



# COCA Construction in Ontario

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## COCA AGM Keynote Speaker: Geoff Smith President of EllisDon - Canada's Top Employer

Geoff Smith, President of EllisDon will make the keynote presentation at COCA's Annual General Meeting on Thursday January 31st 2008. EllisDon was recently named Canada's Top Employer on Hewitt's 50 Best Employers List; for the first time a construction company has made it to the top of the list. Mr. Smith will talk about EllisDon's commitment to their employees and why this practice is vital during this time of growing skills shortages.

The day will also include a comprehensive briefing on LEED building. Stephen Carpenter of Enermodal Engineering and one of the country's leading designers of LEED buildings will tackle questions like What is LEED? And is it the future of Construction? Diane Gibbs, Project Coordinator with PCL Constructors Canada will present a case study on the Durham Courthouse to explain the key features of managing LEED requirements (TBC).

COCA's AGM is taking place at the Hilton Toronto Airport (5875 Airport Road in Mississauga). The ticket price for the day, including lunch is \$50.

**SPACE IS LIMITED! More information and registration forms are available for download at [www.coca.on.ca](http://www.coca.on.ca) and can be faxed to 416-968-0362; or contact Sue at 416-698-7200 ext. 222 or [sramsay@coca.on.ca](mailto:sramsay@coca.on.ca).**

COCA AGM AGENDA	
TIME	ITEM
8:30am	Registration & Coffee
9:00am - 10:45am	Comprehensive Briefing on LEED Building With consultant Stephen Carpenter of Enermodal Engineering and Diane Gibbs with PCL Constructors (TBC)
11:00am - 11:45pm	COCA's Annual General Meeting
12:00pm	Annual Luncheon
12:15pm	Keynote Speaker: Geoff Smith, President, EllisDon

### Brief legislative session highlighted by surprise mini budget

The brief and largely unremarkable, fall post-election legislative session, ended December 13<sup>th</sup> with Finance Minister Dwight Duncan's unexpected tabling of a mini budget in place of his anticipated pro forma fall economic statement. Billed by the government as a proactive response to the challenges confronting the Ontario economy, the \$3 billion plan outlined a comprehensive package of business tax credits and more importantly, investments in public infrastructure and skills training.

Almost half the government's investment, \$1.4 billion, is dedicated for much needed strategic public infrastructure projects. Municipal infrastructure projects such as water and

waste water, community infrastructure, roads and bridges will benefit from \$300 million in new funding to be allocated through a competitive process. A further \$500 million will be made available for transit projects and to assist municipal transit systems to meet immediate needs, with another \$100 million to be dedicated to priority MoveOntario 2020 projects, identified as priorities by Metrolinx (formerly The Greater Toronto Transit Authority).

The timing and scope of the mini budget was meant to send a clear message as the government rose for the winter session. The measured plan was meant to demonstrate to Ontarians the government's recogni-

tion of the plight of specific business sectors caused by the current state of the economy and of its ongoing commitment to the bolstering the overall competitiveness of the province. Its reaffirmed commitment to revitalizing Ontario's core infrastructure with much needed investment of new dollars coupled with targeted, sector specific, tax reductions are meant to buoy corporate and public confidence as the province struggles under the weight of a strong Canadian dollar and flagging U.S. economy. However, given the likelihood of increased economic pressures outside provincial control, 2008 will likely prove to be significantly more of a challenge for the government.

## COCA Members

- Acoustical Association of Ontario
- Architectural Glass & Metal Contractors of Ontario
- Association of Millwrighting Contractors of Ontario
- Barrie Construction Association
- Canadian Farm Builders Associations—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

## Compulsory Certification Review Call for Written Submissions

Tim Armstrong, Advisor to the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, appointed last August to conduct a review into the impact of expanding compulsory certification for trades is currently accepting written submissions from apprenticeship and certification stakeholders.

Charged with considering the impact of compulsory certification to trades that are presently voluntary, the scope of the review will include five factors namely: health and safety; registration of new apprentices; the number of ap-

prentices to complete trades training; consumer protection, costs; and, the overall general impact on the economy. The final report of the review will not include recommendations to the government with respect to existing requests for enacting compulsory certification.

Interested parties wishing to participate in the review are being urged to make written submissions detailing the impact the expansion of compulsory certification will have on their trade. Any research interested parties may have conducted on this issue is also

welcome and will be reviewed. Submissions will be accepted until January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and can be sent to:

*Tim Armstrong - Compulsory Certification Review Advisor*  
c/o Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, 900 Bay Street,  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Or to: [compulsory.certification@ontario.ca](mailto:compulsory.certification@ontario.ca)  
(please cc COCA at [info@coca.on.ca](mailto:info@coca.on.ca))

If you have any questions contact David Zurawel at 416-968-7200 ext. 223 or [dzurawel@coca.on.ca](mailto:dzurawel@coca.on.ca)

## Safety Summit marks sector-wide meeting of the minds

A Construction Safety Summit, the first ever meeting of its kind, between construction management, trades and the WSIB took place this past December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The half day session, dedicated to bringing together the principal actors comprising the Ontario construction industry, fostered discussions around the perceived barriers to improving occupational health and safety in the construction industry and sought input on potential solutions to this dilemma. WSIB organized the

event as part of its *Road to Zero* campaign as it seeks to eliminate workplace injuries in Ontario.

Led by Tom Beegan and his staff, more than 70 participants met in small discussion groups to frankly assess, compare and contrast their experiences and impressions on the current state of affairs of the industry. From these discussions, perceived barriers and potential solutions to improved workplace safety were developed under the broad topics of: training; leadership; culture; legislation, policy and

enforcement; working conditions; and, resources.

Given the initial promise of this first summit, WSIB intends to continue these meetings. Its objective is the establishment of an industry strategy that will realize its goal of a 35% reduction in lost time injuries (LTIs) over the next five years while still permitting businesses to realize a competitive edge in their industry. The next meeting is being proposed for February with a definitive date to be set as soon as possible.

## Ron Martin - 2007 Cliff Bulmer Award Recipient

Each year, COCA presents the Cliff Bulmer Award to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to building relationships between the construction industry and Queen's Park.

The 2007 recipient is Ron Martin. The Executive Director of the Sudbury Construction Association since 1994, Ron has been an active participant in virtually all aspects of the construction industry; including collective bargaining, apprenticeship, training, plansroom development and legislative reform.

In addition to his role at the SCA, Ron also Chairs the Construction Employers Coordinating Council of Ontario, the Carpenters Employer Provincial Bargaining Committee, and is a Trustee of the International Union of Operating Engineers (Local 793) Health & Benefit and Pension Plans.

COCA has been especially lucky to have Ron at the helm of our Apprenticeship Working Group (AWG) as we tackled many issues on which consensus could not be achieved.

Ron's lifelong dedication to the improvement of the construction industry is an inspiration. He has earned the right to have his name added to the list of leaders on the Cliff Bulmer Award.

