

Winter 2024

Edition 16

The Official Newsletter of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto



#### INDUSTRY EVENT MCA Toronto to Host Annual Golf Tournament

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto will host its annual golf tournament on **June 20, 2024**, at Nobleton Lakes Golf Club with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Registration details will be available soon. MCA Toronto members are encouraged to keep an eye on their inbox for more information.

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# Upcoming Certification Workshops

CA Toronto will be offering the following certification courses this spring:

• Introduction to Lean Construction - March 8 and 15, 9 a.m. to Noon. <u>Click here</u> for more information.

• Working at Heights Refresher Training - March 18, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. <u>Click here</u> for more information.

• Microsoft Project Planning - April 5 to 26 (consecutive Fridays), 9 a.m. to Noon. <u>Click here</u> for more information.

• Art of Construction Management - April 12 and 19, 9 a.m. to Noon. <u>Click</u> <u>here</u> for more information.



595 Cityview Blvd., Unit 7, Vaughan, ON L4H 3M7 Tel: (416) 491-9004 | Fax: (416) 491-9007 www.mcatoronto.org



CA Toronto is pleased to announce that registration is now open for its webinar series of educational programs geared to member needs.

Kicking off the course series are a host of informative sessions presented by Dan Leduc of Soloway Wright Lawyers. Leduc is a specialist when it comes to construction law and dispute resolution. He is frequently called upon to advise and represent owners, subcontractors, suppliers and builders in such areas as contract reviews, tender issues and general construction matters, in addition to litigation and arbitration. Leduc is well-versed in negotiating, mediating, arbitrating and litigating all manners of construction disputes as well as construction contracts.

On March 29, from 11:00 a.m. to noon, Leduc will present an informative session on Escalation Clauses and Best Practices in construction.

**Delay Claims** will be the topic of discussion on **May 3**, from 11:00 a.m. to noon. During this session, Leduc will address delay claims in construction cases as well as the common pitfalls it presents.

MCA Toronto is also pleased to present **Critical Developments in Employment Law** in 2024 on **March 22** from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Last year saw some significant changes for businesses and employers across Ontario. This session will feature James Jennings, of Filion Wakely Thorup Angeletti LLP, who will discuss some of the most notable cases and legislative developments from the past year, and provide some insight into what to expect in 2024.

Interested members can register now for these online seminars by visiting the <u>MCA To-</u> ronto Events Page.

## **Overall Construction Investment Up in 2023**

Despite a small dip in month-to-month investment, total investment in ICI building construction in 2023 was up 12.5 per cent compared to 2022, with the industrial sector experiencing the largest percentage change (28.3 per cent). The strongest gains were from the first half of the year, as Q1 2023 was up 13.7 per cent and Q2 2023 was up 15.9 per cent from the same periods in 2022. Q3 and Q4 2023 gains were also noteworthy, at 11.5-and 9.5-per cent respectively.

For more industry economic information, <u>click here</u>.

#### 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.

# **2024 Industry Luncheon A Success!**

CA Toronto kicked off 2024 with its annual Industry Luncheon. Held January 31 at the Crystal Fountain Banquet Hall in Markham, ON, the event proved to be another success with over 200 industry representatives and their guests registered to attend.

The annual Industry Luncheon provides a networking opportunity for industry repre-

sentatives and stakeholders to connect, share experiences and catch up with colleagues. In addition to great conversations and a fine lunch, guests were also entertained by mentalist Ryan Edwards who had everyone engaged with his uncanny abilities with the numbers, specifically the MCA Toronto current industry-hours.



### **Ontario's Bill 149 Proposes New Requirements**

The Government of Ontario has proposed further changes to the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (Ontario) with the *Working for Workers Four Act, 2023* (Bill 149).

If passed, Bill 149 will introduce new requirements for job postings, including those related to pay transparency, use of artificial intelligence (AI) and limits on requiring Canadian work experience, as well as other changes addressing wage protections and workers' compensation benefits. The amendments would also impose a number of other new obligations on employers in Ontario. Although most of the requirements are non-controversial, amendments to the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997,* are of particular interest to the construction industry. If passed, it would give the government authority to increase benefits paid to injured workers above the annual rate of inflation. This may result in higher premiums for employers in the future. Today, benefits paid to injured workers are fully indexed to inflation annually.

For more information on the Working for Workers Four Act, 2023, click <u>HERE</u>.

#### **Reimbursement for HSR Training Ends March 31**

Health and Safety Representative (HSR) is required in most workplaces with six to 19 workers. Their role is to support health and safety in the workplace.

Eligible small business employers can apply to be reimbursed for HSR training costs through the Ontario Small Business Health and Safety Training program. This program will be ending March 31, 2024.

Employers who want to claim training costs must ensure HSR employees complete training and obtain a certificate of completion by 5 p.m. on March 31. Employers can apply for reimbursement until 11:59 p.m. on July 15, 2024.

For more information, visit the <u>ontario.ca</u> website.  $\boldsymbol{\Theta}$ 

#### **Ontario Workplace Tribunals Library Updated**

The Ontario Workplace Tribunals Library has been updated to be more accessible and transparent. Some highlights of the redesigned website include: Popular resources are now available, such as the OLRB Bargaining Unit Certificate data-

base, etc.; a new streamlined design making it more user-friendly and easy to navigate; and, many electronic documents in the library catalogue which can be downloaded directly by users.

<u>Click HERE</u> to visit the website.  $\Theta$ 

#### MCA Toronto SAFETY e-Newsletter Now Available Online

Current issues of MCA Toronto's SAFETY e-newsletter are now available online. Designed to provide informative and relevant health and safety information to



MCA Toronto members, the Safety Committee has a vision of providing awareness, education and training, creating positive work environments with reduced risk, and a mission to improve the health and safety of all members. <u>Click here</u> to view the current issue.



#### MCA Toronto 2024 Annual General Meeting

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Toronto will host its 61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting on September 6 to 8, 2024, at Queen's Landing, Niagara-on-the Lake, ON.

The AGM is an important event on MCA Toronto's calendar as it is the time of year when the association reflects on its achievements, divulges future plans and engages with the membership.

More information and registration details will be available soon on the <u>MCA To-</u> <u>ronto web site</u>.

# WE WANT TO HEAR FROM <u>YOU</u>!

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