



CFBA News

Newsletter of the Canadian Farm Builders Association

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We are at the start of another great Canadian winter the temperature has dropped and the snow has fallen. Staying informed from the CFBA web site will help keep your business up to date on day to day issues.

All companies and employees have to be aware of their surroundings and fellow workers and act accordingly.

"Play and work safely"

We are setting up for our Annual General Meeting. We thank you for submitting your building projects, and for supporting the event by sponsoring and attending the day's events and dinner.

CFBA is always looking for new faces and fresh minds to be part of the board of directors, if you feel this is for you and would like to be part of the CFBA organization, please contact myself or one of the directors and ask questions.

I have been the president for the past 2 years and I would like to thank all the directors for their support and dedication to the organization.

We welcome our new President for 2015, and anticipate this will be Dan Reymer, who is currently the CFBA Vice President. We are looking forward to being a part of his team.

Every day is a gift. Stay true to yourself. Make a new friend every day and indulge in laughter with others.



*Mark Cook
President, Alstructural Handling Inc.*

From the General Manager:

Hello CFBA Members,

We've worked hard to provide our members with an exceptional level of quality with the AGM & Conference. We hope you agree. I will be asking for feedback from those who attend the event, as we are continually improving and want to ensure we are meeting the needs of our members. I have been enjoying getting my feet wet with the G.M. role and I thank the board for having confidence in me. I am most fortunate to say that I love my work! Please contact me if you have a suggestion on how we as an Association can improve.....we're always open to ideas.

In response to member feedback, we reviewed and amended the advertising fees for the CFBA newsletter. **We are happy to offer revised pricing to members in recognition and celebration of the launch of our paperless newsletter in January 2015 (note: please send me a request via email if you wish to continue receiving a paper copy).** We hope you are pleased with the new pricing structure. The cost for a full year includes 1 free issue. Please consider advertising your services or products to other CFBA members and beyond! Please email me to obtain further information.

New pricing Effective 2015:

Ad size	Cost per issue	Cost for full Year (4 issues)
Business Card	\$75.00	\$200.00
1/8 Page	\$90.00	\$250.00
1/4 Page	\$165.00	\$495.00
1/2 Page	\$325.00	\$975.00
Full Page	\$500.00	\$1,500.00

Happy Winter and Stay Warm,

Sally Akroyd Bombino
General Manager



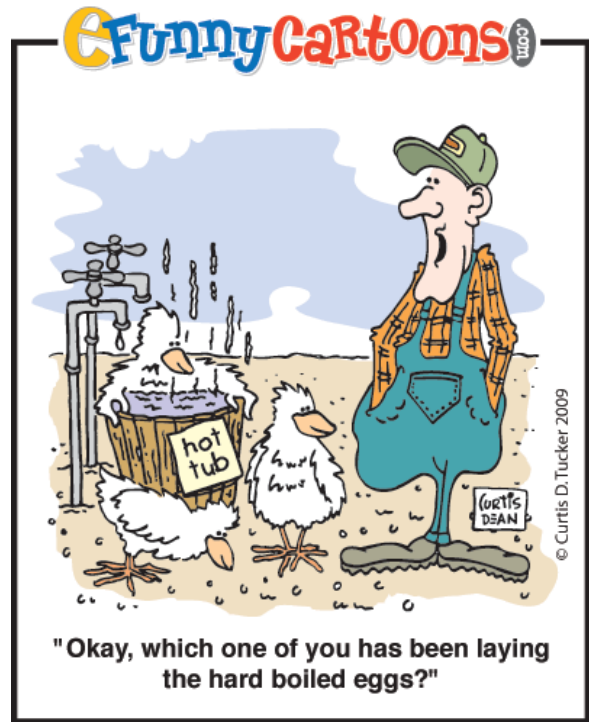
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www.cfba.ca

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE.....



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Local Food News — Ontario

Editor, Elbert van Donkersgoed
December, 2014



The Social Bar and Table Leading The Way With Buying Local - Northumberlandview.ca.

