

## President's Address

Good afternoon to our Members, Past Presidents and fellow Directors.

For over forty years, the National Capital Heavy Construction Association has represented the interests of the heavy construction industry in the national capital region. Our industry is a significant economic driver, with over 9,000 employees, performing over \$1 billion in infrastructure work annually. Our members play a vital role in the construction and maintenance of the infrastructure that is so critically important to maintaining the well-being of our community.

I am honored to act as the 42nd President of the Association and build upon the foundation laid by our Past Presidents and Board Members. I am very fortunate to have the support of our committed Board of Directors, our Executive Director, Kathryn Sutherland, and outgoing President, Stephen Goodman.

This year we are facing unique challenges as we adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our industry has been recognized as essential throughout the economic shutdown and we have continued to work to meet our contractual obligations despite restrictions. Our workers deserve recognition and our thanks for persevering and adjusting to this new reality.

This year is an important one as we roll out new programs and initiatives to support our members so that they, in turn, will be successful. To this end, we have a robust 3-year Business Plan in place that identifies all of NCHCA's objectives and the outcomes that we hope to achieve.

Our top priority in 2020 is to improve the **recruitment and retention** of workers in the heavy construction industry. We recognize that the shortage of workers in our industry is expected to worsen as it is predicted that 1 in 5 workers will retire in the next 10 years. We must improve public perception of our industry and address barriers such as restricted hours of work that impact on our ability to recruit and retain a sustainable workforce.

In 2020, we are undertaking a multi-year recruitment project with funding from the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development to address industry labour shortages in the Ottawa area. We will be calling on you, our members, to provide input and feedback as we develop recruitment strategies to help us all going forward.

We also recognize and value our **relationships with our stakeholders**. We will continue to work closely with our partners – municipal governments, private sector owners and consulting engineers – and will build on the success of the 2020 Education Series, which brought together over 350 industry professionals at this industry-wide educational and networking event.

We are initiating a joint co-op program in partnership with the City of Ottawa and Consulting Engineers of Ontario. Students accepted to the program will experience a placement at the City of Ottawa, at a consulting engineering firm and with a contractor, resulting in a graduate with a well-rounded understanding of our industry.

We will continue to work closely with the City of Ottawa through monthly liaison meetings and providing feedback on City initiatives such as the use of broadband backup alarms, Health & Safety Management System Requirements for Contractors, Construction Act prompt payment processes, VPM improvements, the Road Activity Bylaw review and specification updates.

I invite you to take a moment to review our 3-Year Business Plan which is posted in the members-only section of our website to see all of the NCHCA initiatives that are underway.

I look forward to my term as president and to providing our members with information and resources so that they, in turn, can be successful.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time. I look forward to hearing from you and to my term as President.

Now, it is with great pleasure, that I introduce the 2020-21 Board of Directors for the National Capital Heavy Construction Association.

The Executive Board Members:

- President, myself, Darrin Alberty, Tomlinson – Sewer and Watermain
- Past President, Stephen Goodman, GEMTEC Consulting Engineers and Scientists Limited
- First Vice President, Steve McEachen, Aecon Construction Ontario East Ltd.
- Second Vice President and Treasurer, Paul Lemire, C.A.C.E. Construction (1991) Ltd.

Directors:

- Nick Bray, Louis W. Bray Construction Limited
- John DeKroon, K.C.E. Construction Ltd.
- Dale Downey, Thomas Cavanaugh Construction Limited
- Brad Gooderham, Coco Paving Inc.
- Brian Lane, Taggart Construction Limited
- Paul Lemire, C.A.C.E Construction (1991) Ltd.
- Chris Lesaux, Woseley Waterworks Group
- Dave McClure, Toromont Cat
- Dave Meikle, Ottawa D-Squared Construction Ltd.
- Nick Regalbuto, LDC Precision Concrete Inc.
- Leon Switzer, Front Page Media Group
- Bob Watson, Marathon Underground Constructors

I would also like to recognize the following two non-voting representatives on our board:

- Edson Donnelly, of Novatech Engineering who represents Consulting Engineers of Ontario
- Jeff Mulcock of Taggart Construction who represents the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction

I would now like to put forward a motion for approval of the appointment of the 2020-21 Board of Directors.

Director Jim Flegg retired from the Board this year.

Jim was on the Board since 2013, and served as association President, member of the Executive Committee, Treasurer and on the Golf Planning Committee. Thank you Jim for your years of service. We have a small gift for you – an engraved NCHCA watch – which we will deliver to your office.

I would like to again thank our AGM sponsors:

- Toromont Cat – Platinum Sponsor
- Lafarge – Supporting Sponsor
- Rush Truck Centres of Canada – Gold Sponsor
- A.L. Blair Construction – Gold Sponsor

And our corporate sponsors:

- Clean Water Works Inc.
- JD Brule Inc.
- Ottawa D-Squared Aggregates Ltd.

I'd now like to ask for a motion for the adjournment of the business meeting.

That concludes our virtual AGM. Thank you for joining us and enjoy the rest of your day.

Darrin Alberty, P.Eng.

NCHCA President

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