



2007 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY LEADERS' FORUM A SUCCESS



CCA President, Michael Atkinson; CILF Keynote Speaker, Jacques Demers; and CCA Chair, Raymond Brunet.

CCA recently held the Construction Industry Leaders' Forum (CILF) October 23-24 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Montreal. CILF is an event put on by the national association strictly for its Corporate Members and nearly 30 leaders of the construction industry attended the 2007 Forum. Themed *Building a Better Company*, this year's program included sessions on economic outlook, leadership, team building, and organizational effectiveness. As always, the forum ended with a roundtable discussion entitled "What's Keeping CEOs Awake at Night" where the discussion revolved around

employee recruitment and retention. A highlight of CILF 2007 was inevitably the passionate presentation delivered by keynote speaker and Stanley Cup winner Jacques Demers, who addressed the importance of team play, perseverance, and leadership.

The organizing committee has already begun planning next year's forum and is currently reviewing feedback received by this year's participants, which will only help build on what can be considered a very successful 2007 edition.

*90 years
of
Heritage*

**March 2-6, 2008
Victoria, BC**

By now, you will have received the CCA Conference brochure providing detailed information about our event taking place next March in beautiful Victoria, BC. With the conference fast approaching, we recommend that you book your room at the Fairmont Empress as early as possible to ensure the type of room you desire is available.

As a reminder, please note that conference registration and hotel room reservation forms are now available on-line at www.cca-acc.com/conf2k8. Don't forget to register for the CCA Organized Tours, the Companion Activity, the golf tournament, the yoga club and the running club.

The deadline for early bird registrations is December 14. We encourage you to take advantage of these special rates.



CCA NATIONAL AWARDS

The deadline of December 7th to submit a nomination for one of CCA's national awards is fast approaching. We encourage you to nominate an individual or a project for one of the ten awards that will be handed out March 6, 2008, during the Award Breakfast of CCA's 90th annual conference in Victoria, BC.

- » Environmental Achievement;
- » Trade Contractors Award of Excellence;
- » Member Association of Excellence;
- » Excellence in Innovation;
- » General Contractors Award of Excellence;
- » National Safety;
- » Roadbuilders Award of Excellence;
- » Person of the Year;
- » Community Leader; and
- » Gold Seal Association.

To obtain a copy of the submission guidelines and the nomination form, please visit CCA's website at www.cca-acc.com/overview/awards/awardsinfo.pdf. Please do not hesitate to communicate with CCA should you require additional information.

2008 EI Rates Set

The Canada Employment Insurance Commission (CEIC) set the Employment Insurance (EI) rates for 2008 on October 29th. Effective January 1st, 2008, the EI rate for **employees will be reduced to \$1.73** from the current \$1.80 per \$100 of insurable earnings. For **employers, the rate will fall 10 cents to \$2.42** from the current \$2.52. However, Maximum Insurable Earnings (MIE) will rise in 2008 to \$41,100 from the current \$40,000. The net effect means that the maximum amount an employer will pay in 2008 relative to an employee earning the MIE or greater will be \$995.44 (a reduction of some \$12.56 compared to 2007).

The EI premium rates for Quebec are lower since that Province now offers its own parental benefits and assesses that portion of the premium on top of the federal portion.

CCA continues to be highly critical of the current rate-setting process in place since

2005, which although is said to seek a "break-even" status for the EI Fund, does not permit prior surpluses or the notional interest earned thereon, to be considered in the forward, break-even calculation. As a result, the EI Chief Actuary and the Commission cannot adjust future rates to compensate for over-charges in previous years. By the Federal Government's own figures, the cumulative surplus generated by the EI Fund, which is diverted to General Revenues, now totals some \$54 billion! The surplus generated in fiscal year 2006-07 alone is estimated to be some \$3.5 billion!

To date the response from both the Minister of Finance and HRSDC has been that the current Government will simply monitor the effectiveness of the new process. One ray of hope, however, is the reference in the Government's recent Throne Speech committing "to improve the governance and management of the Employment Insurance Account".



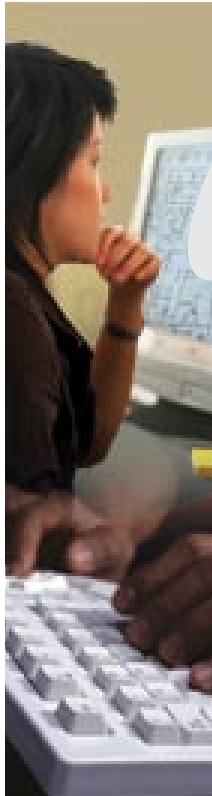


globeandmail

Report on Business

Construction Industry Supplement – November 28

Be sure to pick up a copy of the Globe and Mail on Wednesday, November 28. On that day, CCA will be producing a special "Construction Industry" supplement to be included in the Report on Business section of the Globe. The supplement will feature articles on labour supply and shortages, safety, innovation, infrastructure, and an opening piece describing the contribution of the industry to Canada. This supplement will be an excellent opportunity to speak directly to Canadians about the role and the importance of our industry and its issues to a wide public audience – be sure not to miss it!



CANet

Construction Association Network
"One source for construction information"

The Canadian construction associations and plan rooms have decided to brand their services under a new name: **CANet**. CANet is the construction industry's one-stop shop for accurate, timely information about construction projects during the design, bid and build processes. CANet-affiliated associations wish to highlight all the benefits that associations can offer that competitors can't. This month, and in addition to the CANet brochure and website that have already been created, a more concentrated effort at marketing the newly created network is being made. From November 26th to November 30th, to co-ordinate with the November 28th insert on the construction industry in the Globe and Mail, the CANet-affiliated associations are presenting a number of CANet-related activities to focus attention in their regions on their services. Some of these activities include tours, meet and greets, articles in local papers, quizzes, and special publications.

Please contact your local construction association for more information



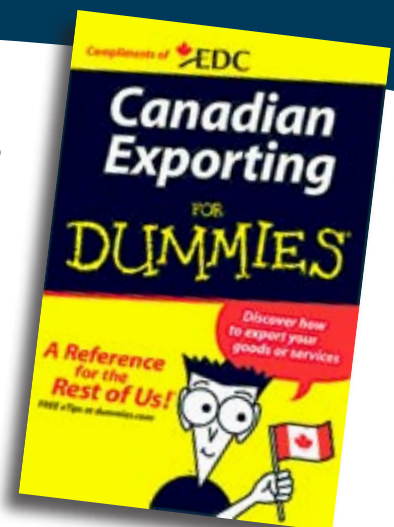
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