

Construction Alert

A Publication for the Buyers of Construction Services

DATE: October 7, 2008

Volume #10, Issue #3

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SICA At-A-Glance - Regional News

SICA Helps You Pick Your Project Closing Date

With the shortage of labour, and the demand for contractors, you need to make sure contractors have the time to review your project properly. If the contractors are facing 3 large projects closing on the same day, is yours going to be the one they bid on, or the one they let get away? Wouldn't it be better to avoid closing your project on the same day as another large project? SICA offers you a new tool to assist with this, the new Bid Schedule calendar. Now you can get access to a calendar showing you the closing dates for projects in our system. This calendar would also be of value when determining extensions to your closing date. Contact SICA for your free access!

Recording the Project

Every change to a drawing, every change to a schedule, every late delivery, every rain day, every difference of opinion or understanding on a project has the potential to result in a claim. Learn how proper document management on a construction project can help contractors and owners successfully avoid, make, or defend a claim. Read Michael Demers', [Jenkins Marzban Logan LLP](#), Construction Law Paper "Recording the Project": www.sica.bc.ca/record.pdf

SICA has created a Site Superintendant Job-Site Daily Journal to help with recording the project! The 26 week project journal helps track site conditions, job delays, and much more. Copies are available to our members for \$10 each, or \$20 for non-members. Stop in at SICA to see what the Job-Site Daily Journal is all about.



Gold Seal Exam Results From April 2008

The education of our members, and the promotion of the Gold Seal program, continues to be a prime focus of SICA's mandate. We would like to congratulate the following members who have successfully completed the **Gold Seal Exam** in April 2008.

Superintendent

- Helmuth Larsen, Maple Reinders (General Contracting)
- Scott Hayter, H & M Excavating Ltd. (Road Building/Heavy Construction)

Project Manager

- Marvin Hayter, H & M Excavating Ltd. (Road Building/Heavy Construction)
- Tim Krogh, PCL Constructors Westcoast (General Contracting)
- Tom Cumming, Cumming Construction (General Contracting)
- Scot Brydon, Wildstone Construction (General Contracting)
- Mark Melissen, Wildstone Construction (General Contracting)

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- George Corke, Cortez Construction Ltd. (General Contracting)

For more information on Gold Seal, and a full list of SICA Gold Seal Certificate Holders, please link to: www.sica.bc.ca/education.gold.shtml

Management Award Winner 2008:

The International Builder's Exchange Executive's (IBEE) Management Award recognizes exemplary skill, vision and leadership in managing the individual's own organization and was won this year by our own President, Debbie Hicks.



2008 Survey: Gen X and Y – What do they want?

In April and May of 2008, David Aplin Recruiting conducted two surveys focused on Gen X (born 1962 – 1979) and Gen Y (born 1980 and after) workers and what issues are most important to them generally. This is a summary of what they found:

Overall, the top ten most influential employment incentives are:

1. Advancement opportunities
2. Performance-based bonuses, salary increases
3. Excellent benefits package
4. New challenges, variety of interesting projects
5. Meaningful work, opportunities to make a difference
6. Pension or retirement savings plan
7. High salary
8. Recognition, feedback
9. Flexible work hours, telecommuting
10. Mentoring, coaching

In addition to paying attention to the top ten incentives employees want, employers can stand apart from the crowd by offering perks that are in high demand, but very few companies are currently offering them. These include:

- Signing bonuses
- Subsidized transportation
- Free fitness memberships
- Company stock options

In the end, Gen X and Y want their current and future financial needs met by their employer, and they want to enjoy their work. They do not expect the company they work for to satisfy their social needs or community involvement – they can do that on their own.

Building for Tomorrow

The City of Kamloops Public Works Centre Administration Building was officially opened on July 31st. The Public Works Centre project includes a number of new, as well as renovated, buildings to accommodate the Public Works and Utilities and Parks Department operations staff and administration at a total cost of \$13.2 Mil.



MMCD Contract Administrator Course – Oct. 17 & 18, 2008

MMCD would like to announce that the next scheduled Contract Administrator Course will be offered this fall on **Friday October 17th and Saturday, October 18th** at

The Northern Interest is the Interest of All

Prince George's new Economic Development Officer, Tim McEwan, has written an informative article for the Vancouver Sun. Discussing diversification of the economy, and what is needed to bring success to BC's export sector, it is clear that Government needs to fast-track current infrastructure projects, and support future development of roads, electrification, and transport systems. Public policy should also reflect the fact that not all areas of BC have the same access to services/resources/etc. as the Lower Mainland – tax policies need to recognize this. Read the complete article:

www.sica.bc.ca/north.pdf

More Than 10% Of All Successful Bids Are Won By Less Than 1%

Bidding on construction projects is a complex and challenging process. It is an expensive but necessary part of being in the business of construction contracting. Every contractor will relate to the experience of fine-tuning their bid to the very last nickel and still being second low bidder by only the

the Fairmont Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond BC.