- ECO Wants Local Food Conversation Expanded - **Blackburn AgriMedia** [story](#)
- Members' Statements: Local Food - **Ontario Hansard (record of debates in the Ontario Legislature)** [November 27, 2014](#).
- Renewed Interest in Old-Fashioned Skills - **Western Producer** [story](#).
- Renfrew Event Joins Local Farmers With Buyers Of Local Food - **Farmers Forum** [story](#)
- CK Table Tops in Ontario - **BlackburnNews.com** [story](#).
- Artisanal Cheese, Please - **Better Farming** [story](#)
- Smart Appetite For Local Food Sources - www.Smartappetite.ca.
- The Gift of Gleaners: Leftovers Turned Into Millions Of Snacks, Soup Servings - **Windsor Star** [blog post](#).
- When will The Entire Local Food Act Will Be Proclaimed? - **Toby Barrett, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk** [post](#).
- Garden Feeds Residents at St Paul's College -**Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable** [post](#).
- "Niche to Mainstream" A Hot Topic At Fourth Annual Local Food Con. **KingstonRegion.com** [story](#).
- Guelph Community Food Hub Gets \$267,000 - **Guelph Mercury** [story](#)
- Making It Simple To Give Local - **The Mustard Seed** [post](#)
- Halton Healthcare Services Receives Ovgv's First Local Food Week Award - **Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers** [post](#).
- Hamilton Sustainable Victory Gardens programs. [Website](#).
- Walmart–Evergreen Green Grants - **Evergreen** [post](#).
- New Partnership Launched To Protect Water Quality and Support Ontario Agriculture - **Canadian Fertilizer Institute** [post](#).
- Appetite Grows For Natural, Locally Produced Food - **Vancouver Sun** [story](#).
- New Superfruit on The Block - **CBC News New Brunswick** [story](#).
- Tasty Tidbits: Local Goes Global - **Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance** [post](#).
- Choosing Barley Supports the Local Food Movement – **GoBarley** [post](#)
- Local Food Petition, November 21, 2014, House of Commons - Mr. Matthew Kellway (Beaches—East York, NDP): [Petition](#).
- New Grading System for Canada's Sweetener - **Kelowna Capital News** [story](#).
- Ontario's 'Buy Local' Push Includes Flowers - **Greenhouse Canada** [post](#).
- Food and Beverage Processors Tap Into Public Sector Market - **Canada NewsWire** [story](#).
- Recognizing Ontario's Top Food Exporters -PostNews [post](#).
- Co-op Members Wanted: Ferme Aube aux champs - **JobTome** [post](#).
- Protecting Canada's Farmland, The Right Way - Macleans [Editorial](#)

[Information about Local Food News is available on the Local Food News website. This includes an archive of current and past issues of Local Food News. You can also follow possibility thinking for local food systems by following the tweets about locally grown food and near-urban agriculture at <https://twitter.com/RelocalizedFood>.](#)

[To learn more about the interests and involvements of Elbert van Donkersgoed visit <http://www.linkedin.com/in/elbertvandonkersgoed> or <http://harvest4hunger.wordpress.com/>.](#)



Changes

January 27, 2015

It has been more than thirty years since I attended a meeting of concerned farm builders in Guelph which resulted in the creation of the Canadian Farm Builders Association. At one point we had members from British Columbia, Manitoba, and New Brunswick. We had created four chapters in Ontario. The support of the Ministry of Agriculture was critical in the formation of the CFBA. In the first years OMAF (Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food) supplied us with office space and an executive secretary to give us a professional presence. We would never have made it without their assistance. Those were the days when there were Ministry of Agricultural Engineers in almost every county in Ontario. Their expertise was offered to local farmers for services that varied from crops, ventilation, building design and farmstead planning. Today, they are mostly gone, and even the Engineering Degree program for Bachelor of Science in Agriculture no longer exists.

The aforementioned services have been gradually transferred to the private sector through specific policy decisions made by governments. Today, acquisition of many of these services is a mandatory requirement for the successful application for many farm building permits.

Townships may require the input of specialists for Nutrient Management plans, Storm Water Management, Natural Heritage Evaluation, Grading Plans, and others. The results of these changes over the years is that the cost burden has significantly increased for the farmer and that these costs are paid by the farmer applicant directly, rather than being part of the services government provides.

This cultural shift in the way expertise is delivered has dramatically increased the need for private Civil and Structural Engineers and other expertise in these areas. It has reduced the reliance on government to provide these services to a large degree. This has had several repercussions. One was the loss of some very knowledgeable people in Agriculture at the local OMAF offices. Agricultural specialist positions in Poultry, Swine, Dairy, etc. have never been replaced at OMAF in the local offices. The second consequence of this cultural shift is service delivery, whereby local Municipalities have reduced their staff and put the onus on the private sector for providing these specific services. This has reduced municipality and township budgets; and kept property taxes low. The Municipality's legal responsibility has also been reduced by deflecting this to the consultants hired by the owner/applicant.

Another result of this cultural shift is how government services are provided to the farmer who wants to expand his farm infrastructure. The increased requirements for documentation and the cost to prepare them is a financial burden that was not there a few years ago.

As a contractor, we are often the messenger of the "bad news" about the cost of the process and also the much longer lead time to obtain the proper permits and approvals. We are expected to know what is needed, how much it will cost, and how long it will take. The amount of work to apply for a building permit is much more detailed and time consuming than it was previously. Contractors have to remain current on new regulations and planning issues. The increased challenge of environmental conditions is a moving target. The building codes are changing and we have to know how it will affect the farmer's plans for his farm.

When the CFBA was started, the complexity of the services a farm building contractor had to provide were simpler. Change demands we stay up to date if we want to be successful and be able to help our clients. It is therefore of some satisfaction to me, that when I look back at the beginning of the CFBA, how we have changed over the years, and where we are now.....continuously learning and changing to support our members, which in turn, empowers our members to better serve the needs of their clients. The CFBA is still active. It is still working for you. Thank you to the members for continuing to participate and recognizing the benefit for themselves and their clients.

Thirty years ago we were trying to improve things and we are still working at it! The issues may change from time to time, but the original mandate still remains. Farm Building is a great industry with a very unique niche in the construction industry. I will always be proud to say I am a Barn Builder. We need more members to serve on committees, to volunteer their expertise, to help us speak up for our industry. Today is tomorrow's yesterday..... the door to this opportunity is open and waiting for you to enter. Come on in.... we are waiting for you.

