



## SCA Board of Directors Meeting – March 2020

### Summary

On March 5, 2020 the Saskatchewan Construction Association (SCA) held its first board meeting of the 2020 year. The meeting was held in Regina at the office of the Regina Construction Association.

Over the course of the day the board discussed member issues, provincial and national association governance changes, prompt payment updates, the upcoming provincial election, best value procurement, and fundraising to support youth entering the trades. The following summary provides an overview of items the board wished to communicate to local construction association (LCA) partners and members.

### Plans for the Upcoming Provincial Election

The SCA will be conducting an election campaign with a four-pillar approach;

- Saskatchewan work for Saskatchewan companies
  - *This will include a cultural change within government to enhance our economic development and grow our tax base by evolving the province's procurement policy.*
- Strengthening investor confidence
  - *This will include rescinding the PST on construction labour, reducing municipal red tape, and establishing sector-based roundtables to develop action plans.*
- Infrastructure funding
  - *This will include recommending an investment of 4% of GDP annually in infrastructure, building a plan to include the maintenance, repair and retro fitting of existing infrastructure, and establishing and communicating long-term commitments to the private sector.*
- No prompt payment exemptions
  - *This will include a call to action that prompt payment legislation come into force on January 1, 2021, with no exemptions.*

Each of these pillars will highlight specific calls to action for the parties. The SCA is partnering with a marketing firm to develop a strong communications strategy.

## **Welcome New Board Members**

In 2020, the SCA Board welcomed six new members:

- Brad Barber, Clearlite Glass (Saskatoon);
- Jon Boutin, Thorpe Industries (Prince Albert);
- Brent Cherwinski, Wallace Construction Specialties (Regina);
- Bryce Chelsberg, C&S Builders (Advisory Council);
- Duane Galloway, Graham Construction & Engineering (Director-At-Large); and
- Colin Olfert, Westridge Construction (Advisory Council).

## **Best Value Recommendations**

Best value procurement continues to be a priority for both the construction industry and the Government of Saskatchewan, however the current policy in government is almost 6 years old and risks becoming increasingly ineffective.

The SCA is developing a proposed Best Value Guide with concise recommendations on the following steps in the procurement process:

- Pre-procurement
  - *Ongoing communication with the local supply chain and vendors.*
  - *Multi-year capital plans shared with the vendor community.*
  - *Standardize a general prequalification for contractors.*
- Needs identification / problem definition
  - *Convene experts in the related procurement field, from the local community, to discuss the needs and problems and source options.*
- Decide on a Procurement Approach
  - *Consult with the local vendor community when selecting the appropriate procurement approach for the specific project. Ensure that the approaches being considered do not unintentionally preclude local bidding.*
- Conduct the Competition
  - *Use SBDI more frequently.*



- *Determine how you will evaluate between bidders and build and share an appropriate scoring matrix based on that determination.*
  - *Only ask for information that is relevant to determining scores within the matrix. Use that as a test to determine if the information is necessary or not, before including it in the competition document.*
- Evaluate Bids
  - *Two envelope system; open and evaluate qualitative items first, then open and evaluate price secondary.*
  - *Make sure the scoring system is sufficient to allow for genuine differential evaluations of bidders.*
  - *Never accept non-compliant bids.*
  - *Evaluators need to have sufficient expertise in the field to be able to assess what is and isn't reasonable with bids.*
- Make an Award
  - *All vendors should be communicated with, whether successful or not. Information should include bid status, award status, and bid results.*
- Debrief Suppliers
  - *Standardize what can and cannot be shared in debriefs.*
  - *Those who evaluate the bids should also do the debriefs.*
  - *Standardize training for debriefs.*
- Contract Management
  - *Move to standard CCDC documents wherever possible and develop a common series of approved supplementary conditions.*
  - *Owners should meet regularly with vendors to discuss appropriate risk allocation.*

## **Fundraising to Support Youth Entering the Trades**

The Board directed the SCA to coordinate with partners to purchase tools for youth starting their career in the skilled trades, as this is often a barrier to entry (i.e. tools or steel-toed boots.)

The SCA will be organizing a fundraising activity at the Annual Summer Meeting to support the tool program.