



Highlights from the CCA board meetings held May 26 – 27, 2018 in Montreal

Welcome new board and corporate members

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) board of directors and staff welcome Sean Wilson, who replaces David Paslawski representing the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association.

A warm welcome to our newest corporate member, Lafarge Canada Inc. of Calgary, a provider of diversified construction materials from cement and aggregates to ready-mix and precast concrete as well as asphalt.

The CCA board and staff were pleased to meet two of our corporate members—Jasmin Lefebvre, an associate with Miller Thomson LLP, as well as Frederick Roussel, president and GM of Colas Canada—at the board dinner, held in the spectacular Montreal Olympic Stadium Tower. A special thanks to Colas, who is also a sponsor of CCA's centennial board dinner on November 27, 2018.

Community benefits a hot topic

At the March 2018 board meeting, community benefits Bill C-344 was raised as a potential issue for the construction industry. CCA carried these concerns to Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) at the annual Meech Lake meeting in April and offered our help to shape it properly. In addition, to better raise awareness of and inform CCA board leadership and partner association chief operating officers (COOs) about community benefits, CCA secured the participation of two important government officials at the board meetings: Amarjeet Sohi, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and David Schwartz, Director General, Commercial and Alternative Acquisitions Management Sector, ADM – Procurement Branch, PSPC.

Minister Sohi addressed the construction industry leadership Friday evening for about 15 minutes and then answered questions. He also spoke briefly about community benefits in response to a question from John Bockstael, CCA's first national vice-chair.

David Schwartz participated in a panel on community benefits along with John Bockstael, Brendan Nobes and John Rasenberg. This robust and frank discussion heightened members' concerns, resulting in a request that CCA intensify our advocacy efforts on this file. CCA took prompt action. A letter was sent to Minister Carla Qualtrough, and a communication was sent to partner associations with a request that members express their opinions to their Members of Parliament (MP). CCA will also be asking members to complete a survey on their corporate social responsibility activities so that CCA has quantifiable and qualitative support for the industry's already significant contribution to our communities.

Hill Day 2018

In conjunction with CCA's board meetings on November 27 and 28, CCA will be organizing a Hill Day. Board members will be paired with their local MPs to bring 2 – 3 pre-determined CCA messages in support of the industry. Participants will be briefed before a reception with MPs on November 26. This is an important step up in growing CCA's presence with the federal government and a show of strength for the industry representing 7% of Canada's GDP and employing 1.4 million people.

CCA strengthening commitment to innovation

A taskforce was struck earlier this year to determine the value of a potential Canadian Construction Innovations (CCI)-CCA agreement. The taskforce considered three options:

1. Keep status quo – maintain the CCA Innovation and Technology Committee whose mandate doesn't include research and development (R&D) or applying for federal money.
2. Align with CCI.
3. Build a new strategy and let CCI proceed as is, potentially duplicating efforts and losing any work completed to date, along with potential projects that are in various stages of application.

The taskforce recommended option 2 to the CCA executive committee and proposed that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) be pursued with CCI. In support of CCA's new five-year strategic plan, CCA received approval from the board to investigate a business relationship with CCI to advance innovation. The rationale for taking this step is that:

- CCA's strategic plan includes innovation. The Innovation & Technology Committee does provide some focus for information within the industry, but no actual R&D and the committee has not pursued federal funding;
- CCA seed-funded CCI to create a conduit to federal funding and for prioritizing allocation;
- CCI's primary mandate is to enable the construction industry to access federal funding for research and innovation;
- CCI's membership is broader than that of CCA, and this breadth helps the mission of accessing funding; and
- CCI has struggled to win funding, in part because CCI lacks scale and a credible track record of governance. CCI believes the government will be more likely to fund if CCI has a clear affiliation with CCA that involves governance oversight by CCA.

This MOU would get CCA to stage two of an actual agreement to align CCI and CCA. Subsequent to an MOU with CCI (which is not a given), the taskforce and executive will need to present a business case including budgets, an operational plan, organizational/corporate model and clarify total value to members. Key elements of this MOU would contain the following:

- CCA appoints a majority of directors on the CCI board and in that way provide governance oversight to satisfy the government's need to see that.
- The mechanism that would allow CCA to appoint the majority of CCI directors permanently is not finalized. Various options are being considered. The mechanism may necessitate changes to the CCI bylaws to ensure CCA's permanent right to appoint a majority of directors.
- CCA would provide admin, finance, technology and marketing services to CCI on a fee-for-service basis (based on the not for profit status of both CCA and CCI).
- There is to be no merging of bank accounts or financing of the two organizations. CCI operations would continue to be directed by its board.
- CCI would remain in control of setting priorities for funding and projects.
- CCA would not assume any financial obligations for CCI.

National construction month

Together with our partner association COOs, CCA staff is considering how the industry might align to a “construction month”, building on the success of the British Columbia Construction Association (month), Saskatchewan Construction Association (week) and other associations who run similar weeks with different themes such as safety. With 63 partner associations, flexibility, respect for individual brands and ease of participation will be keys to the success of a united effort.

Revised board expense policy

Where eligible for reimbursement, CCA now sets out maximum amounts for breakfast (\$30), lunch (\$30) and dinner (\$80). These limits remove the guesswork for board and staff as to what “reasonable” means. All expenses must have receipts and be received within 90 days.

Next CCA board meetings will be held November 27– 28, 2018 in Ottawa

The board dinner on the evening of the 27 will be a celebration of our centennial.

Space will be limited, so please reserve your spot as soon as registration opens.

CCA Update distribution: These CCA updates are sent to CCA board members, corporate members, partner association chief operating officers and partner association board members as well as anyone who subscribes to them through bit.ly/ccasubscribe.