

JANUARY 2018

In This Issue

- 1 COCA Calls For Scalable Accreditation Program
- 2 Gritziotis Plan Could Lead to College Overhaul
- 2 COCA AGM to Feature Election Forecast Presentation
- 3 Sexual Misconduct Allegations Force Brown's Resignation as PC Leader

COCA Calls For Scalable Accreditation Program

In its submission to the Ministry of Labour's Prevention Office COCA called for an Accreditation program that's scalable so that it can be applied to enterprises of all sizes. COCA made the submission in response to the MoL's consultation on Accreditation. COCA's submission stated "The Accreditation Standard must be developed in a way that is scalable; it should not be a program in which only the largest and most sophisticated companies can afford to participate; it should provide avenues for small enterprises to develop and implement simple and effective health and safety management systems that suit their own circumstances, improve their health and safety performance and meet the CPO standard.

COCA also promoted the use of the WSIB's Safety Groups Program in its submission stating "Many organizations that have a genuine commitment to the improvement of their health and safety performance are participating in the WSIB's Safety Groups Program and many have advanced to the Safety Groups Advantage Program; these organizations have found that the Safety Groups Program provides an effective forum for learning and for the development of their own health and safety management systems; the Prevention Office should work with the WSIB to ensure that the Safety Groups Advantage Program leads participating organizations to a place where they meet the Accreditation Standard"

COCA also made the case for financial support for construction companies pursuing Accreditation, "Most construction enterprises are very small and may lack the management sophistication or cannot afford the expense of implementing a CPO approved health and safety management system. At the same time, construction is a hazardous industry that accounts for a significant number of accidents. Funds should be made available to construction associations to offer no cost/low cost training to help construction employers implement a health and safety management system that meets the CPO Accreditation Standard. As noted earlier in this paper, this could be in the form of a revised Safety Groups Advantage Program"

Gritziotis Plan Could Lead to College Overhaul

The Ontario College of Trades is in the process of a “soft launch” of its business plan for 2018. A document titled “Strategic Plan and 2018 Priorities” created by OCoT’s new Registrar and CEO George Gritziotis was distributed to selected stakeholders last week and posted to the College’s website this week. Gritziotis took several months to conduct a careful review and consult internally before drafting the 2018 road map. The plan has been approved by the OCoT board of governors and is aligned with the College’s 2015-2020 strategic plan and subsequent 2017 review and update. It should be no surprise to anyone who knows Gritziotis from his time as the province’s Chief Prevention Officer that the plan is very ambitious and could lead to some significant changes if not an overhaul of the College. It lets stakeholders and the public know that there’s a new sheriff in town who will shape the institution in accordance with the recommendations made by Tony Dean in his report on OCoT. Among the plan’s objectives for 2018 are the following:

- Execute new compliance and enforcement policy
- Apply program evaluation process and conduct scope of practice reviews
- Work more actively and effectively with other regulators to influence public policy
- Work with all stakeholders to review the College’s governance structure
- A stable revenue model augmented by new revenue sources

It should not be forgotten that the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development is in the midst of an apprenticeship modernization initiative and that the Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act mandates that a review of that statute must be started not later than December 8, 2018.

“Strategic Plan and 2018 Priorities” can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.collegeoftrades.ca/about/governance/strategic-plan>

COCA AGM to Feature Election Forecast Presentation

Mark your calendar for the COCA Annual General Meeting on February 22, 2018 at Woodbine Racetrack in Toronto. The agenda for the day will go something like this:

- 9:00 to 11:30 am - COO meeting featuring a presentation from Paul Radkowski on mental health issues and suicide in the construction industry and his Life Recovery Program (are you aware that the incidence of mental health issues, addiction and suicide is very high in our industry? Paul can help.)
- 11:30 to noon - host reception
- noon to 1:00 - lunch
- 1:00 to 1:30 pm - keynote presentation about the upcoming Ontario general election

JANUARY 2018 - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

by the team from Earncliffe Strategies

- 1:30 to 2:30 - presentations of Construction Hard Hat Special Achievement Awards, Industry Ally Awards, the Cliff Bulmer Award, Chair's Awards and President's Awards
- 2:30 to 2:40 – Greetings from Chris McNally, Chair of the Canadian Construction Association
- 2:40 to 3:10 pm - AGM
- 3:10 to 3:20 – Board of Directors photograph
- 3:20 to 3:30 pm – Board of Directors meeting to elect executive committee

We hope you bring some of your association's members along with you to the event to join in the celebration. Please let Martin Benson know so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. We hope to see you there!

