



CANADIAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

45 O'Connor Street, Suite 1150
Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
ph 202-408-9541
fax 202-408-9542
www.cpwa.net

CPWA President's Update

Kealy Dedman, P. Eng., MPA

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Canada Speaks: Liberals Will Form Majority Government

As all of Canada watched on Monday the 19th, the Liberal Party of Canada did what no other party has done before – they increased their seats in the House of Commons from third place to first (from 35 to 184 seats) in just one election and, in so doing, will govern the country for the next four years. The election polling indicating that a significant majority of Canadian voters wanted change was accurate– and that the climate for change was perhaps even underestimated by pre-election pollsters and the parties themselves.

A part of this change was the indication that voters felt it is time to invest in the future of Canada and Canada's communities. Voters also seemed to hear and understand the message that Canada's infrastructure is lagging behind and that investment in infrastructure is essential to the nation's future. Some might have thought that Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau's plan to invest in infrastructure by creating a budget deficit for three years would scare voters away. Instead, a sufficient number of Canadians supported the logic of making these investments now while, as Prime Minister-designate Trudeau reasoned, interest rates are low and money is cheap.

Yes, investment in infrastructure was definitely an issue in the 2015 election. In fact, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities tracked 155 references to infrastructure in the respective national party platforms. The same report showed that three of the four major parties committed to investing in wastewater, including the Liberal's green infrastructure investment plan.

What Does It All Mean for Public Works and Infrastructure?

The incoming Liberal majority government promised the most significant financial investments in infrastructure. Their election victory with a majority of seats in the House of Commons ensures they will be able to follow through on their campaign commitments for infrastructure investment as set out in the Liberal Party's election platform:

- The New Building Canada Fund, established by the previous government, will be maintained. However, the incoming Liberal government intends to make the Fund “more transparent, by providing clearer project criteria along with faster approval processes.” Moreover, given the three significant, separate investments noted immediately below, the Fund will be able to make greater investments in roads, bridges, transportation corridors, ports and border gateways. Separate investments of \$20 billion each over 10 years will be made in three priority areas: (a) public transit; (b) social infrastructure (i.e., affordable housing, seniors’ facilities, early learning and child care, cultural and recreational infrastructure); and (c) green infrastructure (i.e., water and wastewater facilities, clean energy, climate resilient infrastructure, including flood mitigation systems).
- A new Canadian Infrastructure Bank will be created to provide low-cost financing via loan guarantees and small capital contributions to provinces and municipalities. It will also issue Green Bonds.
- Near the end of each fiscal year, any uncommitted federal infrastructure funds will be automatically transferred to municipalities through a temporary top-up of the Gas Tax Fund. This is designed to ensure that committed funds are not allowed to lapse.

Clearly the incoming Liberal government has a very ambitious agenda for public infrastructure. This should be welcome news for provinces and municipalities across Canada and provides excellent opportunities for the CPWA to work with the new government as it rolls out its infrastructure spending plan. We feel that the CPWA is well positioned to be an important voice and contributor to the efficient and effective implementation of these initiatives.

First steps in CPWA’s action plan will include:

- Sending letters of congratulations to the new Prime Minister and relevant Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, including an introduction to the CPWA.
- Seeking an early meeting with the new Minister responsible for infrastructure to discuss the CPWA’s policy priorities and to offer the CPWA’s assistance as the new infrastructure investments are being put in place.
- Participating in any Parliamentary Committee hearings that may be held regarding investments in public infrastructure.

[CPWA Welcomes Prime Minister-Elect Justin Trudeau](#)

CPWA To Honour National Public Works Week Award Winning Municipalities

This November and December, CPWA will be making the local presentation ceremonies honouring the winning municipal agencies for National Public Works Week, held during May 17-23, 2015. This is one of CPWA’s favorite programs to promote – one where public works departments celebrate, educate, and showcase our contributions to community life and the profession of public works. The CPWA National Public Works Week awards program recognizes these agencies from across Canada for their public awareness education and celebrations. National Public Works Week was instituted in 1960 to increase public awareness of the role of public works services and professionals in our daily lives. These public works professionals are the planners, builders, managers and designers of our communities’ infrastructure.

