety, and one children's treatment centre. Twenty-four of these are already in procurement, and 13 are in the pre-transaction phase. A further 13 are included in the planning phase.

Of note is that while the province says it is committed to delivering the 16 projects listed in the health care sector, the spring update suggests that the timing of these projects may be subject to change due to the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Infrastructure Ontario and the Ministries of Infrastructure and Health have been working closely to identify ways to enhance the capacity of health care services as the province confronts the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19," wrote



Infrastructure Ontario president and CEO Ehren Cory in his introductory letter to the report. "The Ministry [of Health] is continuing to review specific timing details for individual projects. We expect additional updates for hospital/health care projects will be included in IO's Fall 2020 Market Update."

Infrastructure Minister Laurie Scott said the release of the pipeline is a clear indication of the province's commitment to the public-private partnership delivery model, and proof positive of its intent to act on infrastructure stimulus spending.

"The message today is clear, our government is moving from shovel ready to shovels in the ground," said Scott. "The P3 Market Update signals to the infrastructure sector that Ontario remains committed to major infrastructure projects including subways, highways, health care and community safety projects. This is stimulus that will create jobs and contribute to the economic recovery of our province."

The minister was joined by Cory on a video conference with Mark Romoff, president of the Canadian Council for Public Private Partnerships, to present the spring market update. During the discussion, Romoff asked Scott to speak to the cancellation of the Hamilton LRT project and the Halton Regional Courthouse, both of which have drawn criticism.

The minister said the decisions to cancel both were made independent of one another, and for very different reasons.

"When the pandemic hit, the office of the Attorney General saw it had to shift the way it delivered services from physical to digital," she said. "The space created in the Halton Courthouse project was no longer needed, and the money could be better invested elsewhere."

The transit project, she said, was a question of cost overruns.

In both cases, she said the government is working hard to replace the projects and bringing new infrastructure work to Hamilton.

The province plans to release another market update in the summer, and a more comprehensive update in the fall.

Four Eastern Ontario projects listed

Those projects listed in Eastern Ontario in the market update report include:

- widening 22.5 kilometres of Highway 17 from Arnprior to Renfrew, valued between \$200M and \$499M
- Correctional Eastern Capital Strategy, value TBD
- Kingston General Hospital Redevelopment, phase 2, valued between \$500M and \$1B
- The Ottawa Hospital – Civic Redevelopment, valued at more than \$2B

In addition, the report lists the CHEO Integrated Treatment Centre as being early in the planning process.

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OGCA says goodbye to Clive Thurston, announces Giovanni Cautillo as president

Clive Thurston steps into retirement, but will remain with the association in a consulting capacity.

The Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) has a new leader.

Long-time president Clive Thurston officially retired from the position he has held for nearly 20 years. Replacing Thurston is Giovanni Cautillo, the former executive director and chief operating officer of both the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association (GTSWCA) and the Ontario Sewer Watermain Construction Association (OSWCA).

The association announced Cautillo's appointment in a YouTube video on June 1.

In a brief online introduction, Cautillo said he was honoured and privileged to assume direction of the 80-plus year old association, and said his goal was to continue to build on the work done by Thurston and the other staff at OGCA.

Meanwhile, on May 29, Procore hosted a send-off webinar for Thurston. In it, host Sanjeev Dhillon, field marketing manager for Procore Canada, asked Thurston to reflect on some of his accomplishments in the industry and with the association.

Thurston said he joined OGCA at a time when the association was in transition. Under his leadership, he brought a spirit of cooperation to not only the association's membership, but also key players in the province's construction industry. Where previously, owners understood they could influence construction activities by playing parties against one another, Thurston said, the combined efforts of OGCA and partners like the Consulting Engineers of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Architects elevated construction's standing and influence in the eyes of owners.

"We saw that although we worked at the industry from different perspectives, we shared interests," he said. "Our groups—and others—came together to form alliances like the

Construction Design Alliance of Ontario and the Construction Employers Council, and we changed the face of the industry. We brought people together, and communicated, and stood up to owners who were making things difficult for us—and we won.

"We understood that when we acted together, people would listen to us, and we could change things for the better."

One of the issues of which Thurston said he was proudest was the association's work on prompt payment in Ontario. OGCA was among several groups that helped to shape the outcome of the province's prompt payment regime, and create the system by which money flows more quickly and reliably through the construction pyramid.

