



CANADIAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

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CPWA President's Update – September 30, 2016

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CPWA President (2016 - 2018)

@cpwatweets

Dear CPWA Members,

As I begin my two-year term as President of CPWA, I'm thrilled by the opportunities ahead for the public works community in Canada. In just the past year, we've witnessed new federal leadership in Ottawa with the promise of significant financial investment in infrastructure; the release of Canada's second Infrastructure Report Card, highlighting that one-third of Canada's municipal infrastructure is at risk of rapid deterioration; and the announcement of a federal budget that is scheduled to invest more than \$120 billion in infrastructure over the next ten years, including asset management capacity building and municipality-led greenhouse gas reduction projects.

These developments are especially welcome to the CPWA and our members, who have been calling attention for years to the state of infrastructure and public works in Canada and to the critical role that investing in infrastructure plays in the health, safety, economic development and quality of life of our communities.

I've just attended PWX 2016 in Minneapolis, where I was inspired and educated by the speakers and presentations - and reminded of how much work there is to do. Diane Gray, CEO of CentrePort Canada in Winnipeg, gave a presentation on the plans for growth at CentrePort Canada, North America's largest inland port. Former CPWA President Darwin Durnie discussed, at a roundtable on disaster preparedness, the need for asset management at the municipal level, where 2/3 of Canada's core infrastructure is owned and operated. Chuck Marohn, Founder and President of Strong Towns, spoke at the closing session about how governments are enticed by the anticipated revenues associated with new growth, but that those revenues are often far outweighed by the long-term liability of maintaining the infrastructure supporting that new growth.

This is an important time for our profession - there is recognition that our public infrastructure is in need of repair and renewal, and that this requires significant financial investments - and we can't let this opportunity be wasted. As stewards for public works and infrastructure, CPWA will continue to advocate for capacity building in areas of

asset management and sustainability, and to talk with policymakers about how best to achieve the flexibility we need for new projects, while preserving the long term viability of our existing infrastructure.

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to work alongside the CPWA Board of Directors, our Chapters and members across Canada, and other stakeholder organizations to address these issues as CPWA continues to be “the voice of public works in Canada.”

Here is a brief update on recent activities:

August

CPWA, which traditionally reserves Monday at PWX for its annual luncheon, business meeting and education session, was busy again at PWX 2016 in Minneapolis. Here are some highlights.

Advocacy Palooza!

CPWA Past President Kealy Dedman and CPWA consultant Alan Young joined APWA Director of Government Affairs Andrea Eales and Government Affairs Committee Chair Lisa Rapp Monday August 29th during PWX for an interactive discussion about advocating for public works in both Canada and the U.S. There were brief presentations, from both Canadian and US perspectives, about the current political landscape and what APWA and CPWA are doing to support advocacy as a top priority, as well as discussion about how individual members can enhance these efforts to increase the voice of public works to policymakers at all levels.

Ms. Eales spoke about advocacy tools such as the APWA Washington Report, APWA Advocates and the new U.S. House of Representatives Public Works and Infrastructure Caucus. Ms. Rapp spoke about advocacy as critical to impacting laws and regulations affecting public works. Mr. Young spoke about seizing the opportunity to provide input to the new government in Canada and to capitalize on the two-phase investment in Canada’s infrastructure. Ms. Dedman spoke about how CPWA is engaging with officials in Ottawa to advocate for CPWA’s strategic priorities: dependable, flexible funding for infrastructure; capacity building in asset management; and promoting sustainability in infrastructure projects.

Audience members from the U.S. and Canada shared their questions and ideas about how they and their chapters could address challenges to engaging in advocacy and hone their power as THE leading voice for all matters public works.

A recording of the session will be available in the APWA Members’ Library.

CPWA Luncheon: CentrePort Canada - Building North America's Largest Inland Port

More than 160 Canadian, U.S. and international attendees gathered for the annual CPWA Luncheon at PWX 2016 and the opportunity to hear from Diane Gray, Chief Executive Officer of CentrePort Canada. Ms. Gray spoke about the plans for growth at CentrePort Canada, North America’s largest inland port, located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Ms. Gray spoke about CentrePort Canada as “an integrated logistics and infrastructure platform to attract business investment”. The 20,000 acre development is centrally located in North America with tri-modal access to interstate highways, three class 1 railways, and a 24/7 international cargo airport. Offering prime industrial land and logistics support for key sectors such as agri-business and food processing; composites and advanced manufacturing; biomedical and e-commerce; and regional distribution; CentrePort Canada is poised for significant new growth.

