

Did You Know?

Summer 2021 | Edition 11

The Official Newsletter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto

Committee Appreciation Event Planned For Fall



The Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto is looking to resume in-person social events in the fall of this year with a potential Committee Appreciation Night.

Following the cancellation of multiple events this year due to pandemic restrictions, the association continues to monitor public health and provincial government announcements regarding the resumption of in-person events and larger gatherings.

The anticipated Committee Appreciation Night will be held at Woodbine Racetrack. ☺

MCA Toronto 2021 Annual General Meeting

Following a successful virtual 2020 annual general meeting on February 19, 2021, and ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, MCA Toronto will once again host its 2021 event in the virtual space. The 2021 Annual General Meeting will take place on September 10, 2021.

The association looks forward to meeting with members and industry guests in person September 8 to 11, 2022 at the JW Marriott The Rosseau Muskoka. ☺



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INDUSTRY UPDATE



ICI Investment Reaches 10-Month High in April

In early June, Statistics Canada published new Investment in Building Construction data, showing that in April 2021 ICI investment in Ontario surpassed \$2 billion in a single month for only the second time. This is a striking contrast to April 2020 when Ontario's ICI investment fell to its lowest monthly total since 2016. ICI investment has also increased in every month since September.

Year to date, ICI investment in Ontario is up by 7.8 per cent compared to the same period in 2020, although this is largely due to increased commercial investment in Ottawa. Overall, in Ontario, commercial investment was up by 16.8 per cent in the January – April period, while industrial investment was down by 4.5 per cent, and institutional down by 3.0 per cent.

Statistics Canada's latest employment numbers show that there were 13,600 fewer

construction jobs in Ontario in May compared to April, a decline of 2.5 per cent. With 527,800 employed in the construction industry, May's employment level was the lowest in the province in seven months, although only one per cent off the next lowest month, February. This drop-off in construction employment has been attributed to the strengthening of public health restrictions that went into effect in Ontario on April 17. As reported last month, these restrictions would have not likely been captured by April's employment data, hence the drop-off appearing in May's data.

Ontario's general unemployment rate rose to 9.3 per cent in May. This is the highest unemployment rate since January (10.2 per cent), although only slightly higher than February (9.2 per cent) and April (9.0 per cent). The lowest unemployment rate so far in 2021 was in March (7.5 per cent). ☺

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO (MCAT)

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto (MCAT) is the leader of the mechanical industrial, commercial and institutional sectors. The mission of MCAT is to promote professionalism, cost-effectiveness, safety and productivity of mechanical services through education, labour relations, public relations and government affairs.

Brand Recognition Key Goal for MCA Toronto in 2021

The COVID pandemic isn't slowing the momentum of the MCA Toronto Public Relations Committee.

With all social events on hold, the committee is laser-focused on increasing the awareness of the MCA Toronto brand to both the general public and industry at large.

The association is currently in the process of securing a marketing firm to assist in spreading the MCA Toronto message through multiple media sectors including radio and television advertising, as well as an increased presence on social media.

Creation of New Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship System Closer to Existence

Bill 288, *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act* (BOSTA) passed third reading in the Ontario Legislature on June 2. It enables the creation of a new skilled trades and apprenticeship system that is not dissimilar to the one that currently exists. In the new system, compliance and enforcement will fall under the purview of the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and training and certification will fall in the aegis of a new agency to be called Skilled Trades Ontario.

Passage of Bill 288 has the immediate effect of doing away with the previously legislated wind-down of the Ontario College of Trades (OCoT). All other provisions in Bill 288 will not come into force until they are subsequently proclaimed by the government. The timing of the future proclamation of the BOSTA is at the discretion of govern-

MCA Toronto has also re-initiated production of the "Did You Know?" e-newsletter, the premier marketing vehicle for the association. Designed to deliver regular news updates and information on association events, educational programming and industry trends, MCA Toronto will produce the e-newsletter bi-annually, and distribute it to the industry.

If you would like to contribute an article to *Did You Know?* please contact Frank Bertuzzi at bertuzzi@mcatoronto.org or call (416) 491-9004. ☎

ment – it has publicly announced targeting the end of the year for BOSTA to come into force and for Skilled Trades Ontario to come into existence. Until that time the Ontario College of Trades Apprenticeship Act (OCTAA) is in full force and remains the primary statute regulating skilled trades in Ontario. All OCoT core services must continue to be delivered in support of the transitional system, until such time OCTAA is ultimately replaced by BOSTA.

OCoT management has been in discussion with the Ministry regarding steps to eventually transition College activities to Skilled Trades Ontario and to the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, respectively – as envisioned by BOSTA. OCoT programs and services are expected to remain 'as is' in the immediate future. ☎

WSIB & Paid COVID-19 Sick Leave

The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has passed the COVID-19 *Putting Workers First Act*, which provides employees with up to three days of paid infectious disease emergency leave for reasons related to COVID-19. Administered by the employer, the paid leave started April 19, 2021 and will expire on September 25, 2021.

Employers are required to pay eligible workers up to \$200 a day for up to three days. Employers can then apply for reimbursement through the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). Reimbursement applications must be made within 120 days of payment to the employee. No applications will be accepted by the WSIB after January 25, 2022.

Please see [MCA Toronto Safety Bulletin #6](#) for more information. ☎

Your input is greatly valued! If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns regarding the *Did You Know?* newsletter, please email bertuzzi@mcatoronto.org.



Working at Heights Training Extension Set to Expire in 2021

Due to COVID, Working at Heights training was extended to give certain construction sector workers an extra year to renew their Working at Heights training.

The extension applied to those who completed their Working at Heights training between February 28 and August 31, 2017. The validity period, normally three years, would have ended in 2020. It will now end in 2021.

To be eligible for refresher training, workers must have previously successfully completed both modules of an approved working at heights training program. You can check eligibility status using the eligibility checker tool.

A training provider who has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer can deliver refresher training.

For more information, please visit the Training for Working at Heights on the [Ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca) site. ☎

Supply Chain Issues Hit GTA

Delays in material and equipment, and the inflated price of copper, nickel and HDPE are affecting deliveries to many companies in the GTA.

Although the Bank of Canada recently announced that commodity prices should correct themselves, contractors need to be extra diligent not to make delivery promises they cannot meet. Given the unstable supply and fluctuating costs, most quotes can only be confirmed for a week or shortly thereafter. MCA Toronto continues to monitor these supply chain issues. ☎

**WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU!**