Thurston also said he was proud of the work done by the OGCA to advance the cause of health and safety among Ontario contractors. The association's approach was to transform the discussion around the issue into one around cultural change, rather than a regulatory issue.

Doing so helped create fewer on-site incidents (OGCA members record 40 percent fewer long-term injuries than other general contractors, Thurston said), and helped the association bring the Certificate of Recognition program to the province as a standard for health and safety management.

OGCA also led the way to creating the League of Champions—a safety networking group for signatory members.

One of the things Thurston was most passionate about during his term as OGCA president was contract fairness. Time and again, his association would fight back against owners that had inserted onerous or otherwise unfair language and terms in their construction documents. OGCA members worked together to present unified fronts before owners that inserted such clauses. They qualified bids or refused to bid work.

"Confrontation has disappeared as a result," he said. "A few owners are still inserting these kinds of clauses, but contractors know to price these jobs accordingly to allow for any trouble they're letting in. All we've ever asked for is fairness, and I think we've made a lot of good strides on that."

Having said that, Thurston cautioned that the job is far from done. As those procurement officers he worked with closely start to retire, a new generation of officers who lack the same corporate knowledge, have to be re-educated.

Looking ahead to retirement, Thurston said he plans to stay on with OGCA to mentor Cautillo as much as possible. He also intends to remain available to the association and its members as an independent consultant and a certified arbitrator and mediator.



CCA opens applications for enhanced CONtact mentorship program



The program connects innovators and entrepreneurs with experienced industry mentors in an effort to bring novel solutions to the construction marketplace.

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) is now accepting applications for its 2020–21 CONtact Innovator Mentorship program.

Now into its third year, the program matches innovators and entrepreneurs who are creating new solutions for the construction industry with experienced industry leaders to help refine their products and services—from start-up to scale-up for fast-track adoption.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the construction industry has a renewed interest and desire to fast-track innovation,” said CCA president Mary Van Buren. “The CONtact Innovator Mentorship program provides the perfect first step to identifying new innovative solutions.”

Last year, the program received more than 30 applications from innovators and entrepreneurs, and attracted a list of prominent mentor partners that included EllisDon, BIRD, Flynn Group of Companies and Associated Engineering—among others.

Among the 15 innovators and entrepreneurs identified by an independent advisory panel to work with industry mentors were such companies as Pay Prompt, Mechasys, Point3D Commercial Imaging and Kognitiv Spark. Some mentees may have also received pilot orders from their mentor partners, although that information is confidential.

New to the program for 2020 is a Contractors Den-style pitch where three mentees will travel to the CCA’s 2021 annual conference, and be given an opportunity to pitch their solutions to a panel of industry experts.

“One of the biggest challenges for innovators and entrepreneurs developing new solutions is gaining access to executives in the industry to get feedback on their solutions. Equally, it can be difficult for the industry to learn about leading-edge solutions that can dramatically improve their businesses,” says Van Buren. “While CONtact provides the platform to overcome that challenge, we are adding further



value to the program by offering the top three mentees the opportunity to attend the 2021 CCA conference, and pitch their solution to industry experts.”

CCA is now inviting applications from innovators and entrepreneurs, as well as construction experts who have five or more years of industry practice, or who have experience bringing innovative solutions to market, to apply for the program. Applications for both are being accepted at cca-acc.com/contact through August 30.

CCA will announce the list of successful applicants in September, with mentor meetings scheduled for October through next March.

The CONtact Innovator Mentorship program is presented with the support from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program.



Support needed for municipal infrastructure investments: RCCAO report

A report commissioned by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario suggests an urgent need for senior governments to support municipal counterparts.

A new report prepared for the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) suggests that if the provincial and federal governments don't work together to help their municipal counterparts recover from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, employment and tax revenues will take a major hit over the next 30 years.

