

## **SCA Board Meeting**

**Thursday, January 26, 2017**

### **SUMMARY**

On Thursday, January 26, 2017 the SCA Board of Directors held its second Board meeting of the 2016-17 operating year in Saskatoon. The Board wishes to thank partner SIIT for generously allowing the use of their Boardroom. The following summary outlines those items the Board wishes to communicate out to integrated partners and members.

The Board is soliciting feedback on the CCA's plan to increase fees by (1) eliminating provincial cross indexing so members will pay the fee in each province in which they belong to a local – phased in over three years, and (2) introducing an annual 1.5 to 2.0% cost of living increase.

The provincial government has indicated a commitment to closing the \$1B deficit in a single year in the upcoming budget. Doing so is highly unlikely without implementing PST of construction labour which is currently exempt. This would result in a 2-3% increase on construction projects depending on the nature of the work. The SCA has worked to inform the government that additional costs in a slow economy may reduce investment and slow the industry – including reducing other taxes generated by construction. Every Saskatchewan Party MLA has been contacted and the SCA is working to ensure they realize that industry, the public and the economy are better off if they close the deficit with a responsible longer term plan. You can support this effort by contacting your MLA.

Planning for Construction Week, April 3 to 7, is underway with coinciding events planned in cities across the province, including a major kickoff event, skills competitions, a provincial lobby day and round tables. Events will be contingent on interest, partnership opportunities and available budget. To present an idea or get involved as a business, association or construction partner please contact the SCA at 306-525-0171.

The Advantage Construction Savings Program is a suite of value-added benefits tailored exclusively for the Saskatchewan construction industry with discounted services including fuel savings, legal services and training – among several others to be announced. The program is nearing initial rollout and will expand throughout 2017.

The SCA has introduced its first four official policy positions under a new policy development framework. More policies will follow and the first four – regarding Prompt Payment, Project Bundling, Priority Saskatchewan and WCB Surplus Refunds – will be posted at the SCA website in the coming weeks. To receive copies of them sooner, please contact John Lax at 306-525-0171.

The Board is also soliciting feedback from integrated partners regarding new SCA Guiding Principles which are a series of short clear statements about key policy areas that will immediately inform policy direction as issues arise. The Principles relate to: safety; prompt payment; procurement; workforce development; taxation; and provincial economic performance. A full list of the draft principles has been provided to each local.

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The SCA led the #TransformSK initiative in 2016 and the team of associations met in late January 2017 to review the feedback gathered from over 40 consultations in 14 communities across Saskatchewan. The work was undertaken after Finance Minister Doherty's invitation for the people of Saskatchewan to think about transformational change in his 2016 budget speech. #TransformSK gathered the best ideas from across this province to provide a direction for future generations of prosperity. Key themes have been identified and a final report is being developed now for presentation to the provincial government.

Finally, SCA administrative staff are also seeking suggestions from integrated partners and members regarding potential subjects for education sessions at Summer Meeting until February 14.

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