From the desk of:



Gary van Bolderen
CFBA Past-President



Statistics Canada

www.statcan.gc.ca

Publication – Farm Income

Analysis

The realized net income of Agricultural producers rose 1.1% in 2013 to \$6.4 billion, marking a fourth consecutive annual increase. The 2013 change reflected small increases in both farm cash receipts and operating expenses. Realized net income is the difference between a farmer's cash receipts and operating expenses, minus depreciation, plus income in kind. Realized net income increased in all provinces except Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. It more than tripled in Manitoba.

Farm cash receipts, which include market receipts from the sale of crops and livestock, along with program payments, amounted to \$54.8 billion, a 2.0% increase from 2012. Farm cash receipts rose in all provinces except Quebec and Alberta. Market receipts were up 3.6%, totaling \$52.2 billion in 2013. Both crop and livestock receipts recorded small increases, marking the third consecutive year of increases for crop receipts and the fourth successive rise for livestock receipts.

Crop receipts rose 3.9% to \$30.6 billion, as rising wheat receipts (including durum) and increased liquidations of deferred grain receipts more than offset a drop in canola receipts. Wheat receipts (including durum) climbed 11.5% to \$6.9 billion on the strength of higher prices during the first half of 2013 and increased marketing. Canola receipts were down 11.0% to \$7.3 billion as marketing fell 10.6%.

Manitoba posted the strongest gain in crop revenues rising 25.3%. Nationally, crop receipts were up in all provinces except Alberta. Revenue from livestock rose 3.2% to \$21.5 billion in 2013. Tight supplies in North America continued to exert upward pressure on prices leading to a 4.5% rise in cattle and calf receipts and a 5.4% increase in hog revenue. Receipts for supply-managed commodities (dairy, poultry and eggs) climbed 1.5%, largely the result of small price increases.

Livestock receipts rose in every province except British Columbia. Saskatchewan recorded the largest increase at 12.2%, as international cattle and calf exports more than doubled in 2013.

Program payments totaled \$2.7 billion, a 21.2% drop from 2012. Decreases in Agri-Stability, provincial stabilization and crop insurance payments accounted for almost three-quarters of the decline. Farm operating expenses (after rebates) edged up 1.8% to \$42.2 billion in 2013. Decreases in fertilizer as well as livestock and poultry purchases were more than offset by generally modest increases in the remaining expense items. Pesticide expenses showed the largest dollar increase, rising 6.4% to \$2.6 billion. This was followed by a 5.6% rise in interest expenses to \$2.6 billion as farm debt grew by 7.4%.

Total farm expenses climbed 2.1% to \$48.5 billion, as depreciation charges rose 4.1%. Total farm expenses increased in every province except New Brunswick. The 0.4% decrease in that province was largely the result of a 10.3% drop in potato seeded acres which, in turn, led to declining crop expenses. There were small percentage increases in the other provinces, ranging from a 0.2% rise in Prince Edward Island to a 3.2% hike in Manitoba.

Total net income reached \$12.0 billion in 2013, a \$5.7 billion rise over the previous year. All provinces except New Brunswick and Quebec recorded gains in 2013. Saskatchewan and Alberta saw the largest increases for the year.

Total net income adjusts realized net income for changes in farmer-owned inventories of crops and livestock. It represents the return to owner's equity, unpaid labour, and management and risk.

The \$5.6 billion rise in the total value of farm-owned inventories accounted for almost all of the increase in total net income in 2013. Record production of several field crops contributed to the significant growth of on-farm stocks.



Helping Greenhouse Growers

Ontario Streamlining Environmental Compliance for Greenhouse Growers and Supporting Farms

December 17, 2014 2:00 P.M.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Ontario is making it easier for greenhouse growers to comply with regulation regarding the disposal of Greenhouse Nutrient Feedwater by streamlining environmental compliance that will benefit farmers and enhance protection of the environment.

The new Greenhouse Nutrient Feedwater Regulation will help greenhouse growers better comply with environmental standards by reducing the costs and uncertainty of approvals. It will promote the reuse, and facilitate the recycling of, Greenhouse Nutrient Feedwater while providing farmers with a new source of nutrients to fertilize their crops.

This change was raised by the Open for Business Forum, a regular roundtable of Agri-food experts convened to streamline regulations and promote a better business climate. It will benefit local farmers by providing a new source of inexpensive nutrients that can reduce the need for expensive commercial fertilizers, and supplemental irrigation water that can replace water drawn from lakes, rivers and wells.

Supporting the province's agri-food industry is part of the government's economic plan for Ontario. The four part plan is building Ontario up by investing in people's talents and skills, building new public infrastructure like roads and transit, creating a dynamic, supportive environment where business thrives, and building a secure savings plan so everyone can afford to retire.

Quick Facts

- Ontario's greenhouse sector is growing and contributes over \$1.5 billion in farm gate sales to the province's economy.
- Many greenhouse operators use nutrient solutions to grow their produce. After reusing multiple times, operators sometimes must dispose of excess solution which can still contain nutrient value. This solution is referred to as "greenhouse nutrient feedwater" or GNF.
- The new regulation helps greenhouse growers meet their legal obligation to safely dispose of GNF.
- The purpose of the [Nutrient Management Act](#) is to manage materials containing nutrients in environmentally friendly ways while supporting agricultural operations and rural development.



Helping Greenhouse Growers – Continued....