It's no secret that municipal governments are facing serious economic shortfalls as a result of the pandemic. Many services are on hold, staff are being laid off, and revenue streams such as transit fares and user fees have all but dried up as members of the general public observe physical-distancing guidelines.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities recently estimated that local governments face a short-term financial gap of between \$10 billion and \$15 billion. The City of Ottawa estimates its year-end deficit will be in the neighbourhood of \$192 million. Toronto Mayor John Tory has forecasted a loss of revenue of \$1.5 billion by year's end. That's a problem as Ontario's *Municipal Act* does not allow municipalities to run deficits. Cities across the

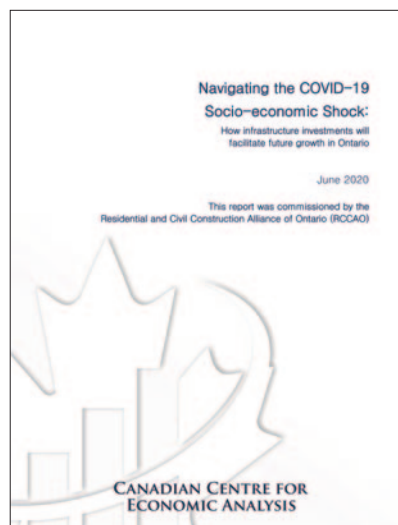
province will therefore have to implement measures to address their operating losses.

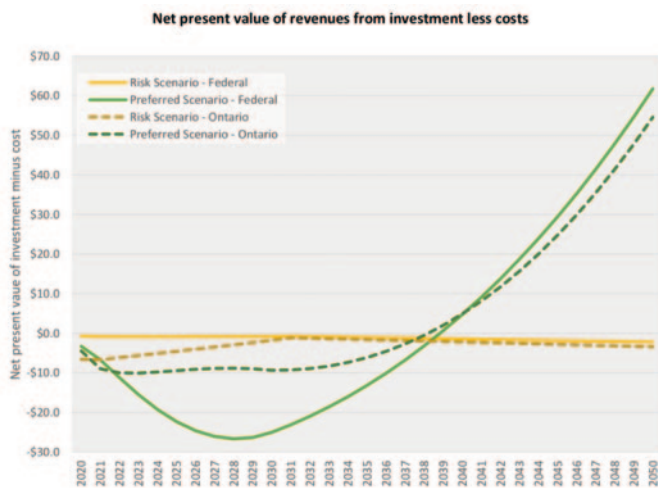
The RCCAO report, *Navigating the COVID-19 Socio-economic Shock: How Infrastructure Investments Will Facilitate Future Growth in Ontario*, was prepared by the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA). It suggests that growing municipal operating deficits could compromise those infrastructure investments being targeted by the federal and provincial governments as part of their plans to reboot the economy during the pandemic.

It further warns that if the Government of Ontario were to dip into its provincial capital budget to help alleviate municipalities' deficits, it would have less money available for new infrastructure projects. Alternatively, were the federal and provincial governments to do nothing to help municipalities close their deficits, the lower levels of government would have to cut even more jobs, and further erode their abilities to serve the public.

"Governments face a stark choice as they plan for the post-COVID-19 recovery," said RCCAO executive director Andy Manahan. "Failure to address municipal deficits and maintain infrastructure spending would have devastating economic consequences on Ontario citizens and businesses."

The report researchers propose two scenarios over the next 10 to 30 years, based on differing levels of infrastructure spending. In a risk scenario, the federal and





provincial governments' infrastructure investments are unchanged from pre-pandemic levels—at 0.4 percent and 2.4 percent of GDPs respectively. Additionally, the province draws from its capital budget to help offset municipal deficits.

A preferred scenario sees federal and provincial infrastructure investments again unchanged, but the federal government makes an additional contribution of \$3 billion to Ontario's capital budget that covers 56 percent of municipal operating deficits.

The difference between the two models is stark.

In the risk scenario, the province loses 55,000 jobs over 10 years and more than 79,000 over 30 years. Moreover, the federal and provincial governments lose \$8 billion and \$12 billion in taxation revenue over the same period, and \$36 billion and \$51 billion over 30 years.

The preferred scenario, on the other hand, creates an additional 61,000 jobs over 10 years, while boosting federal and provincial revenues by \$9 billion and \$13 billion, respectively. Over 30 years, the job gain climbs to 189,000 and the federal and Ontario governments will see an increase in their taxation revenue of \$86 billion and \$123 billion, respectively.

RCCAO has said it welcomes the announcement of the federal government to accelerate \$2.2 billion in funding from the Gas Tax Fund to support municipalities. However, it urged federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau and Infrastructure and Communities Minister Catherine McKenna to heed its report findings.

In addition, the alliance says it is concerned by the potential of the COVID-19 crisis to worsen Ontario's already-growing infrastructure gap. While spending on state-of-good repair projects is labour intensive, and often seen as a good solution to providing immediate economic impact, the report stresses that also investing in major projects is important for boosting long-term growth.

