

APRIL 2018

## In This Issue

- 1 Get Ready For Fall Awareness Week
- 2 Government Pushing Budget Bill Through Legislative Process
- 2 Recent Government COTACCR Appointments
- 3 Environmental Commissioner's Recommendations for Low Carbon Economy
- 4 Recent and Upcoming Construction Events
- 4 LIUNA Members Protest Budget at Queen's Park
- 5 Poll Shows PC Margin of Victory Widening
- 5 Ford Appoints PC Candidates in 11 Ridings
- 6 Join us for a night at the Races on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018.

## Get Ready For Fall Awareness Week

As you well know, falls are a major cause of injury and death in Ontario workplaces and a majority of these incidents involve falls from heights.

As part of its *Keep Your Promise – Do Your Part* campaign the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) is organizing Falls Awareness Week to remind workplace parties, employers and workers about the importance of their roles in preventing workplace injuries and fatalities stemming from working at heights. Falls Awareness Week, which is part of an ongoing longer term campaign, will be held from May 7 to May 11, 2018.

I urge you to participate in this campaign by encouraging your members to instruct their instructing supervisors to simply take 15-30 minutes, anytime during the workday from May 7 – 11, 2018, to stop work on their worksite and hold a safety talk about falls prevention and safely working at heights.

IHSA has developed information materials to help hold a successful discussion on the topic of safely working at heights. The free, downloadable resources such as safety talks, magazines and brochures will be available at [https://www.ihsa.ca/topics\\_hazards/fall\\_prevention\\_wah.aspx](https://www.ihsa.ca/topics_hazards/fall_prevention_wah.aspx) or by emailing [doyourpart@ihsa.ca](mailto:doyourpart@ihsa.ca) to receive a package of printed materials.

## Government Pushing Budget Bill Through Legislative Process

On Monday April 23 the Legislature voted on a time allocation motion on the Government's budget bill, *Bill 31, Plan for Care and Opportunity Act*. The motion passed on a vote of 40 Ayes and 32 Nays with the PCs and NDP voting against. Second reading will be held on Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> and if it passes (which it most certainly will) it will be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs for public hearings on April 26<sup>th</sup> and clause by clause review on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Committee will then report the Bill back to the Legislature for third reading (it will require two hours of third reading debate) on or before May 7<sup>th</sup>. That's cutting it extremely close as the writ drops just two days later on May 9<sup>th</sup> marking the beginning of the election campaign.

## Recent Government COTACCR Appointments

The College of Trades Appointments Council and Classification Roster (COTACCR) is composed of two independent branches: the Appointments Council branch and the Classification Roster branch.

The Appointments Council branch is responsible for making appointments to the governing structure of the Ontario College of Trades, which includes the members of the board of governors, the members of the divisional boards (construction, industrial, service, and motive power) and trade boards and the members of the roster of adjudicators.

The Classification Roster branch includes the associate chair, who shall appoint members of classification panels from among the members of the Classification Roster. A classification panel is responsible for reviewing and determining a trade's classification.

Administrative support for COTACCR is provided by employees of the Ministry of Labour.

The Government recently made the following appointments to the College of Trades Appointments Council and Classification Roster:

- Steven Mahoney and Jim Vihaos have been appointed to the Appointments Council branch effective April 11, 2018 to April 10, 2020.
- Brian O'Byrne has been appointed as Associate Chair for the Classification Roster branch. His appointment is effective April 11, 2018 to April 10, 2020.
- Grant Fournier, Christine Johnson, Robert Nairn, and Christopher Stanek have been appointed as public members of the Classification Roster, with appointments effective April 11, 2018 to April 10, 2020.

## Environmental Commissioner's Recommendations for Low Carbon Economy

---

The Environmental Commissioner of Ontario (ECO) released her annual energy conservation progress report recently in which she reported on virtually all aspects of the energy sector in Ontario. The ECO's central criticism of the current government's policies focuses on what she perceives as incongruencies between Ontario's Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act and the province's Long-Term Energy Plan (LTEP).

The ECO's recommendations are as follows:

1. Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan should be required by law to be consistent with the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act. It should plan Ontario's energy system, not just electricity, and should prepare for significant electrification of transportation and heating.
2. Conservation should play a larger role than it does now and should be focussed on times of high demand. It will have more value as demand grows.
3. Ontario should do more to minimize adverse impacts of electricity generation, such as bird and bat kills by wind turbines.
4. To help people who are unduly affected by electricity rates, low-income and Aboriginal financial support programs should be supplemented with enhanced conservation programs to make electrically heated homes more efficient.
5. Ontario should learn from jurisdictions who already use much more renewable electricity, and update electricity infrastructure and energy system regulations to encourage the low-carbon transformation. For example:
  - Ontario should get better at using flexibility tools, such as storage, demand response, interties and prices, to match supply and demand, instead of turning off (curtailing) low-carbon off-peak electricity and running gas-fired generation at peak.
  - Net metering and Market Renewal should provide sufficient incentives to grow renewable electricity as needed to keep Ontario's electricity supply low-carbon.
  - Local distribution utilities should facilitate a growing level of renewable generation and storage.

The full ECO report can be found [here](#).