Complete details about the course can be found on the MMCD website at www.mmcd.net/contract_admin.html.

Innovation in "Reality"

The word "INNOVATION" is no longer just a buzzword of the moment and for good reason. In today's global marketplace, companies have to reinvent themselves to maintain their competitive advantage. Due to a shortage of skilled labour, and escalating construction costs in both materials and labour, contractors have to be thinking of creative ways to deliver projects to owners on schedule and within budget.

Due to the complexity of the job site and the many variables to be addressed during construction (i.e. site management, weather, material scheduling and delivery, inexperience of all partners in the construction process, and communications between owner, design consultants, general contractor and numerous trades), eighteen researchers at the University of Calgary have discovered that average productive tool time is at 57%. This means that for every eight hour shift, the worker is only able to put 4.5 hours towards time on the tools versus managing other aspects of construction. Clearly there is room for improvement and the need for innovative new ways.

Improving productivity on-site by addressing the shortage of skilled qualified labour is the number one priority of the Associations across Canada - from the local Southern Interior Construction Association, to the provincial British Columbia Construction Association and the national Canadian Construction Association. Being that we are in a global marketplace, it is essential that construction firms throughout Canada remain competitive. By sharing the research information across Canada, our economy as a whole will remain at the forefront because of enhanced productivity.

Following are the "Top Ten Targets" of Improving Construction Productivity over the next three years:

1. Highly Motivated, and Satisfied Workforce
2. Best Practices Model for Supervision
3. Better Working Relationship model between Subs and GC
4. Efficient Materials, Tools, and Equipment Management
5. Better Tool time, work practices to reduce non-tool time and resource and work optimization
6. Information Technology based On-Site Communication Framework
7. Better Integration between Site and Office Management
8. Weather related Issues
9. Project Stakeholder Issues – Owner, Architect, Changes, etc.
10. Macro level of Productivity issues considering competing projects, availability of labour, resources, targets, etc.

While some recommendations may appear to be obvious from a practical point, others will be radical.

The research team at the University of Calgary is funded by a group of seven partners along with the National Research Council to the tune of \$1.5 million. Four of the partners are in the Southern Interior Construction Association: Graham Construction and Engineering Inc., Ledcor Construction, PCL Constructors Inc., and Stuart Olson Constructors. What they all agree is that the solutions that will be implemented over the next three years will balance innovation, feasibility, value and sustainability.

SICA Innovation Award – First Recipient!

At the Annual General Meeting on September 19, 2008, SICA presented its new Innovation Award to **Greyback Construction Ltd.**, the 2007-2008 worthy candidate. Greyback received the award for their innovation in the quality control requirements

thinnest of margins. We wondered just how often this happened, and if there was anything that could be learned from taking a closer look at the bidding patterns of the successful low bidders. Read more of Dave Robertson's, Infinite Source, informative article: sica.bc.ca/bidding.pdf

New CDBI Teaming Agreement Endorsed

The new Design-Build Teaming Agreement developed by the CDBI has been approved by the CCA Board of Directors and will be published and available for distribution. This Agreement made between the Team Leader (Project Respondent) and the Team Member (a party participating in the preparation of the Proposal) is a model form designed to clearly define each party's rights and responsibilities.

CCA 61 - Risks of Pre-Purchasing Equipment & Materials for Construction Projects

New from CCA, the CCA 61 is a guide document outlining the risks and associated costs that should be considered when determining whether to pre-purchase equipment or

for hot weather concrete procedures to chill water droplets to a few degrees above Celsius, and broadcast the cold water droplets over large areas through: *The Use of Snow-making Machines On The William R Bennett Floating Bridge, Kelowna, BC*



Left - Craig Donoghue and Terry Brown, Greyback Construction Ltd.
Right - CCA Chair, Paul Charette

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The perceived benefits may not outweigh the actual risks of this type of contract. Available for purchase from SICA, or members may download for free from the CCA website (www.cca-acc.com), contact SICA for access information.