Background Information

- [New Greenhouse Regulation Supporting Sustainability](#)

Additional Resources

- The Ontario Regulation 300/14 Greenhouse Nutrient Feedwater will be posted on [e-Laws](#) on December 19, 2014. For more information about the Regulation please visit the [OMAFRA website](#). - ontario.ca/agriculture-news

Quotes

By: *Dean Shoemaker*
Executive Director, Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc.

“Through the Open for Business forum, we worked collaboratively with greenhouse growers and farmers to develop this regulation and ensure it meets their needs. Our government is committed to improving and streamlining regulations, enabling increased productivity and growth across the entire Agri-food value chain.”



“Greenhouse vegetable growers need to have the option of managing nutrients that are excess to their greenhouse operation as field crop inputs rather than waste to be disposed of. By providing that option this new regulation protects the environment while helping the sector to remain viable in a very competitive global trade setting.”

Jeff Leal
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Don Taylor

Chairman, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers

“We fully support the collaborative approach taken by the Ontario government with this regulation. The incorporation of sector perspective on regulations as they are in their initial stages of development is critical to successful implementation.”

*Submitted by: Dan McDonald
Acting, Manager Technical Support
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change*

EXTENDING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH and SAFETY ACT PROTECTIONS TO CO-OP STUDENTS & OTHER UNPAID LEARNERS

MESSAGE FROM ONTARIO'S CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER

The Ontario Legislature has passed the Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act, 2014, which extends the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) to unpaid co-op students and other unpaid learners. It received Royal Assent on November 20, 2014.

Unpaid students, learners and trainees are now defined as “workers” under the OHSA, and have the same rights and duties as the paid workers they work alongside. They now have key rights under the OHSA, such as the right to know about workplace hazards and the right to refuse unsafe work.

They have the same duties as paid workers, such as working in compliance with the OHSA and its regulations, operating equipment safely, and reporting

any hazards or contraventions to the employer or supervisor.

Unpaid co-op students participating in a work placement program approved by a school board or post-secondary institution, deserves the same health and safety protections as every other worker.

PROTECTING YOUNG WORKERS

Many co-op students and other unpaid learners are under the age of 25. It's important that they are properly trained, and know their rights and responsibilities. After all, new and young workers are three times more likely to be injured during the first month on the job than at any other time.

Visit <http://ontario.ca/youngworkers> to learn more.

NEW MINISTRY OF LABOUR ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Labour is pleased to announce a new initiative to support engagement with its stakeholders. In recognition of stakeholders' requests for a more systematic, transparent and responsive approach, the ministry has developed a framework for engagement.

The framework sets out the ministry's vision for engagement and outlines three core goals:

1. Strengthening the engagement experience for all stakeholders
2. Expanding the reach of engagement, and
3. Improving engagement responsiveness

The framework features seven core principles for the ministry's stakeholder engagement that reflect the ministry's current values and practices. By codifying and promoting these principles, the ministry can continue to improve how it interacts with stakeholders and seeks advice.

For questions, please contact MOLEngagement@ontario.ca.

COLD STRESS ADVISORY FOR OUTDOOR WORKPLACES

MESSAGE FROM ONTARIO'S CHIEF PREVENTION OFFICER

Cold stress or hypothermia can affect workers who are not protected against cold. Cold combined with stresses such as hard physical work, loss of fluids, fatigue or medical conditions, may lead to illness, disability or even death.

Serious effects of exposure to cold include: frostbite, such as on the fingers, toes, nose and ear lobes, and hypothermia. Hypothermia can lead to death. People with pre-existing medical conditions, or who are on taking certain medications, may be more at risk from cold. Tell your doctor if you work in a cold environment.

PREVENTION IS THE KEY TO SAFETY WHEN WORKING IN COLD CONDITIONS

Employers and supervisors have a duty to take every precaution reasonable to protect workers — this includes protecting them from cold. Employers are required to provide information, instruction and supervision to prevent cold-related illness.

Employers may:

- Acclimatize workers to conditions by establishing a warm-up schedule and/or provide warm shelter.
- Establish a system to monitor worker symptoms.
- Provide first aid and establish emergency response plans.

To protect themselves, workers can:

- Get advice from their supervisor before working in a cold environment.
- Wear the appropriate clothing for the temperature and weather conditions — this may include wearing face and eye protection, gloves and appropriate headgear.
- Prevent contact of bare skin with cold surfaces.
- Drink fluids often especially when doing strenuous work — for warming purposes, hot beverages or soup are suggested.

Information to help protect you is available from the Ministry of Labour and its [workplace partners](#). To report unsafe work practices, please contact the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.

For more information on other amendments in the act, please visit the ministry's [website](#).

Message from the Chief Prevention Officer:**ADVISORY ON SEASONAL CHANGES AND WORKPLACES**

As we get further into the fall season, we need to be mindful of changing temperature and weather conditions that can impact the workplace.

Such changes can be particularly dangerous and directly affect the workplace. For example:

- Indoor and outdoor wet floors can be a hazard.
- Wet conditions combined with darkness can increase the chance of slips, trips and falls.
- The accumulation of mud on work boots not only impedes walking, but can also increase the likelihood of falls when using ladders.
- Heavier clothing restricts movement and provides an additional chance for being caught on protruding hazards.