"These are unprecedented times which demand bold measures," said CANCEA president Paul Smetanin. "Decisions that are made today about how much to invest in infrastructure and how to address municipal operating deficits will have far-reaching impacts on our future."

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Conference Board sees rebound ahead in 2021

It's unlikely growth rates in Ontario will return to pre-pandemic levels much before the second quarter of next year—such is the extent of the damage done by COVID-19.



Hold on tight for what will be Canada's worst-ever economic contraction.

That's the news coming from the Conference Board of Canada in its latest outlook summary document for the country. The board is forecasting a drop in gross domestic product of 8.2 percent for Canada as a whole, and a drop of 3.6 percent for Ontario.

The good news is, the board says, the economic recovery is underway and will on gain further steam as governments allow businesses to resume operations, and relax physical distancing measures.

The board is forecasting a bounce-back of 6.7 percent in national GDP growth in 2021 and a further 4.8 percent growth in 2022. Although it adds that the extent of the damage caused by the pandemic means a return to normal won't be quite as quick as some have hoped.

"This rebound is more in line with a "U" shaped recovery as opposed to a "V" recovery that would have seen growth increase at a faster pace," says Alicia Macdonald, associate director of economic forecasting. "It reflects the tremendous uncertainty that will be a fact of life in the world economy over the next year or so as economies grapple with the continued health risks associated with the virus."

One of the challenges for the national economy is unemployment. The pandemic displaced more than five million Canadians from work to at least some degree between March and May, and while people are gradually returning to work as businesses re-open, the Conference Board projects employment to remain about 1.1 million lower at the end of this year than it was at the end of 2019.

Consumer spending is expected to suffer as a result. After an 11.3 percent drop in consumer spending in the first quarter of 2020, the board projects a further drop in spending of 57.5 percent in the second quarter.

Business confidence is also expected to recover slowly. Exports are forecast to contract by 14.3 percent in 2020 as a result of reduced global demand, and businesses are reluctant to invest in new capacity. The board expects a drop of 11.3 percent in private sector investments this year.

Finally, the board expects the federal deficit to end the year at more than \$250 billion—by far the largest in the country's history.

Ontario recovery to start in second half

The pandemic has hit Ontario hard. Which the Conference Board expects the province's GDP to drop by 3.6 percent by the end of the year, a contraction of nearly 23 percent in the second quarter has more than countered any expectations for growth that were in place at the beginning of this year.

The board expects Ontario's economy to pick up team in the second half of the year as more regions of the province move to the second stage of the province's re-opening plan. The board expects growth of 5.9 percent in 2021, but cautions that the province's economy won't return

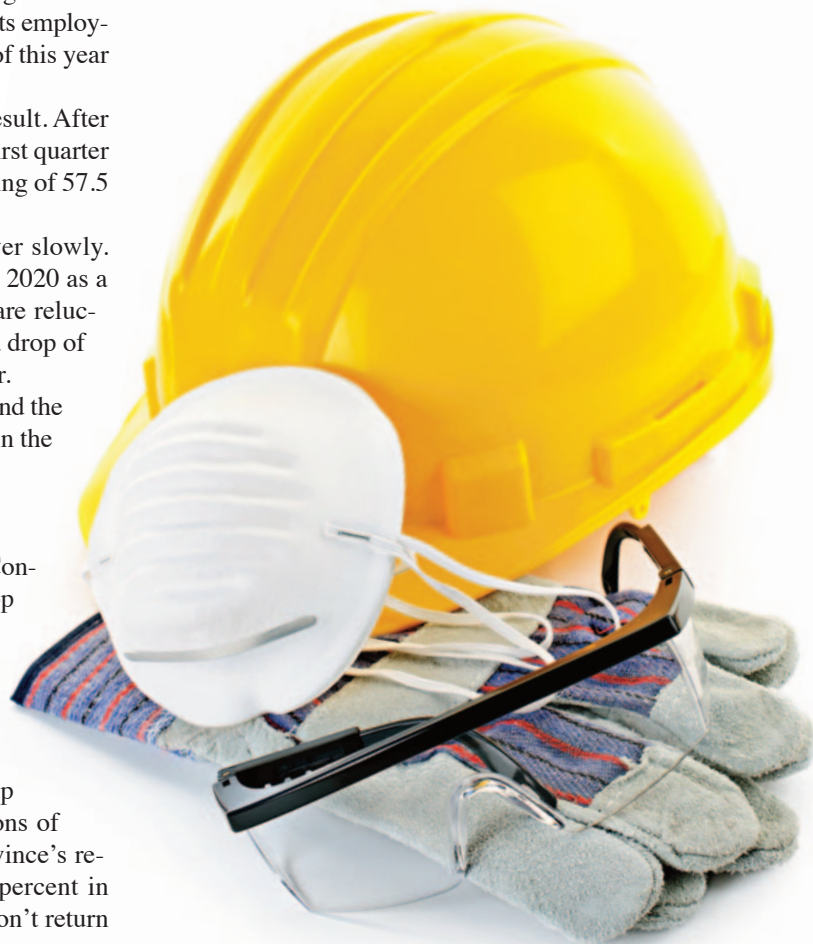
to levels seen in the fourth quarter of 2019 much before the second quarter of next year.

