

# Council of Ontario Construction Associations Report to the Membership

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**June 2023**

**Council of Ontario Construction Associations**

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The Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA) is a federation of 29 construction associations whose 10,000 general and trade contractor members operate in the industrial, commercial, institutional, and heavy civil segments of the construction industry in all regions of the province. These affiliated contractors are enterprises of all sizes from smallest to largest and are both unionized and non-union. COCA is mandated to work with our members and senior officials in the Ontario government to ensure that the province's laws and regulations support success in the construction industry and broad prosperity across the province. COCA is your voice at Queen's Park.

I'm pleased to submit this report highlighting the activities and accomplishments of your provincial construction federation over the past six months.

With the pandemic clearly in the rear-view mirror, COCA hit the ground running as dawn lifted on 2023.

Here are some highlights from the past six months:

- Our pre-budget submission recommended that the provincial government:
  - I. conduct a review of the Construction Act with a view to eliminate bugs, glitches and process disconnects that have become apparent in the application of this new statute;
  - II. strengthening the province's workers compensation system by transferring ministerial oversight to the ministry of finance, by determining loss of earnings benefits fairly and based on an injured workers pre-injury earnings and by eliminating the 72-month lock-in provision;
  - III. continue to deliver on planned investments in public infrastructure and roll out new projects in a way that considers the capacity of the industry;
  - IV. get the province's new apprenticeship agency, Skilled Trades Ontario (STO), fully functional as quickly as possible to build a strong, domestically trained construction workforce;
  - V. collaborate with the federal government to admit more immigrants with construction trades skills and experience to Ontario to help fill the skills gap;
  - VI. streamline the processes in the Ministry of Labour for the review and approval of recommendations that have been developed and fully vetted by the Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee to enhance health and safety on construction sites across the province.
- COCA continued to develop a list of process bugs, glitches and disconnects in the Construction Act as they have become apparent and has actively lobbied senior officials in the provincial government for changes to this relatively new statute to make it work more effectively and

coherently. We are optimistic that this will lead to amendments to the statute in the not-too-distant future.

- We hosted a widely watched webinar and launched a highly successful multi-channel awareness campaign to help construction project owners, general contractors and trade contractors understand how the new prompt payment and adjudication system works and how to align their business practices to be ready in the event a payment dispute arises.
- Members were informed of changes to their health and safety obligations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, including new requirements for certain employers to have naloxone kits at their worksites and workers trained in their use, new requirements for washroom and clean-up facilities, and an increase to the maximum fine for the most egregious contraventions of the Act to \$2 million.
- We successfully opposed the implementation of a \$200 per locate fee proposed by Enbridge and supported the recommendations of a coalition of heavy civil construction interests with respect to improving the province’s system for underground infrastructure locates.
- COCA participated in the Annual Construction Associations Curling Bonspiel along with teams from construction associations from Windsor, London, Grand Valley Toronto and host Hamilton-Halton.
- We hosted a member’s Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Niagara Falls.
  - recognized with COCA’s Hard Hat Award of Excellence were GVCA past chair and COCA vice chair Ted Dreyer and TCA past chair and current TCA director Glenn Ackerley;
  - receiving COCA’s Industry Ally Award were recently retired IHSA vice president Dean Dunn and recently retired Helmets to Hard Hats executive director Joe Maloney;
  - COCA’s Chair’s Awards were presented to ISCA Director of Government and Labour Relations Jeff Koller, OIRCA Executive Director Don Marks and LDCA Executive Director Mike Carter;
  - ECAO Director of Health and Safety Tom MacKay was presented with the President’s Award;
  - carried over from 2022 was a Chair’s Award presentation to WCA executive director Jim Lyons.
- We continued our program of member engagement with monthly newsletters, GR Reports, member alerts and of course, our 2022 Year in Review “Building Ontario’s Future Together.”

It is on your behalf and with the involvement of an army of volunteers from our 29-member associations that this work has been undertaken. These highlights of your provincial federation’s activities and accomplishments over the past six months have served to make your association, your members and the industry in your region more successful.

If you have concerns, ideas and solutions to improve Ontario’s legislative and regulatory framework that will make life better for contractors and all Ontarians, please don’t hesitate to contact us. TOGETHER we can build Ontario’s future!!!

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## COCA Members **Stronger Together**

Acoustical Association of Ontario  
Architectural Glass & Metal Contractors Association  
Association of Millwrighting Contractors of Ontario  
Barrie Construction Association  
Canadian Farm Builders Association  
Canadian Institute of Steel Construction  
Concrete Floor Contractors Association  
Construction Association of Thunder Bay  
Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario  
Grand Valley Construction Association  
Hamilton-Halton Construction Association  
Interior Systems Contractors Association of Ontario  
London and District Construction Association  
Niagara Construction Association  
Northeastern Ontario Construction Association  
Ontario Association of Demolition Contractors

Ontario Erectors Association  
Ontario Industrial Roofing Contractors Association  
Ontario Masonry Contractors Association  
Ontario Painting Contractors Association  
Ontario Sheet Metal Contractors Association  
Ontario Structural Steel Fabricators Association  
Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada  
Reinforcing Steel Institute of Ontario  
Sarnia Construction Association  
Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association  
Toronto Construction Association  
Utility Contractors' Association of Ontario  
Windsor Construction Association

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