

2021 Advocacy Report

NCHCA's first objective is to advocates strong, clear positions and expectations to municipal governments and private sector owners regarding issues that affect the heavy construction industry.

In December 2020, NCHCA's Board approved an Advocacy Policy outlining the advocacy activities to be undertaken by NCHCA to achieve its advocacy objective and directing the Executive Director to provide an annual report to the Board on advocacy activities.

1. City of Ottawa

The following is a list of issues brought forward to the City of Ottawa through one-on-one meetings with City staff, liaison meetings, and communications with Mayor Watson and City Councillors.

- supported expansion of the urban boundary
- advocated for the safe use of broadband backup alarms
- requested that peak hour restrictions be lifted and exemptions for night work be granted
- advocated for better information regarding City budgets and project forecasts
- advocated for improvement in the road cut permit process to eliminate delays including a presentation to the City's Transportation Committee
- requested that the City integrate the permit process into the design phase
- met with the Mayor's office to discuss issues of importance to industry
- held one-on-one meetings with City Councillors
- requested that the City consider an extension of time for over-dimension permits to ensure availability of police escort
- requested clarification on availability and use of paid duty officers
- request that the City review budgets to determine whether they are reflective of today's market
- participated in the development of the City's annual budget process by making written submissions to Mayor Watson and Councillors and attending budget consultation meetings
- one-on-one meetings with C. Duclos, B. Kenny
- participated in 2021 City specification update to provide industry feedback and issues
- requested consistent tender closing periods
- raised lack of clarity in tender question responses
- requested extension of closing dates when more than one large project closing the same day or close together
- requested early release of holdback on multi-year projects
- requested that utility coordination provisions be consistent and fair
- requested that noise by-law exemptions be confirmed at the time of tender
- requested that the City consider permitting contractors to do cappings & connections can be done by contractors
- requested that the City provide better watermain isolation information
- requested that more, improved, consistent CADD information be provided
- requested that the City address inconsistent specs with regards to fencing

- promoted joint co-op program
- raised concerns about retendering
- communicated concerns and proposed improvements to the VPM system
- requested flexibility in project timelines when impacted by the pandemic and pandemic response measures
- requested protocol for entering private residences
- requested confirmation from the City that infrastructure projects are essential
- advocated for safe continuation of construction during COVID-19 restrictions

2. Private sector owners

The following is a list of activities and issues related to private sector owners.

- supported expansion of the urban boundary
- invited private sector owners to provide an update to industry at the Education Series Heavy Construction Outlook
- collaborated with GOHBA regarding a proposed City motion regarding hours of work
- collaborated and shared information with GOHBA regarding excess soil management legislation
- invited private sector owners to join the Excess Soil Committee
- invited GOHBA to place a complimentary ad in NCHCA's Directory for the third year in a row

3. NCHCA's Advocacy Policy provides that NCHCA shall not advocate at the provincial or federal level, relying on the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association, the Ontario Road Builders Association and the Canadian Construction Association to advocate on its behalf.

Notwithstanding, in 2021 NCHCA advocated to the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services regarding the critical improvements required to the Ontario late locate system, and participated on an Ontario One Call working group re to provide feedback on solutions proposed by Ontario One Call and proposed legislative changes.

4. Additional advocacy initiative: to the public

- Construction community cares parade