Many of the same challenges faced by Canada's economy—large numbers of job losses, reduced consumer spending, and a lack of business confidence—will also bog down Ontario's economy.

The good news is, demand for housing in Ontario remains strong. The board expects housing starts to jump in the second half of the year. After a drop of 22 percent in residential investment in the second quarter, the housing market is expected to pick back up over the rest of the year. The Conference Board sees housing starts to rise to around 80,000 per quarter in 2021, and growth rates of 3.4 percent in 2021 and 2.5 percent from 2022 to 2024.

What is less certain is how non-residential investment will fare. With COVID-19 demonstrating that most office work can be conducted remotely, and that most office facilities are properly equipped to allow for physical distancing, the pandemic may cause a widespread reduction in demand for office space.

The Conference Board reports that business confidence reached a record low in the first quarter of this year, leaving many businesses wary about investing in their operations. It expects non-residential investment to fall by 5.9 percent in 2020 before rebounding to 5.2 percent growth in 2021.



Help support the Ron de Vries award of excellence fund

As a celebration of the life and work of our good friend and colleague Ron de Vries, the journalism program at Algonquin College announced recently that it has created the Ron de Vries Award of Excellence for Photojournalism.

Ron, as many know, was a long-time contributor to this publication, an instructor at Algonquin College, and a mentor to many. He passed away suddenly last summer.

The Ron de Vries Award of Excellence will provide much needed funding to students in the college's journalism program who wish to do what Ron did: follow their passions for photography and turn those skills into a viable career.

The college is looking for donors to contribute to the award fund in Ron's name. Its goal is to raise \$15,000. Please consider making a donation in honour of Ron and his legacy. <https://www.algonquincollege.com/advancement/ways/featured-funds/ron-de-vries>



Photos by Ron de Vries Photography



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John DeVries receives honorary degree

Congratulations to OCA's own John DeVries!

In recognition of a career in construction that has spanned more than 40 years, Algonquin College presented John with an honorary degree.

The degree pays tribute to John's excellent work not only with OCA, but also the Canadian Construction Association, the Electrical Contractors Association of Ottawa, and the Ottawa Construction Labour Relations Association. It also recognizes OCA's work—through John—in raising the more than \$7.5 million the college needed to fund construction of its Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence.

Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence



Honorary Degree Recipient

John DeVries

John DeVries is the President of the Ottawa Construction Association, a position he has held for more than 20 years. He is also the General Manager of the Ottawa Construction Labour Relations Association, which is the employer bargaining agent for many contractors.

All of which goes to say that John knows construction. That knowledge has been gained over a four-decade career dedicated to construction industry leadership at the local and national level.

John's career began in 1981 when, after obtaining a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) degree from Carleton University, he leveraged a few courses on labour relations and his experience as a construction labourer into a position as a Labour Relations Officer with the Canadian Construction Association. The job involved supporting construction employer organizations in collective bargaining with building trades unions.

Over the years John rose to become the association's Senior Vice President, responsible for the advocacy on behalf of construction personnel, including the interprovincial Red Seal Trade Certification system. John is particularly proud of leading the association's introduction of the Gold Seal Certification program for supervisory and estimating personnel. More than 10,000 individuals now possess this certification.

John also had the opportunity to twice represent Canadian employers at the International Labour Organization in Geneva and was an Employer member of the Canadian Labour Market Productivity Centre.

As General Manager of the Ottawa Construction Labour Relations Association, John serves as employer bargaining agent for about 100 unionized construction industry employers.

In 1998, John became President of the Ottawa Construction Association, which serves as the voice of 1350 firms primarily active in the commercial construction market. His role is one of promoting high industry standards and advocating on behalf of members.