## Recent and Upcoming Construction Events

---



### **April 19, 2018**

Northeastern Ontario Construction Annual General Meeting, Membership Dinner and Murder Mystery “Cabin Screamer: The Case of the Northern Frights”. *Photo to the left the cast and suspects aof “Cabin Screamer; The Case of the Northern Frights”.*

### **April 25, 2018**

Merit Ontario Business Development Conference, Annual General Meeting and Membership Dinner featuring Guest Speaker and Maple Leaf Legend Wendel Clarke

### **April 27, 2018**

Grand Valley Construction Association Business Excellence Awards Gala

### **May 7, 8, 9**

Skills Ontario Annual Skills Competition at the Toronto Congress Centre. Visit the Skills Ontario website for details of the can't miss event <https://www.skillsontario.com/>

### **May 7, 2018**

Toronto Construction Association Annual Members' Day

### **May 10, 2018**

Windsor Construction Association/Windsor Heavy Construction Association Municipal Night

## **LIUNA Members Protest Budget at Queen's Park**

---

Several hundred LIUNA members gathered on the south lawn at Queen's Park on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to protest provisions in the Government's budget Bill that amend the Labour Relations Act and allow the Carpenters Union access to work for which from they were previously precluded. The budget Bill's formal name is *Bill 31, Plan for Care and Opportunity Act (Budget Measures), 2018* and the particular provision is Schedule 14 which amends the Labour Relations Act 1995. LIUNA stated that these amendments threaten their bargaining rights while the Carpenters assert that LIUNA had been abusing an exemption.

## Poll Shows PC Margin of Victory Widening

---

A random poll of 1126 Ontario voters conducted by Forum Research and published on April 19th showed the PC margin of victory is widening. Here's what the survey revealed:

- 46% of respondents said they would vote PC if an election was held today, 27% said they would support the NDP, 21% said they would support the Liberals, 4% said they would support the Green Party and 2% would support another party
- The lift in the polling that the Liberals received immediately following their budget has quickly disappeared
- If an election was held today the PCs would secure a majority government with 94 seats, the NDP would serve as official opposition with 23 seats and the Liberals would be reduced to only 7 seats and would lose their official party status.
- Liberal Premier Kathleen Wynne remains highly unpopular with a net favourable rating of -54. PC leader Doug Ford is slightly less unpopular with a net favourable rating of -3. Andrea Horwath is the most popular among the major party leaders and the only one in positive territory with a net favourable of +5
- A number of the proposals put forward by the NDP in their election platform were well supported in the polling results including the income tax on the wealthy and the student loan conversion into grants, which were both strongly popular
- With regard to the PC proposal to eliminate any provincial income tax better for minimum wage earners instead of increasing their pay by \$1, 50% say that eliminating any provincial income tax would be better, 35% say that increasing their pay would be better than eliminating their provincial income tax and 15% aren't sure
- With regard to PC proposal to cut corporate taxes, 40% say they disapprove of the proposed tax cut, with 26% doing so strongly. 37% say they approve of the proposed tax cut, with a quarter doing so strongly.
- For complete results go to <http://www.forumresearch.com/>

## Ford Appoints PC Candidates in 11 Ridings

---

Ontario PC Leader, Doug Ford, appointed candidates for 11 ridings in which nomination meetings had not been either held or scheduled.

Several hopefuls who were expecting to compete for the nomination in their riding and were already campaigning but who were not selected by Ford were disappointed to say the least. None more so than former MPP (Simcoe North) Garfield Dunlop who had filed nomination papers with the Party to seek the nomination in the new riding of Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte. (Dunlop's daughter is the PC candidate in his old riding of

# APRIL 2018 - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Simcoe North.). Another, Jake Skinner, a trustee with the Thames Valley District School Board, who had been campaigning for two years has vowed to take action.

Ford, who had criticized his predecessor for the way he had handled the nomination processes, allowed that he didn't like to nominate candidates but with little time before the commencement of the election campaign he felt that it was necessary to get candidates in place quickly.

Ford appointed the following individuals as the Ontario PC Party candidates in their respective ridings:

- Jib Turner (Algoma-Manitoulin)
- Doug Downey (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte)
- Ray Ferraro (Guelph)
- Mike Harris Jr. (Kitchener-Conestoga)
- Andrew Lawton (London West)
- Colleen McCleery (Ottawa Centre)
- Christina Mitas (Scarborough Centre)
- Roshan Nallaratham (Scarborough Guildwood)
- Gary Ellis (Scarborough Southwest)
- Meredith Cartwright (Toronto Centre)
- Andrew Kirsch (Toronto-St. Paul's)

## **Join us for a night at the Races on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018.**

The Board and COO meetings scheduled for the April 17th have been cancelled. The June 5th meeting is being rescheduled to Wednesday, June 13th, 2018 after the provincial election in order to provide members an opportunity to discuss the election and potential impact on the construction industry.

To provide members an opportunity to network COCA is returning to Woodbine Race-track. At the conclusion of the Board meeting, we have invited Earncliffe to return and to provide a review of the Election. This will be followed by a buffet dinner trackside in a private members room.

**We will provide more details shortly. We hope you can join us.**