Additionally, the change in daylight hours has many people leaving to go to work and returning home at the end of the day in the dark, which reduces visibility. Less light during the day presents physiological and environmental challenges. As natural light decreases, our bodies begin slowing down, and it becomes harder to maintain focus.

All workplace parties have a responsibility when it comes to prevention and workplace safety.

Here are some safety tips and best practices:

- With shorter daylight hours, ensure walkway lighting is adequate.
- Walkways and parking lots should be maintained appropriately.
- Spreading sand on icy walkways can help prevent workplace injuries.
- Be careful when walking, and remember to slow down.
- Wear high visibility clothing when required.
- Clear any obstructions that may cause visibility issues prior to operating vehicles, such as snow, ice and frost.
- Ensure proper signage is in place and maintained for pedestrians and vehicles such as stop signs and cross walks.

Visit <http://ontario.ca/youngworkers> to learn how to protect young workers at the workplace. Information to help protect you is available online at the [Ministry of Labour](#) and from its [workplace partners](#).

To report unsafe work practices, please contact the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.

Message from the Chief Prevention Officer:**ADVISORY ON SNOW LOADING AND ROOF FAILURES****Every year, workers are killed or injured removing snow from rooftops.**

Ontario workers face dangers and hazards including structural failure and the potential for falling from heights, when removing snow accumulated on rooftops.

By practicing safe snow removal, these injuries and deaths can be prevented.

When deciding if snow removal from a roof is necessary, consider having an Ontario licensed professional engineer determine whether:

- The snow load is significant, or
- There are any visible signs of structural distress.

Employers are encouraged to take the appropriate steps to ensure that workers involved in the removal of snow on rooftops have adequate fall protection. In addition, everyone in the vicinity of the snow removal site should always be protected. The safety of workers should continue to be a priority for all employers in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Safety tips for removing snow from rooftops:

- As a first step, employers are encouraged to employ snow removal methods that do not include sending workers on rooftops. This includes the application of de-icing materials to the roof or the use of snow rakes or draglines from the ground level.
- Remove snow in a uniform manner and avoid making snow piles on the roof.
- Use extreme caution when working near power lines.
- Do not use a snow rake or shovel while on a ladder as it increases the risk of falling.
- Protect people on the ground by keeping them away from the snow removal site.

Visit <http://ontario.ca/youngworkers> to learn how to protect young workers at the workplace. Information to help protect you is available online at the [Ministry of Labour](#) and from its [workplace partners](#).

To report unsafe work practices, please contact the Ministry of Labour Health & Safety Contact Centre toll-free at 1-877-202-0008.



N I A G A R A
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A S S O C I A T I O N

Niagara Construction Association
34 Scott Street West
St. Catharines, ON L2R 1C9

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NCA Press Release

St. Catharines, January 16, 2015

Niagara Contractors not qualified to construct Niagara College projects

The Niagara Construction Association has been overwhelmed by calls from our membership over the past two days regarding the prequalified general contractor list released by Niagara College on Monday. This list of prequalified general contractors will be allowed the opportunity to bid Capital projects over \$1.5 million at the Niagara College Campus' in Welland and Niagara on the Lake from now until 2019. This list does not include one local Niagara based contractor in spite of the fact that 3-4 local contractors submitted a prequalification package.

We as an Association are confused by the decision and question the Colleges commitment to the Niagara community to which they reside. When the College requires a co-op for a student or feedback on their program content we are there to support them. We are called on not only as local business but also as past graduates of their Construction program and alumni of the College.

The Provincial procurement policies used in the prequalification process can discriminate against small to medium sized firms whom are just as qualified to do these types of jobs. We would note that Niagara based contractors are in a better position to react to project concerns and deficient issues without delay and have a proven track record of doing the same. Should this not be heavily weighted in selection of the "best suited" contractor, as the prequalification claims the process is meant to identify?

We are not asking for the work to be handed to Niagara general or subcontractors, just fair and honest opportunity to bid the work and provide the value we have based our businesses and reputation on for years!

This Association believes that the General Contractors omitted from the prequalification list are "best suited" to provide Niagara College with the experience, value and integrity they expect from their prequalification list.

For further information please contact:
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Tel: 905-682-6661
karin@niagaraconstruction.org
www.niagaraconstruction.org



Local contractors upset over Niagara College snub



Niagara Construction Association president Tyler Green stands in front of Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at Niagara College, which is poised for a \$4.175 million addition. The NCA is upset no local contractors were selected by the school for five large upcoming construction projects. The Niagara Construction Association is crying foul over its members being shut out from Niagara College's upcoming large-scale construction projects.

The college recently gave pre-qualified status to 15 general contractors that can bid on any capital vision projects worth more than \$1.5 million each for the next four years. Of those, eight are from the Greater Toronto Area, three are from Hamilton, two are from Kitchener, one is from Kleinburg and one is from Windsor. "The \$1.5 to \$3 million range is the bread and butter of contracts in Niagara," said Niagara

Construction Association president Tyler Green, the commercial construction manager for Cotton Construction. "It's what puts food on our tables." After Niagara College put out the request for pre-qualifications in the fall, 43 general contractors submitted bids. Green said four of those were Niagara companies including Bromac Construction, TR Hinan Contractors, Merit Contractors Niagara and Brouwer Construction. Each of the contractors who submitted bids were given a score out of 100 based on company information, project approach and methodology, team experience and qualifications, a written statement and a fee proposal based on the five major projects coming up.