Sexual Misconduct Allegations Force Brown's Resignation as PC Leader- Fidelli Chosen as Interim Leader

Here is a summary of the events that led to the recent resignation of Patrick Brown as Leader of the Ontario PC Party less than five months before the Ontario general election and the selection of Vic Fidelli as Interim Leader, as have been reported in the media:

- Two young women recently came forward with allegations of sexual misconduct/ unwanted social advances against Ontario PC Leader Patrick Brown that occurred many years ago; their allegations were first made to a reporter at CTV; those women have chosen to remain anonymous; the two alleged incidents took place when Brown was a member of City Council in Barrie and when he served as an MP; at time of writing there is no police investigation of these allegations underway nor have any charges been laid against Brown
- It has been reported that Brown, himself a teetotaler, liked to hang around bars in Barrie and in Ottawa and that he had an eye for younger women; while some members of the PC caucus have stated they never had any reason to suspect this type of behaviour from their former leader, MPP Lisa McLeod reported that she had heard non-specific rumours about questionable behaviour on the part of Brown and reported it to party official Dimitri Soudas who reported back that the rumours were unfounded
- On Wednesday, January 24 when it was made known that CTV was going public with a story about these allegations, three or more of Brown's senior campaign and political staffers quit
- That evening a disheveled and distraught looking Brown held a press conference to categorically deny the allegations against him and to assert that he will defend himself as vigorously as he possibly can; the hastily called event was poorly planned and staged and didn't cast Brown in a positive light; he took no questions and beat a hasty exit looking very un-leader-like

JANUARY 2018 - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

- Brown met with his caucus later that night and the caucus demanded his resignation as party leader and very early the next morning he did so
- On Friday, January 26 the PC caucus unanimously elected Vic Fidelli as Interim Leader
- The party executive met in emergency sessions on Thursday, January 25 and Friday January 26 to determine whether to:
 - a. organize an expedited party-wide leadership election process to democratically select a new leader to take the party through the June 7, 2018 general election;OR
 - b. allow the Interim Leader selected by the party's 29 member caucus at Queen's Park to lead the party through the general election (which has never been done before)

(It is our understanding that the party's constitution is silent on a circumstance such as this, giving the decision to the executive committee to make.)

The executive committee was deeply divided on the issue and in the end decided to convene an expedited leadership election process with the vote to take place not later than March 24, 2018.

- Likely leadership contenders include star candidates Caroline Mulroney and Rod Phillips, failed Toronto mayoral candidate Doug Ford, former MPP Christine Elliott and MPP Monte McNaughton. Tony Clement has turned down the opportunity and Toronto Mayor John Tory has all but said "no"; interim leader Vic Fidelli at time of writing is the only declared candidate (although none are registered yet as the rules have not been established) having stated that he will seek the permanent leadership role
- Fidelli has urged Brown to take a leave of absence to clear his name and stated that he will not sign Brown's nomination papers to run as a PC candidate in the June 7, 2018 election
- The Tories election platform document called The Peoples Guarantee was developed by the party's policy committees and was approved by the membership at a party convention last fall; it is not tailored specifically for or by Patrick Brown and the new leader should be able to pick it up and run with it; however the document has Brown's picture plastered all over it
- In a surprising turn of events, over the weekend Patrick Brown friend and supporter and a disgraced former MP Rick Dykstra announced his resignation as the PC Ontario Party president amidst allegations of sexual assault against him.