



CIVIL INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL REPORT

As part of the annual Canadian Construction Association (CCA) board meetings held recently in Victoria, British Columbia, a meeting of the CCA's standing Civil Infrastructure Council (CIC) comprised of contractors and partner association chief operating officers was held to review ongoing business and make recommendations to the CCA board for action on behalf of the civil industry across Canada.

The following is a short summary of the issues discussed and outcomes flowing from the meeting.

1. CIC and the Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation

To help fund projects of specific interest to the civil industry across Canada, CCA civil partner associations contribute funds on behalf of members to the Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation (CICC). The CICC is controlled by a board of directors comprised of CIC regular members. As such, the Council agreed that meetings of the CIC should be deemed as concurrent meetings of the CICC.

2. CCA Guide to Energy Efficiency

The CIC agreed to develop a national Guide to Energy Efficiency at its meeting in Panama. In order to advance this project, staff was given permission to further explore development costs and report back to members prior to the next CIC meeting this fall.

3. Canadian Infrastructure Report Card

CIC members were updated on the development status of the next Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, a jointly funded project by CCA, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the Canadian Public Works Association.

Members were informed that work on the questionnaire for municipal asset managers is currently under development and should be circulated in the early fall. In addition to roads, water treatment, distribution and wastewater assets, the next report card will be expanded to include municipal bridges and public transit assets.

The goal of the report card is to compile accurate and credible condition information for Canada's public infrastructure assets and grade them accordingly. The next report card will be released in late-summer 2015.

For information on the previous report card, please visit: www.canadainfrastructure.ca

4. Canada West Foundation Report

In the lead up to Budget 2013, the CIC funded a report by the Canada West Foundation investigating the link between infrastructure investment and economic productivity. The report was well received by industry and public officials alike and proved extremely helpful in building support for the introduction of the New Building Canada Plan announced in Budget 2013.

Building on this success, the CIC agreed to fund a second report by the Canada West Foundation. The next report will focus on the adequacy of Canada's trade-enabling infrastructure and urge governments to make the enhancement of these assets a key priority for future investments. The new report is expected to be released in the fall of 2014.

5. Canadian Common Ground Alliance

The Canadian Common Ground Alliance is the national umbrella body of the various provincial regional common ground alliances across Canada. Through its development of standard documents and practices for the management of sub-surface infrastructure, the CCGA has considerable influence over the development of industry standards for sub-surface construction.

Given the importance of maintaining an industry voice in these discussions, CIC recommended the CCA board join the CCGA and appoint an industry contractor to its board. The CCA board agreed and appointed Mr. Vince Bellissimo of Timbel Limited of Toronto as the association's representative on the CCGA board of directors.

6. Government Exclusion Clauses

On the recommendation of the CIC, the CCA board of directors approved a policy statement opposing the practice by public owners of using exclusion clauses in tenders. The formal policy statement reads as follows:

That, CCA opposes the practice by public owners of excluding construction contracting firms and suppliers from bidding their projects, or otherwise penalizing them, solely because of past or current litigation or other contested disputes with that public owner, or other public owners.

As a next step, CCA with the support of the Association of Consulting Engineers Canada will be seeking through the CCDC the formal inclusion of a similar policy statement in CCDC 23.

7. Careers in Civil Construction Website

The CIC has developed a website for provincial partner associations to assist them in promoting careers in civil construction. Council agreed to promote the site with their respective boards and encourage greater use of the resource.

8. Heavy Civil Chief Operating Officers (HCCOO) Committee

As part of the CIC operations, a committee comprised of the chief operating officers of the partner associations has been constituted to focus on issues of general industry application and administrative challenges experience by civil partner associations across Canada.

At its recent meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, the HCCOO committee, given the challenges experienced by many contractors across Canada in complying with silica regulations, recommended that the CIC fund the development of a national silica management best practices guide and code of practice. Council members agreed and constituted a working group to manage this process. The two documents are expected to be developed over the course of the summer and available for the use of members in the fall.



NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the CIC will take place September 25, 2014 in Mont Tremblant, Quebec.