Companies on the selected pre-qualification list include some of the biggest names in commercial construction including Ellis Don, Ball, Bird and PCL.

Niagara College director of marketing, recruitment and communications Dorita Pentesco said the selected contractors were picked based on their final scores in accordance with Ontario's public procurement laws. "Niagara College is bound by stringent provincial procurement legislation aimed at ensuring fair and open purchasing in the public sector. Among other things, this legislation forbids any preferential treatment based on a supplier's geographic location," she said.

But what upsets the Niagara Construction Association is the fact the college chose 15 contractors instead of a higher number that may have included some or all of the local companies. "Every one of the contractors are capable of doing those projects," Green said. Most of them have done work at one of the school's campuses in the past.

Brouwer Construction boss Henry Heikoop said his company built the school's wine education centre in Niagara-on-the-Lake and two additions onto the Welland campus skills trade centre. He's disappointed he won't have the chance now to bid on another \$4.175 million expansion of the skills trade building, the first of five projects to be built in the pre-qualification package. "We assumed we would be on the list without even questioning because of the past work we've done at Niagara College," he said.

The other projects up for grabs include a \$9 million athletic facility and a \$9 million culinary building expansion, both at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus, as well as a \$4 million athletic centre expansion and a \$3.75 million student commons and food court upgrade for the Welland campus.

"It's important for us," said Hiekoop. "There's not a lot of work out there for us right now. We were counting on getting one of these jobs. We know we can be competitive and we'll draw the local trades in with us, which these out of town contractors probably won't." Hiekoop said his company employs 20 people, but added that another 150-200 local subcontract workers are typically used on projects the size of what Niagara College is proposing.

Incoming Niagara Construction Association president Kevin Brown, of Niagara Falls' King Contractors, said he and Green requested a meeting with Niagara College President Dan Patterson Friday afternoon to discuss the issue, but instead were met by the Schools' director of financial services, Vince Malvaso and Patterson's senior advisor, Rob Walters. "We had a lot of good dialogue and we agreed that perhaps we would liaise with them at some point, but basically what we got from them was that the door was closed on this issue for four years," Brown said. "We didn't get the outcome we wanted at all." As a result, the Construction Association sent out a letter to members of the media, Niagara politicians and construction workers Friday afternoon criticizing the college's pre-qualification list.

Pentescio said Patterson wasn't available to comment to QMI Agency Niagara Monday, but said the school sent a letter to contractors to clarify what projects the pre-qualification list covered. "We have issued a clarification letter saying the roster is being used for those five projects," she said. "It also outlines that we're not obligated to stick to that roster for other projects. For projects other than the specific ones in the RFPQ, the college will solicit bids from all potential bidders that meet the specific requirements of the particular project."

Pentescio said that includes projects of any dollar amount, not just ones under \$1.5 million. "There's a whole range of projects that are done at the college all the time," she said. That still didn't make things better in the eyes of the Niagara Construction Association.

"Unfortunately this happens far too often," Brown said. "Not just with Niagara College, but with municipalities and the Region." Green said the local construction workers are largely being shut out of the \$46 million Niagara Regional Police headquarters being built in Niagara Falls because an out-of-region general contractor, Carillion Canada, was selected. "When we don't see local general contractors on it, we know our chance of getting any work as a sub-contractor is maybe 5%," said Green. "We're pointed to the Ontario procurement procedure every time we deal with this," he said. "The fact is, that policy could be looked at and there's some freedom to look at what makes the most sense."

Niagara Falls NDP MPP Wayne Gates said the procurement policy needs to be updated. "I think we have to look at the policy and make sure it's fair and equitable for everybody ... so that small and medium companies in places like Niagara that have talented, skilled workers will have the same opportunities and won't be constantly pushed aside." He said Niagara College has been a "good partner in the community," but that using more local contractors would be mutually beneficial. "We have young people that are doing trades programs at the college and we have to find a way to put them to work. The way we do that, is to make sure local companies are getting contracts



By [Dan Dakin](#), Welland Tribune
Monday, January 19, 2015 5:19:34 EST PM

December 10, 2014

New training requirements for working at heights announced

The Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) has announced changes to Regulation 297/13: [Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training](#) that will come into effect on April 1, 2015. As of that date, workers on construction sites will need to complete a working at heights training program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer before they can work at heights. This training will be valid for three years from the date of completion.

Workers who have already received training that meets the current requirements set out in [section 26.2](#) of the Construction Regulation (213/91) will have two years (until April 1, 2017) to complete an approved working at heights training program. As of now, there are no approved training programs, but anyone who is exposed to fall hazards on the job is legally required to receive fall protection training.

Falls continue to plague Ontario's worksites. In 2013, 10 workers died in fall-related incidents on construction projects and falls were responsible for 25% of lost-time injuries (LTIs) for IHSA member firms.

In 2013, the Prevention Office released a [Working at Heights Training Program Standard](#) and a [Working at Heights Training Provider Standard](#). These standards laid out minimum learning outcomes for working at heights training programs and the requirements for approved training providers.

This focus on reducing working at heights injuries and fatalities through standardized training was a key recommendation of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety that was led by Tony Dean in 2010. The Ontario government committed to implementing all of the recommendations proposed by the Expert Advisory Panel.