One of the association's proudest accomplishments was its role in the building of the Algonquin Centre of Construction Excellence. With John at the helm, the organization rallied the industry to donate \$7.5 million to the project and lobbied federal and provincial politicians to support it.

Projects listed in May 2020

Project # 0839 - 1054 Owner/Agency	May 2020	Year to date
City of Ottawa	37	149
PWGSC & Other Federal Depts.	20	100
NRC	4	5
DCC	11	27
NCC	1	6
Provincial & Other Municipalities	72	365
Private Owners & Developers	0	12
Community Housing	4	22
Museums	0	7
Health Care Facilities	0	18
Schools	16	42
Universities & Colleges	4	24
Brookfield	5	85
Prequalifications	8	64
Notice Only	34	128
Duplicate	0	0
May 2019	275	1,409
Total	216	1,054
% change	-21.5	-25.2

*Prequalifications and Notice Only were previously combined in the same category.

OCA offices are back open, and on summer hours



For those that didn't already know, we re-opened our offices fully on June 1.

All staff are back in the office, and we are handling our usual transactions—such as statutory declarations, drawing orders, and sales of items like safety posters and CCDC contracts and seals.

Although we're taking every precaution to keep our visitors and staff safe during our office hours, we're asking members to please consider doing business with us online instead of in person. You can always place orders for posters and CCDC documents through our website, and Kathy Morocz and Stephanie Wallace are still handling statutory declarations virtually.

Our hours for the rest of the summer are as follows:

- Monday – Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



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#LunchBoxChallenge – are you in?

A number of OCA members have proudly participated in the #LunchBoxChallenge—and they've challenged others to do the same.

The idea of the #LunchBoxChallenge is simple: a construction company buys lunches for its site or sites, and nominate another company to do the same. The initiative is a great way to thank your hard-working crews and support local restaurants that are being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those members that have already accepted and/or completed the #LunchBoxChallenge include:

- Laurin General Contractors
- Cavanagh Construction
- Crepin Cartage
- Thunderbolt Contracting
- Pomerleau
- M Sullivan & Son
- Certika Financial
- A1 Carpentry
- Broccolini
- R. W. Tomlinson
- Louis W. Bray Construction
- Thomas Fuller Construction Co. Ltd.

Stephanie Wallace is coordinating the challenge for OCA members. She can answer any questions and explain some of the measures that are required to keep the challenge safe and fun for everyone. Contact her at stephanie@oca.ca, and be sure to follow OCA on social media for the latest updates on the challenge!



Unofficial bid results over \$500,000: May 2020

JOB #	DESCRIPTION	BID
OCA-20-0700	Rural Road Upgrade and Pavement Preservation	Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited \$2,676,545.50
OCA-20-0699	Rehabilitation of County Structure B202 - (Cameron Street Bridge)	R.G.T. Clouthier Construction \$951,797.50
OCA-20-0693	Rehabilitation of County Road 65 - (Centennial Lake Road) & County Road 508 - (Black Donald Road)	Miller Paving Limited \$685,527.50
OCA-20-0692	County Road 515 - (Palmer Road & Quadeville Road)	Greenwood Paving (Pembroke) Limited \$1,694,539.10
OCA-20-0689	County Road 10 Reconstruction and Slope Stability	Coco Group Inc. \$2,889,104.50
OCA-20-0651	Supply and Deliver Sand for the Trail Road Landfill	George W. Drummond \$597,500.00
OCA-20-0634	Reconstruction of Sydney Street, from Fourth Street to Fifth Street and Fifth Street from Sydney Street to Amelia Street	Maylon Excavation \$1,663,097.10
OCA-20-0623	Nepean Sportsplex - Parking Lot Rehabilitation	Aecon Construction Ontario East Limited \$2,148,000.00
OCA-20-0620	Intersection Control at Barnsdale Road and Prince of Wales Drive	Ottawa D-Squared \$2,432,150.00
OCA-20-0605	Volunteer Fire Station, Municipality of Casselman	J.C. Sulpher Construction Ltd. \$2,132,895.00
OCA-20-0596	2020 Surface Treatment Program	Thomas Cavanagh Construction Limited \$666,595.63
OCA-20-0578	Teron Road Storm Sewer Rehabilitation	In-Depth Contracting \$1,813,482.00
OCA-20-0572	Supply of Winter Salt	Blendtek Fine Ingredients \$668,692.50
OCA-20-0560	Structure Renewal - Bridges And Culvert	National Structures Inc. \$1,293,655.38
OCA-20-0527	2020 Asphalt Paving & Concrete Works on Various City Streets	Maylon Excavation \$2,978,787.86
OCA-20-0491	Bid Request for Bridge 06-077 rehabilitation	Dalcon Constructors Ltd. \$917,000.00
OCA-20-0487	Reconstruction of Louisa Street and Alice Street from Montreal Road to First Street, and Baldwin Avenue from First Street to Second Street	Clarence McDonald Excavation Ltd. \$3,267,810.84
OCA-20-0468	MTO - Culvert Replacements, Culvert Repairs, Culvert Cleanouts, Drainage Improvements, Micro-Surfacing and Rock Scaling at Hwy 7 and 62	Dufferin Construction Company, a Division Of CRH Canada Group Inc. \$4,414,156.00
OCA-20-0429	Bid Request for Hot Mix Paving & Related Road Rehabilitation Work at various location	Cornwall Gravel Company Limited \$8,053,622.15
OCA-20-0399	MTO - Grading, Drainage, Granular Base, Hot Mix Paving and Structural	Aecon Construction Ontario East Limited \$5,398,000.00
OCA-20-0272	Justice Building HVAC Systems Replacement	3V Mechanical Inc. \$1,128,870.00

