

PRESS RELEASE

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PROMPT PAYMENT TALKS GO NATIONAL!

During the weeks of October 17 and 24, 2011, representatives of the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC) met with trade contractor representatives in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and British Columbia. In addition, and on the occasion of the recent Chairman's Tour in Atlantic Canada, Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada Chairman, Brad Diggins, and President, Richard McKeagan discussed prompt payment legislation with mechanical contractor members in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

The purpose of these meetings was to inform provincial trade contractor associations and members of the current status of proposed prompt payment legislation for the Province of Ontario and to answer any questions and/or offer support to those provinces who wish to pursue prompt payment legislation in their particular provincial jurisdiction.

An original draft of legislation was introduced in the Ontario legislature on June 1, 2011 by Ontario MPP Dave Levac, the same day the legislature was prorogued. Since then, a new draft of legislation has been completed which was prepared in keeping with the principles of the standard industry "consensus –based" contract documents specifically the CCDC#2 prime contract and the CCA subcontract.

Prompt payment legislation in Ontario has the support of all three provincial parties. The new draft entitled "***An Act Respecting the Protection and Viability of Construction Contractors***" is expected to be reintroduced in the Ontario legislature this Fall.

Bob Hoare , NTCCC Chairman, (who attended and participated in the October 18, 2011 meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), said of the recent meetings across the country: "*I was thrilled to see and hear the enthusiasm expressed by the various provincial trade contractor communities on the prospect of introduction of prompt payment legislation in their respective provinces. This overdue initiative is really taking off!*"

Eryl Roberts, Executive Secretary of the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association notes that: "*... the national dialogue on prompt payment has provided a rallying point for trade contractors around which they are establishing their own separate identity as a force within the construction industry. At the same time, the approach to solving payment issues based on standard industry consensus documents and practices, as the potential to engage the entire industry constructive and meaningful discussion around resolving one of our most divisive issues-payment.*"

Speaking of his impression of the October 18, 2011 meeting in Edmonton, Alberta, Brad Diggins, President of MJS Mechanical Ltd. (and current National Chairman of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada) said: *"I was extremely pleased with the (meeting) turnout and the obvious interest on the part of Alberta trade contractors with regards to the distinct possibility of prompt payment legislation introduction within our province. This inaugural meeting acted as a perfect catalyst to initiate trade contractor synergies within Alberta and will lead to other important trade contractor initiatives in the future."*

Betty McInerney, Executive Director of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba (who's Association hosted the October 19, 2011 meeting in Winnipeg) said: *"The meeting in Winnipeg with NTCCC representatives garnered a lot of interest from several of the trade contractors and trade associations in Manitoba. This is definitely an issue that needs addressing. We've already begun to discuss our next steps! Thanks go to the Ontario trade contractors who took the lead on this."*

Speaking on the October 18, 2011 meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, John Baker, President of the Mechanical Contractors Association of Saskatchewan, said: *"I was pleased to see a good turnout of trades at the first meeting of NTCCC in Saskatchewan. We all recognize the issues surrounding prompt payment and are interested to examine introduction of prompt payment legislation in Saskatchewan. I look forward to the next steps working with other trades as we go forward."*

Similar degrees of interest were also enthusiastically expressed in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia by meeting attendees.

With regards to the proposed prompt payment legislation for Ontario, NTCCC Chairman, Bob Hoare, says that he is: *".... excited and enthusiastic about the prospects of a true industry partnership working together with COCA and OGCA on this extremely important matter for the construction industry."* Sandra Skivsky of the Canadian Masonry Contractors Association notes: *"Prompt payment legislation is a win/win for everyone involved in the construction industry. A timely and efficient flow of payments will allow for better business operations all around. And what is good for construction is good for the economy. It's great to see the cooperative efforts between among NTCCC, COCA, and the OGCA, happening in Ontario, and the interest expressed by other trade groups and councils across the country in support of this proposed legislation."*

The National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada (NTCCC) was established in 2004 to provide an organized forum for Canada's national trade organizations to share information, resources, and to collaborate on issues that are of common interest all. The membership is currently comprised of: Canadian Roofing Contractors Association, Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association, Canadian Masonry Contractors Association, Canadian Electrical Contractors Association, Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada, Interior Systems Contractors Association, Thermal Insulation Association of Canada, Heating Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Institute of Canada-Contractors Division, Sheet-Metal Contractors Association, and the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction.

For more information on the NTCCC, visit the website at www.ntccc.ca or contact Richard McKeagan at rick@mcac.ca.