

WCR & HCA REPORT 2012



WCR&HCA 2012 Priorities Report - A Highlight Year In Review

The following priorities were adopted by the WCR&HCA Board of Directors and advanced at national meetings of the Canadian Construction Association (CCA). The venues for expressing our views and influence included the Civil Infrastructure Council (CIC), the Industry Advocacy & Regulatory Affairs (IARA) Committee, the CCA Executive Committee and its full Board of Directors. These were augmented by discussions and meetings with stakeholders by the WCR&HCA and its member associations.

National Infrastructure Summit (NIS) Regina, Saskatchewan, September 2012

The second NIS took place in Regina, Saskatchewan in September 2012. It was designed to further the debate and move public policy support for sustained investment in municipal infrastructure across Canada. The WCR&HCA along with the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) was present at and supported the public discussions related to the national imperatives of sustained investment in Canada's infrastructure.

National Infrastructure Accord (NIA) - Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP)

The WCR&HCA advanced to and worked with the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) and related stakeholders, in pursuit of support from national stakeholders for funding approaches with which to address Canada's municipal infrastructure deficit.

Evolving from the above were discussions led now by the federal government around a Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP).

The federal government was and continues to be urged by the CCA and members of the WCR&HCA to announce a Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP) in its 2013 budget with funding no less than the predecessor Building Canada Fund.

Canada's LTIP focus should be on infrastructure investments which support long-term economic growth and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure; leveraging private sector partnership opportunities; and funding from all levels of government to ensure national affordability and sustainability over a long term.

Of significant importance, the Big Cities Mayors Caucus announced in Ottawa on November 15, 2012, a pledge to match new federal government funding dollar for dollar to rebuild and improve cities over the next 20 years. They urged Ottawa to match their commitment with new funding to support and rebuild Canada's cities, including public transit, roads, bridges, water and wastewater treatment systems.

CCA - An Industry Champion for Economic Growth; Infrastructure & the Economy

The WCR&HCA encouraged the CCA to position itself as a public policy 'go to' national champion of economic growth for Canada, including becoming a major voice on the need to enhance productivity in Canada (not just our industry), competitiveness (not just in our industry) and international trade.

As a result of WCR&HCA efforts, the CCA now in its language makes that direct linkage. The CCA and WCR&HCA jointly advocate that sustained public and private sector investment in infrastructure fuels economic growth. This growth provides tax revenues to governments that ultimately fund our quality of life and social safety net programs. Therefore, without a growing economy, discussions about funding our social program priorities are neutered.

In addition to the above CCA's Civil Infrastructure Council (CIC) agreed to commission a report written by the Canada West Foundation evidencing those views. The WCR&HCA Board, and the CCA CIC heard in October 2012 an overview summary of the report scheduled for release in January 2013. It will be rolled out nationally supported by a public relations messaging effort.

The WCR&HCA Board also agreed to press for meetings with each Premier by the CCA Chair accompanied by local construction association representatives, in support of the pending report messages and linking it to the imperatives of provincial participation in the anticipated federal Long Term Infrastructure Program (LTIP). That principal was taken to the CCA by the WCR&HCA and adopted by the CCA Board at its October 22, 2012 meeting.

Environmental Assessments

The WCR&HCA supports and urged the CCA to champion the concept of one project one environmental assessment to eliminate jurisdictional duplication and project environmental approval delays. We are pleased that the federal government has heeded the above messages and is in process of adjusting its legislation in that direction.

Conclusion

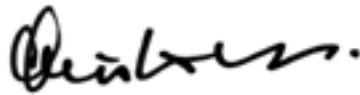
Although the WCR&HCA does not enjoy the same profile as its member associations, the quiet consensus collaborative efforts of its four member associations exerting presence and influence nationally with the CCA and individually in their own areas of engagement, is having a significant impact upon the evolution of public policy.

A review of the above evidences continuation of the tradition of influence, impact and relevance of the WCR&HCA.

WCR&HCA members are encouraged to continue their support not only of their individual associations but of the collaborative work undertaken by the Western Canada Roadbuilder & Heavy Construction Association (WCR&HCA).



Bob Reidy, P.Eng.,
Chair WCR&HCA
November 19, 2012



Chris Lorenc, B.A., LL.B.,
President WCR&HCA