IHSA will be releasing additional information on the new standards and how IHSA's *Working at Heights—Fundamentals of Fall Prevention* training will fit into the future of fall-related training in Ontario.

For more information, including a link to the [Training Provider Application Form](#) and [Application Guidelines](#), visit the MOL's [Working at Heights Training](#) page.

If you have any questions, you can contact IHSA directly at 1-800-263-5024 or visit our website at ihsa.ca

What's New

January 2015 | Issue #56

Preventing MSDs

Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) can develop as a result of ongoing exposure to hazards such as repetitive work, forceful exertions such as heavy lifting and pushing, and awkward postures. The ministry has created new resources on manual handling of beer kegs and manual transfers of mobile industrial waste containers.

Read more about manual handling of:

- [Beer Kegs](#)
- [Industrial Waste Containers](#)



Vehicle, Mobile Equipment and Visibility Hazards

Workers can be at risk of serious injury due to hazards involving vehicles and mobile equipment. Learn how to protect workers by reading the ministry's new guidance materials on dealing with such hazards at mines and industrial workplaces.

Read more about visibility hazards at:

- [Industrial Workplaces](#)
- [Mining Workplaces](#)



Ministry Strengthens Engagement

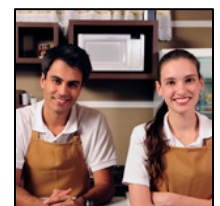
While the ministry has a strong track record of effectively engaging its partners, an opportunity exists to strengthen engagement and to expand its reach to stakeholders. The ministry has established a new framework that communicates its vision for stakeholder engagement.



Blitz Results: New and Young Workers

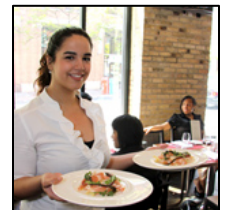
From May to August 2014, ministry inspectors conducted an enforcement blitz in the industrial sector focusing on new and young workers. Inspectors checked that employers were complying with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations.

Learn what the inspectors found.



Work-Related Injury Rates on the Decline In Ontario: New Study

Work-related injury rates in Ontario fell by 30 per cent from 2004 to 2011, according to a newly released study from the Institute for Work and Health.



Occupational Exposure Limits

The ministry has revised the occupational exposure limits with the help of stakeholder consultations. The changes will come into effect on July 1, 2015.

Learn more about your workplace rights: Ontario.ca/workplacerrights

Construction in Ontario Newsletter

The Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA) is a federation of construction associations; the largest and most representational group of industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) and heavy civil construction employers in Ontario. Our member organizations represent more than 10,000 construction businesses and more than 400,000 employees.

As industry advocate, COCA brings the concerns of our members to the attention of Queen's Park and works with the government to ensure that Ontario's legislative landscape is one in which our industry can grow and prosper.

COCA's Call for OCoT Review Realized

COCA began demanding a review of the Ontario College of Trades as long ago as April 2013. In what must be seen as a victory for COCA, the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities, Reza Moridi, announced that former Head of the Ontario Public Service and Secretary to Cabinet and current professor in the School of Public Policy and Government at the University of Toronto, Tony Dean, has been appointed to lead a review of the College. Dean's review is narrowly scoped on two specific elements in College operations:

1. The College's prescribed process for reviewing applications for changes in trade classifications;
2. Issues related to the scopes of practice - or types of work performed in a trade

Through the course of his year-long review, we expect Dean will receive substantial amounts of advice from stakeholders that falls outside his narrow mandate and that he will summarize this advice in an appendix to his report to Minister Moridi.

COCA has already had the opportunity to discuss College reform with Dean who currently is in the process of setting up the systems that are necessary to support his review.

Construction in Ontario Newsletter

Dear COCA Members,

The Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities today announced the appointment of Tony Dean to lead a review of key areas of the province's skilled trades system that fall within the mandate of the Ontario College of Trades.

Dean is a former Secretary of Cabinet and Head of the Ontario Public Service and a former Deputy Minister of Labour. He is well remembered and widely respected for the review of Ontario's occupational health and safety system which he led. In that review Dean was supported by an Expert panel and it concluded with the Tony Dean Expert Panel Report. Among its 40+ recommendations were the establishment of the role of Chief Prevention Officer to head up a new Prevention Office in the Ministry of Labour and the transfer of responsibility for prevention services and programs from the WSIB to the new Prevention Office within the Ministry of Labour headed up by a Chief Prevention Officer. He was able to achieve the support of most stake holder in the process.

The mandate of the review announced today will include:

- Issues relating to the scopes of work or types of work performed by a trade
- The process for determining whether a trade should be certified as compulsory or voluntary

Dean will function independently, without the benefit of an expert panel or advisors in this review which will start in October 2014 and conclude in 12 months.

COCA's experience with Dean has been extremely positive. During the health and safety system review he focused on practical solutions that we implementable with little difficulty. He consulted openly and widely with stakeholders. We have no reason to think he will follow a different process this time.

COCA looks forward to meeting with Dean to share our views.

Ian Cunningham

President

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DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS

News

Tony Dean rolls out OCOT review website

by DCN News Services Nov 24, 2014

TORONTO—A website has been established by Tony Dean outlining the process and details of his review of the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT).



