

**MARCH 2018**

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### **The Roll-out of Accreditation Up in the Air**

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Labour Minister Kevin Flynn recently addressed a health and safety symposium organized for the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters' Safety Groups. In his remarks, Minister Flynn spoke about the long-awaited Accreditation program for the top-performing companies that effectively use health and safety management systems.

The stakeholder consultation on Accreditation closed a couple of months ago and that feedback is currently being considered. Minister Flynn seemed quite tentative about Accreditation becoming a reality using the words "if we decide to proceed." It appears that Accreditation will not be rolled out before the June 7<sup>th</sup> Ontario general election.

### **Seeking Relief from Bill 148**

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COCA has joined forces with the Construction Employer Coordination Council of Ontario (CECCO) and the Electrical Power System Construction Association (EPSCA) to seek relief from some of the new provisions of the recent amendments to the Employment Standards Act that came into force with the passage of Bill 148 Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017. Specifically, we are working together to seek relief from the Personal Emergency Leave (PEL), scheduling and vacation provisions. A letter laying out solutions has been sent to Labour Minister Kevin Flynn and a meeting has been scheduled with his office.

### **What to Expect in the Ontario Budget**

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You can expect the Ontario budget to be full of goodies for Ontarians in the lead up to the June 7<sup>th</sup> general election. Among those goodies will likely be the following:

- free prescription drugs for anyone over 65,

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- an additional \$822 million in hospital funding
- \$2.1B over four years for mental health and addiction services

The budget speech will be delivered in the Ontario Legislature on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 28th.

## Upcoming Member Events

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It is a busy time of year for our member associations. Here are some of their upcoming events:

- March 28<sup>th</sup> – LDCA Awards Gala
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – BCA Breakfast & Bill 142 Seminar
- April 7<sup>th</sup> – SSMCA Curling Bonspiel
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12 – OCS Future Building, International Centre, Toronto
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – NOCA AGM and Murder Mystery Dinner
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – TCA Members Day
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - Niagara Safety Awareness Day

## Eight Construction Associations Competed for Curling Supremacy in the Lakehead

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The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Construction Associations Curling Bonspiel was hosted by the Construction Association of Thunder Bay (CATB) at the Port Arthur Curling and Athletic Club on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and a truly superior time was enjoyed by all who participated.

Competing for the coveted Construction Associations Cup were rinks from the BCA, CATB/SSMCA, COCA, GVCA, HHCA, LDCA, TCA and the WCA. Every rink played every other over the two days in four end matches

The eventual winner was, no surprise, the rink from the LDCA comprised of Rob Dempsey, Brian Hayman, Dave Jackson and John Harris. Congrats to London for winning another Construction Associations Cup.

On the evening of March, 23<sup>rd</sup> curlers were treated to outstanding comestibles and libations at The Sleeping Giant Brewery.

Next year's event will be hosted by the Barrie Construction Association at the Stroud

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Curling Club on February 22 and 23 so save the date. Moreover, talks are already underway to have the spiel in Hog Town in 2020 and in The Hammer in 2021.

Very special thanks are owed to CATB General Manager Harold Lindstrom for organizing a great bonspiel and for being such a wonderful host.



The COCANuts -Steve Dietrich, Jan Coomber, Karen Dietrich, Ian Cunningham.



Dave Jackson, Rob Dempsey, Brian Hayman and John Harris of the winning LDCA Rink.



The TCA's John Mollenhauer with COCA Chair Steve Dietrich and his wife Karen.



CATB skip Harold Lindstrom sweeps a GVCA rock out of the house while Josh Heller and Adam Pinder lean on their brooms.