

MCAHN New Leadership, Rises To Pandemic “Essential Workers” Challenges

“COVID-19 Resilience Top Priority For Mechanical Contractors Association Hamilton Niagara Board of Directors”

(November 27th 2020 SOUTHERN ONTARIO) – How will we lead? Years after this crisis, we will all look back and reflect on this difficult time. This was the starting position of our insightful conversation which resulted in our association directives to follow; to remain relevant and resourceful while the pandemic reality was unfolding.

Our industrial, and institutional construction employer members were government directed to keep jobsites open as our employment sector was “deemed essential” as the pandemic surfaced, with remaining commercial and residential sectors to later reopen. The Mechanical Contractors Association of Hamilton Niagara’s (MCAHN) national office, MCA Canada, quickly led and engaged all Canadian MCA associations to reinforce government mandates needed to be established to address “pandemic” health and safety measures for construction employers/employees with both federal and provincial leaders. Our collective agreement partnership with the United Association Ontario Provincial Pipe Trades Council (UA Local 67), demonstrated the unity in which we were founded in 1966 to ensure our local area skilled trades personnel remained safe, in compliance and had the tools to perform on jobsites.



As the “new normal” surfaced, MCAHN quickly adapted retooling methods to business online platforms. We remained consistent by communicating changing compliance measures and reeducation opportunities through MCA Canada Covid employer education webinars. Virtual organizational meetings continued, resulting in an internal member audit to further reveal business shifts due to navigating new-found business protocols, work delays and stoppages.

MCAHN 2020 President, Greg Crawford was elected at our 55th Annual General Meeting held in July. As a well-respected construction professional with over 35 years of experience in our local building industry, Greg’s vision quickly materialized. *“Out of crisis, surfaces opportunities.”* Dedicated to helping our local industry become re-energized by providing member opportunities, *“member engagement remains a top priority to strengthen our association voice,”* Crawford shares. *“I’d like to see more of our members participate in our events (whenever we’re allowed to have them) and start seeing young and upcoming professionals get involved. We also need to navigate the association through the new landscape and ensure that we are prepared for situations like we have encountered in 2020. That means having contingency plans to help our members and being tech savvy enough to work/engage from wherever.”*

Several Covid-19 Member Program Incentives Materialized:

- ★ Associate Members 2020 Membership Fees Waived
- ★ New Associate Members 2 for 1 Year Special
- ★ COVID Kindness Video, Recognizing our Essential Construction Workers Sponsored by IT Force
- ★ COVID Free White Papers & Resources
- ★ \$10,000 Total COVID Charitable Donations to Six Local Food Banks, Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation (MCAHN Charity of Choice)
- ★ Five Additional One Time \$1,000 Scholarships.
- ★ MCA Canada Free Covid Resources & Webinars
- ★ MCA Canada & MCA Ontario Government Advocacy Address Pre and Post Covid Employer Challenges

2020 also marks a year of significant loss to our association, with the recent passing of two of our honoured Past Presidents, Doug Jago and Ron Marcotte. With dignity, our association continues to recognize the legacy and contributions of both Doug and Ron.

As a not-for-profit accredited bargaining association, the leadership of the board of directors governs the following association services:

- Education Programs and support through the Construction Education Council/MCA Canada, Member Education Scholarships/Subsidies
- Training and Apprenticeship Programs/Health & Safety/Essential Workplace Certifications
- Industry Supplier Associate Memberships
- Support for the McMaster University Heavy Construction Chair and Student Chapter and Young Emerging Professionals Network
- Government Liaison, Community Support and Economic Development Partnerships
- Member Social Networking Opportunities and Engagement

The MCAHN resource network represents an extensive scope of Provincial, National and International governance associations through MCA Ontario, MCA Canada and MCA America.

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(Photo Front Row Left to Right): *Greg Crawford - E.S. Fox Ltd./MCAHN President, *Anthony DeChellis - E.S. Fox Ltd./Immediate Past President, Scott Wright - Gordon Wright Mechanical Ltd./Director (Back Row Left to Right): Lorraine Waller - Matrix North American Construction Ltd./ Director, Michael Leone - Procon Constructors Inc./Director, Jason Campbell - Aecon Industrial/Director, Kyle Getty - Sutherland-Schultz/Director, Jim DiNovo - BML Multi Trades Group Ltd./Treasurer, Pat Cimek - E.S. Fox Ltd./Vice President. *Non Voting Reference

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The results have just been released, as a 2 year study based on WSIB claims data from 40,000 construction firms, employing 1.5 million full time employees was compiled by the Institute for Work and Health’s Union Safety Effect - Unionized Contractors Are 23% Safer. <http://unionizedconstructionworks.com/safety/>