NEW MEMBERS MAY 2020

Cavanagh Concrete Ltd.

Al Brown - President
156 County Rd. 17
Jasper, ON K0G 1G0
T: 613-283-1206 F: 613-284-1862
abrown@cavanaghconcrete.ca
Section: MSS

G&R Mechanical Insulation

Nathan Sherboneau - Mech Insulation
Fire Stop Estimator
1806 Casey Road, RR # 6
Belleville, ON K8N 4Z6
T: 613-969-7228 F: 613-546-9027
nathan@grinsulation.ca
Section: M/E

Penta Plumbing Ltd.

Andrew Della Penta - Owner
35 Auriga Drive, Unit 113
Ottawa, ON K2E 8B7
T: 613-355-4264
Info@pentaplumbing.ca
Section: M/E

PV Plumbing & Water Inc.

Brendan Montgomery - Director
3831 Carp Road
Ottawa, ON K0A 1L0
T: 613 839-5550
contact@pvplumbingwater.com
Section: M/E

SAAFIEN'S Inc.

Francis Gagnon
- Administrative Director
5 - 3809 Saint Joseph Boulevard
Ottawa, ON K4A 0Z8
T: 613-252-3126
saafiens@outlook.com
Section: MSS

Working at Heights training is back



Although we're still a couple of months from offering our full schedule of training and education programs, at least one course is back at OCA this summer.

We've got a series of Working at Heights training and refresher sessions scheduled on alternating weeks through July and August. And with public health guidelines firmly in mind, we've adapted the course size and protocols to ensure everyone stays safe from the spread of COVID-19.

Learn more in the education zone of our website.

OCA training schedule

SUMMER 2020

July 16	Working at Heights—Refresher Training	8:00 a.m.
July 30	Working at Heights—Refresher Training	8:00 a.m.
August 6	Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Protection	8:00 a.m.
August 11–12	WEBINAR—CST: Ethics & Integrity in Construction	1:00 pm
August 13	Working at Heights—Refresher Training	8:00 a.m.
August 20	Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Protection	8:00 a.m.
August 27	Working at Heights—Refresher Training	8:00 a.m.
September 14	Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Protection	8:30 a.m.
September 15	Working at Heights—Refresher Training	8:30 a.m.
September 17	The Top Habits of High Performing Foremen	8:30 a.m.
September 18	CST: Conflict Resolution	9:00 a.m.
September 18	Change Order Pricing Principles & Best Management Practices	8:30 a.m.
September 21	Construction Tendering & Contracts	9:00 a.m.
September 28 & 29	CST: Effective Meetings & Delegation in Construction	9:00 a.m.

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Guess the photo

Steve Moons of Total HVAC was the first of a handful of people to ID the building in this photo as the Tony Graham Lexus building on Hunt Club Road. Like we said, if you've seen the building before, you'd know it right away.

Photos by Ron de Vries Photography



*Now tell us what's
pictured here.
Good luck!*

*If you think you
know, send us a note
at editor@oca.ca.*



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