



COCA Construction in Ontario

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McGuinty Cabinet holds promise for Ontario Construction Industry

Dalton McGuinty's new cabinet, though looking much different than initially anticipated is still looking very positive for the Ontario construction industry.

With two more members than from the previous mandate, there are 28 ministers. Of the eighteen ministers who served in the previous cabinet, eleven have been assigned new portfolios; only seven hold the same responsibilities. There are ten new ministers added to the Premier's executive council. From this new mix of talent, despite the number of familiar faces, Ontarians can be fairly certain that they are not in for four more years of the "same old, same old."

Central to the construction industry's interests are five ministers:

Dwight Duncan as Minister of Finance was responsible for overseeing and delivering Ontario's landmark infrastructure budget, demonstrating the government's understanding of the desperate need for a solution to the province's infrastructure and core services deficit. His understanding of these issues will be helpful in maintaining them front and centre as part of the government agenda.

Attorney General Chris Bentley's experience having held

the portfolios of both Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and Minister of Labour will be exceptionally helpful. The Minister's comprehensive knowledge of the construction industry and its needs will help address the long overdue, if modest, amendment of the *Construction Lien Act*.

Minister David Caplan's retention of the Public Infrastructure Renewal portfolio means the construction industry retains its representative to cabinet and all of the associated institutional knowledge and relationships. COCA is looking forward to continuing its work with the Minister and his staff, keeping the province's infrastructure priorities top-of-mind and on schedule. COCA is also looking forward to supporting the Minister in his role as Chair of the Construction Advisory Committee (CAC).

John Gerretsen's new role as Minister of Environment will again see the Premier ask him to assume a number of challenging files. With climate change, water protection and waste management but only a few of the issues assured to be top of mind with Ontarians, the minister's activist style will be a good match. COCA is looking forward to working with the minister to develop and

implement the solutions required to meet the government's objectives.

Brad Duguid, new to cabinet as Minister of Labour, brings with him a solid track record of results from his tenure as Parliamentary Assistant to Minister Gerretsen at Municipal Affairs and Housing during the last mandate. Also an activist, Minister Duguid is a former Toronto City Councillor and former provincial and federal political staffer. His experience and background provide him with a unique ability to appreciate fully the scope of issues before him.

John Milloy, new to cabinet as Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, can expect to be busy. The looming skilled workforce shortage will likely make apprenticeship an early issue of particular importance for the minister. Coupled with this issue is compulsory certification. The Armstrong Report, due in early 2008 will set the tone for the construction industry over the coming years. COCA is looking forward to working with the minister and his staff and stakeholders to assist in developing and implementing the best possible option for the construction industry.

COCA Members

- Acoustical Association of Ontario
- Architectural Glass & Metal Contractors of Ontario
- Association of Millwrighting Contractors of Ontario
- Barrie Construction Association
- Canadian Farm Builders Association—Ontario Division
- Canadian Fence Industry Association
- Concrete Floor Contractors Association
- Construction Association of Thunder Bay
- Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario
- Grand Valley Construction Association
- Hamilton-Halton Construction Association
- Heavy Construction Association of Toronto
- Interior Systems Contractors Association of Ontario
- Kingston Construction Association
- London & District Construction Association
- Mechanical Contractors Association of Ontario
- Ontario Demolition Contractors Association
- Ontario Electrical League
- Ontario General Contractors Association
- Ontario Industrial Roofing Contractors Association
- Ontario Painting Contractors Association
- Ontario Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Contractors
- Ontario Sewer & Watermain Construction Association
- Ottawa Construction Association
- Pipe Line Contractors Association of Canada
- Reinforcing Steel Institute of Ontario
- Resilient Flooring Contractors Association of Ontario
- Sarnia Construction Association
- Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association
- Sealant & Waterproofing Contractors Association
- Scaffold Industry Association of Ontario
- Sudbury Construction Association
- Terrazzo, Tile & Marble Guild of Ontario
- Toronto & Area Road Builders Association
- Toronto Construction Association
- Utility Contractors Association of Ontario
- Windsor Construction Association

WSIB Offers Amnesty

Failing to register with the WSIB can be costly. In 2005 and 2006 the WSIB identified more than 16, 000 non-registered employers, many of whom faced significant financial and legal penalties. In the hopes that employers will register their business if they are treated fairly and provided with the necessary information and advice, the WSIB has announced that effective October 29, 2007 it is implementing a two-phase Voluntary Registration policy.

Phase I

October 29th 2007 to March 31st 2008

Employers that voluntarily register with the WSIB will receive full amnesty:

- No penalties for not reporting
- No reconciliation on retroactive premiums
- No prosecution under the Provincial Offences Act
- Premium remittance begins the day of contact with the WSIB

Phase II

April 1st 2008 and onwards

Employers that voluntarily register with the WSIB will receive partial amnesty.

- No penalties for not reporting
- No reconciliation on retroactive premiums
- No prosecution under the Provincial Offences Act
- Premiums will be retroactive to the date of first hire or January 1 of the year preceding the date of voluntary registration, whichever is later

The new policy will not apply to any employer that has been identified for registration by the WSIB through enforcement efforts prior to their voluntary registration.

For many years COCA has supported the WSIB in its efforts to combat the underground economy. COCA supports this program and encourages members to communicate its specifics to their membership.

For further information or to register your business visit the WSIB website at www.wsib.on.ca.

“Family Day”

officially proclaimed

Ontario’s new statutory holiday, “Family Day” was officially proclaimed October 11th.

As the first order of business for his second mandate, Premier Dalton McGuinty has declared the third Monday in February as a new annual statutory holiday. The holiday will be first observed this February 18, 2008. Having the same status as Thanksgiving or Labour Day, Family Day will not be subject to collective agreements, meaning the same rules for other statutory holidays will be in effect.

The new holiday was approved with an order-in-council which only requires the signatures of two cabinet ministers. Cabinet does not have to be convened to approve an order-in-council.

COCA’s Polling Question: Are Shocking Safety Ads Effective?



The WSIB is re-launching its media campaign focusing on the importance of safety. Some of these advertisements depict the shocking results of workplace accidents (Image Source: www.wsib.on.ca).

Are shocking ads an effective method of promoting health and safety?

Visit COCA’s website at www.coca.on.ca to share your input!