

COCA Mid-Year Report 2011

In addition to our regular program of communications with our membership, which includes our full colour annual report, our annual update to your Board of Directors, monthly newsletters, bulletins and news releases, we are pleased to provide you with this brief mid-year report to update you on the activities and successes of your provincial association during the first half of 2011.

We ask that this report be included in the meeting materials for your next Board of Directors meeting as a COCA Report.

Construction Lien Act Reform

Amendments made to the *Construction Lien Act* (CLA) through the Open for Business Act, 2010 came into effect on July 1, 2011. Further CLA reform continues to be COCA's highest public policy priority; COCA developed and distributed an industry wide survey to collect anecdotal information about contractors' experiences with the CLA, receiving well over 1,000 responses. Survey information was used as the anchor of COCA's submission to the Attorney General's CLA consultation. Subsequently, the PC Caucus convened hearings on CLA reform which COCA attended along with individual member associations to drive home the industry's need for further amendments to the Act. COCA continues to press for further CLA amendments at every opportunity.

Implementation of the Tony Dean Report

As you know, COCA successfully advocated for the appointment of COCA Vice-Chair Domenic Mattina of Mattina Mechanical to the Tony Dean Expert Panel. Domenic has since been named to the Interim Prevention Council, the body advising the Minister of Labour on implementation of the Dean Report and the appointment of the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO). COCA has continued to support Domenic in his new role, offered ongoing input and advice to the Minister of Labour and the Ministry's Occupational Health & Safety System Review Secretariat and weighed in on the skills and experience necessary for the new CPO. COCA appeared at the Legislative Standing Committee hearings on Bill 160, legislation enabling the implementation of the Dean Report – namely transferring responsibility for delivering prevention programs and services from the WSIB to the MOL, establishing the new prevention entity within the MOL and creating the position of Chief Prevention Officer and the Prevention Council to advise him/her. Many of the recommendations made by COCA were adopted into the amended Bill which received Royal Assent on June 1, 2011. On May 13, 2011 COCA hosted an industry breakfast with Minister Sousa and Implementation Secretariat Director John Vander Doelen to provide an update on progress to date and respond to questions.

WSIB Funding Review

COCA has been actively engaged in the WSIB's Funding Review since its inception, with Review Chair Harry Arthurs attending a COCA WSIB/OH&S Committee meeting to outline the process of the review in January, by hiring of Bruce Neville of Nexus Actuarial Consultants to provide advice and participate in the Review's two day technical session, by supporting LCA members in the development of their submissions delivered at public hearings across the province, by participating in the Review's public hearings held in Toronto where the high points of COCA's written submission were highlighted and by attending the June employer stakeholders update held by Arthurs to report what he had heard to date.

Welcome to Construction Season Reception

On June 1, 2011 COCA held its second annual Welcome to Construction Season Reception in the Legislative Dining Room at Queen's Park. The event was well attended by Ministers, MPPs and senior staff from all parties and was a great opportunity to build relationships and advance COCA's policy positions.

When the House rose unexpectedly a day early, reception attendees were lucky enough to be invited by Speaker Steve Peters to a party in his apartment. A private residence, the Speaker's apartment is not open to the public so it was a rare opportunity for COCA members to see a special location within the "Pink Palace".

Prompt Payment Legislation

For the past six months, COCA has been working with the National Trades Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC) to draw attention/support for Prompt Payment Legislation in the province of Ontario. On June 1, 2011 MPP Dave Levac introduced a private members bill that would have made prompt payment for construction work law – but the Bill died on the order paper when the House rose later in the day. COCA supports fair and timely payment for general and trade contractors and has asked each of its member associations to discuss prompt payment legislation at their next Board of Directors meeting and to report their support in principle for the issue back to COCA.

Provincial Election

In preparation for the October 6th provincial election COCA has undertaken two completely new activities.

- Our first ever Election Readiness Session was held on June 2, 2011 to develop key messages for the construction industry leading into the election race and providing members with knowledge and collateral to participate fully in their local ridings.
- As the first in a series of events with leaders from Ontario's three major political parties, on June 29, 2011 COCA held a dinner featuring PC Leader Tim Hudak as our special guest. An intimate and low key affair, it was an opportunity to speak with the Leader about the issues important to our industry without having to compete with other interests.

Coalition & Committee Participation

COCA continues to actively participate in many industry and employer coalitions and committees including the Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee (the Provincial), Construction Legislative Review Committee (CLRC), Ontario Business Coalition (OBC), Toronto Construction Association's Government Relations Committee, Ontario Construction Users Council (OCUC), Provincial Partnership Council (PPC – and advisory group to the Ministry of Education), BCOHS Dean Report Implementation Employer Group, Building Advisory Council of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Construction Compliance Roundtable, WSIB's Construction Permanent Advisory Committee, Skills Canada-Ontario Board of Directors, MOL Interim Prevention Council, Canadian Construction Association Board of Directors, and Reed Construction Data – Daily Commercial News Editorial Board; working together with others towards a commonly held goal is fundamental to COCA's approach to government relations strategies.

COCA's role is to work with our members and the government to create a legislative and regulatory environment that supports success in the ICI and heavy civil construction sector and builds a stronger Ontario. As an entirely non-partisan organization, COCA's focus is on public policy solutions that serve the needs of our industry, without regard for the stripe of the government of the day. We trust that you see significant value in the work we do on your behalf. However if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



Ian Cunningham
President