



BCICA E-News Bulletin

“Saving energy for the Future”

BCICA Priorities for 2017

The BCICA Board of Directors (BoD) has already met twice this year and advised staff that its chief priorities for 2017 is promotion of the QAC, developing mechanisms to ensure that BCICA estimators have additional tools to assist with pricing QAC projects and most importantly, modernizing and strengthening BCICA's financial reporting system.

The first tool, a definition of a “free zone”, was clarified in the last e-news bulletin. Estimators now have a clear understanding of GVRD travel costs, but what about travel outside the GVRD? The BoD has requested staff to develop a spreadsheet with average mileage / travel costs outside the GVRD, including average air fares and ferry fares. A copy of this new estimating tool will be available to estimators once it is reviewed and approved by the BoD at the April meeting. Updating and improving BCICA's financial planning and budgeting tools is also a key priority for the BoD. The Board is conscious of its fiduciary duty and wants to make timely budgetary decisions based on a sound financial plan. With the growth of the QAC, BCICA's financials are becoming more complex and having current data with previous year's actuals will make planning more accurate. BCICA has engaged a competent person to review and reorganize current financial statements with the goal of a full audit by year end.

More QAC'S, More Promotion In 2017

The beginning of 2017 has already resulted in an increase in the number of QAC jobs over the same period last year. Although this bodes well for the program in general it is still imperative the all BCICA members pay attention to specifications and where possible, promote the use of the QAC to building owners and consulting engineers, as well as to mechanical contractors. Interest continues to increase with recent presentations to Stantec in Vancouver and a request from Williams Engineering in the Okanagan for a lunch & learn this spring.

Promotional efforts continue to include advertisements in several trade magazines and attendance at the EFMA (Educational Facility Managers Assn.) conference later this year. New promotional material is currently being developed that reflects the growth of the QAC and provides updated membership information. If any member would like additional copies of this new promotional material to hand out to clients and perspective customers, just contact me and I will insure you receive copies when published. And, if any member has direct and / or indirect anecdotal comments from S/M contractors, owners or P/M's about the QAC program in general, please send an email with comments for inclusion in updated promotional material.

Skill Shortages and BC's Insulators

A meeting was called recently between members of BCICA, Local 118 and others, to discuss the skill shortages currently facing all members of the mechanical insulation industry. A professional facilitator was engaged to guide the discussion and focus on the current recruitment challenges, as well as possible solutions available. The facilitator, Tim Woods, a partner in The Deliberation Network, has carried out a wide range of dialogues focusing on skilled trades for the Industry Training Authority, the BC and Yukon Building Trades as well as BC First Nations communities.

The topics discussed included the following: a profile of the industry (MI not seen as career option / negative asbestos association with MI), current recruitment techniques (hit and miss / no unified strategy), the division between industrial and commercial insulation (a growing split emphasizing different skill sets and wages), quality control (declining due to perception that new “tradesmen” lacked skills compared to older tradesmen), the school curriculum (low emphasis on commercial skill sets), union flexibility (union contractors felt unduly constrained by the process of testing out new workers), as well as the cost of living (very high in GVRD thus lowering ability of qualified insulator's from other areas to relocate in BC).

The highlights and possible short term / long term solutions include: BCICA and Local 118's current investment in recruitment (advertising, promotion and attending career fairs), greater emphasis on the value that mechanical insulation has in the reduction of GHG's and of being associated with a career that makes a measurable difference to global environment challenges, the importance of the Red Seal and how it indicates a certain level of competency which adds to quality control, as well as the repeated concern about the divide between commercial and industrial work. In the end, the participants concluded that the development of a new course, Introduction to Commercial Insulation, should be a priority.

The issue of an education and training initiative, supported by all contractors as well as Local 118, generated the most interest. It suggests a definite need for an entry level program that will assist potential apprentices enter the industry, while giving all contractors a mechanism to help evaluate new hires, before committing to a long-term investment in human resources.

Annual Mesothelioma Golf Tournament

And finally, the annual Mesothelioma Golf Tournament is already being organized and will take place at Northview Golf and Country Club again this year. Last year's tournament was sold out so members are advised to register early. Additional prizes and unique side games that make this a premier event will be even wilder this year so look for registration forms to arrive via email shortly. If you have not received a registration form by mid-March please send an email to info@bcica.org. The tournament is scheduled for Friday May 26th. See you there!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Woods'.