National Public Works Week Contest Award Winners



Each year CPWA hosts a national awards program to recognize municipalities for their National Public Works Week programs and events. During the CPWA Luncheon at PWX, Mr. Steve Blayney, CPWA Director from the Manitoba Chapter, had the honor of announcing the 2016 winners of the CPWA National Public Works Week Awards Contest.

This year's entries came from cities and towns across Canada and featured creative approaches to public education and outreach. CPWA would like to thank all participating municipalities for their efforts and outreach during National Public Works Week and for the excellent entries received. The benefits of this program are far reaching and of great value to the profession and the entire community.

CPWA will be sending each participating municipality a well-deserved certificate of appreciation for their efforts. Winning municipalities will be presented with awards before their Councils in the fall.

Municipalities who participated in the awards program are listed below, with winning municipalities highlighted:

First Time Entries

- City of Moose Jaw, SK (pop. 35,000)
- **Town of Newmarket, ON (pop. 86,000) WINNER**

Small Centre Entries

- Town of Ladysmith, BC (pop. 8,600)
- District of Squamish, BC (pop. 18,000)
- City of Dieppe, NB (pop. 26,000)
- City of Moose Jaw, SK (pop. 35,000)
- Ville de Victoriaville, QC (pop. 45,232)
- Ville de Rimouski, QC (pop. 50,000)
- City of Moncton, NB (pop. 69,000)
- **City of Cold Lake, AB (pop. 15,000) WINNER**

Medium Centre Entries

- Town of Newmarket, ON (pop. 86,000)
- **Town of Richmond Hill, ON (pop. 185,540) WINNER**

Large/Metro Centre Entries

- City of Surrey, BC (pop. 520,000)
- **City of Brampton, ON (pop. 600,000) WINNER**

CPWA would also like to thank the volunteers who served as evaluators for the awards contest: Steve Blayney, Winnipeg, MB; David Sparanese, District of Saanich, BC; and Paul Smeltzer, Niagara Region, ON.

September

Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure Announces Enhanced Canadian Presence

On September 15th, the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) announced the retention of Peneycad Professional Services—located in Burlington, Ontario—to assist Canadian public agencies in the use of Envision®, a unique and innovative infrastructure rating system used as a tool to design and help decision makers create more sustainable infrastructure.

ISI is a not-for-profit organization, dedicated to changing the way infrastructure is designed, built, and operated through the continued development of sustainable practices and policies. Envision is a rating system that is used as a planning and design tool to guide the building of infrastructure, while creating public involvement in the process of civil infrastructure development.

Heading up ISI's Canadian presence is Melissa Peneycad, Principal at Peneycad Professional Services, who was previously employed at Stantec Consulting Ltd., where she helped build the company's integrated sustainable infrastructure practice area. While at Stantec, she facilitated the use of Envision on several projects, including the first two Envision-verified projects in Canada. She also led Envision training sessions for both colleagues and clients.

Infrastructure Canada Provincial-Territorial Agreements

The Government of Canada has now signed [Phase 1 bilateral agreements with all provinces and territories to fund projects to deliver safe water, reliable wastewater treatment and high-quality public transit](#), through:

- Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements for Clean Water and Wastewater Fund and Public Transit Infrastructure Fund
- Infrastructure Framework Agreements for Building Canada plan funding
- Gas Tax Fund Agreements

A Federal/Provincial/Territorial Infrastructure Ministers' meeting was held September 7th in Edmonton to discuss Phase II of the federal infrastructure plan.

- Infrastructure Minister Amarjeet Sohi praised strong partnerships saying they have been essential to delivering Phase 1 of [Investing in Canada: The \\$120 Billion Infrastructure Plan](#).
- \$5.4-billion in federal funding is available through Phase 1 under bilateral agreements.
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities attended a portion of the meeting and discussed how to connect municipal priorities of urban and rural communities to provincial, territorial and national outcomes.
- Ministers discussed
 - Infrastructure investment approaches
 - Best mechanisms to deliver projects in their respective jurisdictions and
 - Public transit, green and social infrastructure needs
- Participants are eager to see Phase 2 start as soon as possible so that funding can revitalize the economy and boost employment
- Ministers want funding to support their existing priorities – and to be “predictable, and flexible” with a fair allocation model and a simple administrative process

See how [Phase 1 Investments](#) in [Clean Water and Wastewater Fund](#) and [Public Transit Infrastructure Fund](#) are being used in your province and municipality.

<http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/pt-sp/ptt-tsp-eng.html>

Let Us Hear From You

As always, the CPWA Board of Directors would like to hear from you with any comments. Feel free to contact me directly at stevenson@ae.ca or contact Anne Jackson at ajackson@apwa.net. And follow CPWA on Twitter @CPWATWEETS!