2009 CCA Annual Conference

Planning is on schedule for the 2009 CCA Annual Conference to be held March 9-14 in warm and sunny Scottsdale, Arizona.

The full conference brochure will be mailed to you in October. In the meantime, we invite you to visit the Events and Conferences section of the CCA website (www.cca-acc.com) for the latest developments and to reserve your room at the amazing Hyatt Regency Gainey Ranch. On-line registration will be available on the CCA Web site after all details have been finalized in September.

BCCA At-a-Glance - Provincial News



Changes to BC Building Code

New green requirements for energy and water efficiency have been added to the BC Building Code and will come into effect on September 5, 2008. More information on the new requirements can be found online at www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/index.htm

Construction Looking Forward 2008-2016 Key Highlights

Since the start of the millennium, British Columbia has led the country in construction employment growth.

- From 2001 to 2007, construction employment rose more than 50%, exceeding all other provinces. This resulted in large numbers of workers drawn into the British Columbia construction industry.
- The building boom was spread across all sectors, but new industrial and engineering construction activity accelerated in 2005.
- Construction employment growth exceeded labour force growth, reducing unemployment to the lowest levels recorded since the late 1980s, and likely the lowest ever. Measured at the summer peak, this suggests that needed workers were not available.
- The continuous surge in employment in the engineering and industrial trades will drive excess supply rates for construction trades even lower this year and next.

Access the full report from the Construction Sector Council at: www.csc-ca.org/pdf/CSC-LookingForward08-BC-EN.pdf

Green Is Gold

Green construction is a rethinking of how we build our world around us. It isn't a new way to swing a hammer but rather, how we get to hammer and nails. It comes down to an increased responsibility and involvement in the materials and techniques we choose. "Where does that come from, and where does it go?" are the two questions we need to ask ourselves when making those choices. How are we changing the community we're building in and how do we fit into that community?

So, what can you do? Reduce.

Reduce waste, reduce cost, reduce our carbon footprint and reduce liability. Of course it isn't that straight forward and there are a lot of questions to ask along the way. The first question, and the easiest to answer, is why. There are three answers to that; health, community and profitability.

All new government buildings must be LEED gold certified. LEED certification is a means to the green construction end. It is a collection of best practices and state-of-the-shelf technology. LEED is easy to learn, easy to incorporate into your business and into your thinking. It is the way things are going to be built in Canada. LEED is saying what you're doing, doing what you say, and being able to prove it. LEED projects needs LEED accredited professionals. Find more about LEED from your local association or from the Green Building Council of Canada (<http://www.CAGBC.org>). The goal of LEED and green construction is to reduce your carbon footprint.

Read more: www.bccassn.com/documents/bullet155.pdf

Publicly Funded Building Projects - Standard Stipulated Price Contract Documents

As a result of the publication of the new CCDC 2, 2008 there is a concurrent update to the Standard Documents and Guidelines for a Stipulated Price Bid for use on Publicly Funded Building Projects in the Province of British Columbia. The updated document has been released under the care of the newly formed British Columbia Documents Committee (BCDC), signifying its document numbering as BCDC 2, 2008. The BCDC 2, 2008 is available and downloadable, like its predecessor document, on the website of the Public Construction Council of BC (www.pccbc.com, under Documents).

To read more about this document: www.bccassn.com/issues/Issue_Update_212.pdf

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CCA At-A-Glance - Federal News



Gold Seal Update

- Beginning January 1, 2009, Gold Seal will **upgrade the minimum requirement** to become certified as a construction management professional by requiring **five years** of practical experience, an increase from the current three-year minimum. John Schubert, CCA Gold Seal Committee Chair, noted that "the scope and complexity of construction management have increased tremendously since the program started in 1993. Technical knowledge, new building and management techniques, regulatory compliance and safety and environmental legislation have introduced challenges we had never heard of in the past – today's managers are forced to be at the top of their game." **Applicants registered as a Gold Seal Intern (GSI) before the end of 2008 will not be affected by the change.**
- Beginning in January, 2009, Gold Seal will recognize all construction management training, regardless of duration. Current guidelines disallow most courses under 6 hours. The requirement for at least three 30-hour courses will also be removed. National Gold Seal Committee members made the change recognizing that company-delivered training in particular has increased in variety and intensity, while the availability of distance learning has also improved dramatically over the past few years.

For an application, contact the SICA office in Kelowna or visit the CCA site at www.cca-acc.com.

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