Dean was appointed to lead the review in October and will examine specific issues related to the College's scopes of practice and the process for determining whether certification should be compulsory or voluntary. He told the Daily Commercial News in a previous interview he intended on creating a website so that the process was independent and transparent.

He called the site a "portal in to our review team for stakeholders. We shouldn't be looking to surprise anybody here on any side of this. Status reports on working process are important."

The site, www.deanreview.com, outlines the terms of reference in the review, some frequently asked questions and also describes who Dean is and his intentions. Dean is the former secretary of cabinet and head of the Ontario Public Service and is well known for leading an expert panel review of Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act in 2010. He is also known for completing a governance review of OMERS, one of Canada's largest pension plans, and currently teaches at the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto.

The OCOT review is expected to take about a year and will include consultations with stakeholders. He will also "receive support from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and the College of Trades, but will function independently of both."

To review website: www.deanreview.com for ongoing details.

Follow @DCN_Canada on Twitter and visit www.dcnonl.com for more construction news and updates.

DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS

News

COCA appoints Dutch Masters president as first vice-chair

by DCN NEWS SERVICES Nov 3, 2014 last update: Nov 4, 2014

The Council of Ontario Construction Associations (COCA) has appointed Gary van Bolderen as its first vice-chair.



Gary van Bolderen is the owner and president of Dutch Masters Construction Services Ltd., which is a firm that has provided consulting, custom design, project management and construction services exclusively to the equestrian industry for the past 25 years.

He has represented the Canadian Farm Builders Association (CFBA) on COCA's board of directors and is the CFBA's immediate past chair. Most recently van Bolderen served as COCA's second vice-chair.

"Gary is a person of the highest integrity who started and built Dutch Masters into one of Canada's pre-eminent builders in the agricultural sector. Someone with his qualities, experience and success in the industry is an enormous asset for the leadership team at COCA," stated COCA Chair Don Gosen in a press release.

"Gary has the ability to distill complex issues down to their essence very quickly," added COCA President Ian Cunningham.

COCA represents almost 10,000 general and trade contractors who work in the industrial, commercial, institutional and heavy civil sectors of the construction industry in all regions of the province.

"I know that COCA is the authoritative voice of construction in Ontario, and that the efforts of COCA will benefit not only my CFBA members but the entire industry," van Bolderen said in the release, commenting on the role that places him in line to be elected COCA chair in February 2015.

"I look forward to playing a larger part on the COCA team, in our collective efforts to ensure the legislative landscape in Ontario is one in which construction companies can grow and prosper."

Follow @DCN_Canada on Twitter and visit www.dcnonl.com for more construction news and updates.

CONNECTS

Resources for Agriculture and Rural Economic Development

December 2014

TECHNICAL UPDATES

- Beef Cow Winter Feed Utilization
- Urban Agriculture: Livestock and Poultry
- Source Water Protection
- Streamlining Environmental Compliance for Greenhouse Growers

PROGRAMS and SERVICES

- OMAFRA Economic Development Programs
- New! AgMaps Portal Help Tutorial Series
- Recognizing Agri-Food Innovation Excellence in Ontario 2014 Recipients
- Pollinator Health - Public Consultation
- Local Food Fund
- GF2 Application Deadlines
- Value-added Course to Help Producers Increase Profits with New Products or Services
- Changes to Farm License Plate Requirements
- Expanding Agricultural Production Insurance
- Helping Communities Commemorate 400 Years of Francophone Presence in Ontario
- Interested in Good Governance and Effective Meetings?
- Raw Leaf Tobacco Regulation Workshop
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Growing Your Farm Profits
- Grey Bruce Farmers' Week
- The Agri-Technology Commercialization Centre gets a new look!

Publications

- Publication 384: Protection Guide for Turfgrass
- Publication 812: Field Crop Protection Guide
- Publication 838: Vegetable Crop Protection Guide
- Publication 841: Guide to Nursery and Landscape Plant Production and IPM
- Publication 370: Guide to Greenhouse Floriculture Production
- Publication 835: Crop Protection Guide for Greenhouse Vegetables

CONNECTS

Resources for Agriculture and Rural Economic Development

Continued.....

Factsheets:

- 14-009 Small Biomass Boiler Technology
- 14-011 Nutrient Management Act, 2002 - Constructing an Earthen Liquid Nutrient Storage Facility
- 14-021 Feeding Corn Silage to Sheep
- 14-027 Removing Liquid Manure From Storage
- 14-031 Whiteflies in Greenhouse Crops - Biology, Damage and Management
- 14-033 Sanitation Guidelines for Management of Pests and Diseases of Greenhouse Vegetables
- 14-037 Leafminers Attacking Greenhouse Crops
- 14-039 Forced-Air Cooling Systems for Fresh Ontario Fruits
- 14-049 Creating and Implementing a Human Resource Management Plan

To order OMAFRA publications and factsheets:

Visit any OMAFRA Resource Centre / Northern Ontario Regional Office or ServiceOntario location <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/offices/ouoffices.html>

Phone Lines and Websites

- OMAFRA Website: www.ontario.ca/omafra
- Agricultural Information Contact Centre: 1-877-424-1300 or e-mail ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca
- Foodland Ontario - For recipes straight from our kitchen to yours: <http://www.foodland.gov.on.ca/english/index.html>

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