The presentation of first place awards will be held at a Council meeting or other municipal events as below:

November 5, 2015 -- 1:00 PM - County of Newell, Alberta - First Time Entry Award

Council Meeting, County Office, 183037 Range Road 145, Brooks, AB

November 10, 2015 – 7:00 PM - City of Port Moody, British Columbia – Small Centre Award

Council Meeting, Port Moody City Hall, 100 Newport Drive, Port Moody, BC

November 16, 2015 – 7:00 PM - City of Kitchener, Ontario – Medium Centre Award

City Council Meeting, Council Chambers, Kitchener City Hall, 200 King St. W, Kitchener, ON

December 9, 2015 – 9:00 AM - City of Mississauga, Ontario – Large/Metro Centre Award

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor Civic Centre, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga.

This year's winning municipalities were first announced in Phoenix, Arizona on August 31 at the CPWA Annual Luncheon held in conjunction with the APWA PWX annual conference. Winning municipalities were those that best met the criteria for their public awareness program that can include open houses, displays of public works equipment, tours of public works projects, programs for civic organizations, media events, as well as focus on education initiatives and the promotion of careers in public works.

CPWA Atlantic Provinces Chapter Celebrates 40 Years

This October, I was pleased to join the Atlantic Provinces Chapter in Fredericton, New Brunswick for their 40th Anniversary and Chapter Conference. The Chapter hosted a great Conference and I had the opportunity and honour to recognize one of the Chapter's leaders, David Knowles, City of Dieppe, for his service to the CPWA Board of Directors. David has also provided 25 years of involvement, leadership and service to the Atlantic Provinces Chapter. While in Fredericton, I also had the opportunity to meet with Fredericton officials and to enjoy their local history including the Fredericton City Hall building erected in 1875 which is a National Historic Site of Canada and the oldest municipal hall in Atlantic Canada still used for civic administration.

CPWA Website Update

CPWA has updated our website at www.cpwa.net with new information and resources. We are using the Chapter Template that is provided to APWA and CPWA Chapters. Please visit the website and be sure to let us know if there are other items and information that you would like to see on the CPWA website.

CPWA to Host International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME) Next Spring

CPWA will have the opportunity to meet with association executives from engineering associations from Europe and other countries when they visit Ottawa for their biannual IFME meeting in April 2016. The group of 15 or so association executives will also meet with City of Ottawa and other stakeholder organizations while in Ottawa. CPWA plans a half-day meeting, lunch, and dinner with the group of visitors. Many of the association executives were also involved in CPWA's annual

International Infrastructure Round Table (IIRT) held in conjunction with APWA PWX (formerly Congress) in Phoenix, AZ on August 30.

CPWA Past President Darwin K. Durnie Wins Presidential Leadership Award

Friends and colleagues of past president of CPWA Darwin K. Durnie, PWLF, were pleased to be in attendance at the APWA awards ceremony in Phoenix when APWA President Larry Stevens, P.E., PWLF, presented the Presidential Award for Leadership to Durnie, who is Principal and Director of Business Development for Stantec Consulting Ltd. in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. The Presidential Award for Leadership is bestowed at the sole discretion of the APWA President to a member who has distinguished himself or herself with their leadership in the public works profession. Durnie, who also earned a place among the 2015 Top Ten Public Works Leaders in North America was both surprised and humbled by this additional recognition and honour.

Stevens cited Durnie's impact on the entire association and the public works profession across the U.S. and Canada through his management style and intuitive leadership at the local, regional and national levels, and his education and certification efforts for APWA and CPWA. Stevens honored Durnie as a person who sees a challenge as another opportunity, rather than a problem. "It is with great pride that I bestow the 2015 Presidential Award to Darwin Durnie, as a fellow public works professional, in recognition of his service and accomplishments for the entire APWA and CPWA," Stevens said.

Three Canadians Named to APWA's New Task Force on Asset Management

APWA Immediate Past President President Larry Stevens has assembled and will serve as APWA Board Liaison for a new APWA Task Force on Asset Management. The seven-member Task Force includes three Canadian members: Steve Wyton, P.Eng., MA, City of Calgary, AB; Alain Gonthier, P.Eng., City of Ottawa, ON; and Joline McFarlane, City of Airdrie, AB. The mission of the Task Force is to determine how APWA can assist in furthering the efforts of implementing asset management for local governments and other infrastructure providers across North America. The Task Force got underway with their first meeting in September 2015. They plan to meet with the APWA Technical Committees in February to discuss how asset management affects the public works disciplines.

Let Us Hear From You!

As always, the CPWA Board of Directors would like to hear from you on issues of interest to you – our members! Please feel free to e-mail me at Kealy.dedman@guelph.ca or to CPWA staffer Gail Clark at gclark@apwa.net with your ideas of how CPWA can better serve as "the voice of public works."

Kealy Dedman, P.Eng., MPA

President, CPWA