



General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Building a Greater Ottawa

Presidents Message By: Gary Codogno, President

This past summer by all accounts was a busy year for all sizes of contractors in the area with several large new projects under way, numerous existing projects moving towards completion and many public and private owners issuing renovations projects large and small.

With this surge in construction work often comes an on slot of modified supplementary general conditions and this year is no different. The Board has seen tenders with significant changes to the standard CCDC documents that create an unbalanced or inappropriate construction risk to contractors. Yet most of our membership do not bring forward these onerous conditions when encountered and are willing to take on the risk that comes with agreeing to these modified terms. It can only be presumed that because these modified terms only come into play if a problem arises on the project, the likely hood of having to deal with the modified terms is small and not worth raising the issue. Unfortunately, this is sending the wrong message to our clients. If our membership allows onerous terms and conditions to remain in tender documents without challenging them, the modified terms will become the norm and that's not the position we should be putting ourselves in.

Just recently, the Board dealt with onerous conditions on a OCDSB tender where the SGC's had the contractor responsible for unknown existing site conditions, eliminated the section in the CCDC dealing with claims for a change in the contract price and removed the mutual indemnification. The Board was successful in getting the terms modified or had them reverted to the CCDC standard clauses. Without having one of our members bring this to our attention, the onerous clauses could have been extremely detrimental to the successful tenderer. The Board urges its members to use their associations ability to help mitigate as many onerous tendering conditions as possible. We may not always be successful in swaying owners into changing their conditions but at least they know we are watching.

President's Message Continued

By: Gary Codogno, President

With the end of year upon us and our AGM approaching quickly, we are happy to report that we have had a great response to the Project Awards. This year we have a total of 8 entries in 3 different categories. All submissions demonstrate how construction projects in the Ottawa area are being constructed with unique, complex and innovative approaches. I urge all members to come out to the AGM and see these submissions, congratulate the winners and to hear what the Board has been up to during this past year. I hope to see you there.

GCAO Awards Year

This year marks the GCAO's 4th Bi-yearly General Contractors Association of Ottawa's award program which is being held on January 19, 2017 at the Brookstreet Hotel. We are very excited to introduce a new category structure this year to assist in leveling out the playing field and encouraging a broader range of firms to submit. As you will note below, we have a record amount of contenders this year!

There will be a total of 4 awards in 3 categories that will be presented at this memorable event! Thank you to all participants for taking the time to compile your submissions, good luck and we are looking forward to seeing everyone on January 19, 2017.

The submissions are as follows.

- \$0 To \$5 Million
 - o MacDonald Brothers Construction
 - o Waterdon Construction
- \$5 to \$15 Million
 - o Doran Contractors
 - o Taplen commercial Construction
 - o Bourgon Construction
 - o Argue Construction
- \$15 Million +
 - o Frecon Construction
 - o PCL Construction



AGM – Announcement

The 2016 calendar year AGM will be held on January 19, 2017 at the Brookstreet Hotel in Kanata North starting at 4:45 PM. The evening will consist of a cocktail hour complete with drinks and hors d'oeuvres, a business session on the 2016 association activities, and the presentation of the bi-yearly awards program.

We are excited to be hosting the awards program at this year's AGM; we would like to challenge all of our members to attend this exciting event to support your fellow members!

There is no need to RSVP to this event, we hope to see you there!



Seeking Nominations for the Integrity & Ethics Award

The GCAO would like to announce that the 2017 Integrity & Ethics Award is now open for nominations.

The General Contractors Association of Ottawa created its Integrity and Ethics Award to honour an individual who has demonstrated a consistently high standard of integrity and ethics in dealing with local construction industry participants. There is one award presented each year. Those nominated must have been employed in a management capacity for at least 10 years. Nominees must be known to employ a high standard of integrity and ethics in dealings with owners, design consultants, contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers and fellow employees. Nominees may be considered for the Award who are not employed by member firms of the Association – e.g. consultant, owner, subcontractor etc. Leadership positions in local, provincial or national construction associations will be considered as a positive factor. The Board of Directors may vary these criteria in special circumstances. To view the nomination form or list of mandatory criteria please visit our website under the “Resource” tab.

Please forward submittals to Gary Codogno, GCAO President, at gcodogno@gcaottawa.com or Alison Hogan, Association Coordinator at a.hogan@gcaottawa.com. The deadline for nominations has been set for February 3rd, 2017.

GCAO Cocktail Party - Announcement



Come join your fellow Construction Leaders at the GCAO's largest and most popular event at the prestigious Rideau Club located at 99 Bank Street on March 9, 2017 at 5:30pm. We are currently accepting nominations for the Integrity and Ethics Award that will be presented at this event. (Please see below for more information)

Please submit nominations to Alison Hogan at a.hogan@gcaottawa.com or to Gary Codogno, GCAO President, at gcodogno@gcaottawa.com

Seeking New Board of Director's

The GCAO board would like to solicit individuals who would be interested in joining the GCAO board. There will be (2) vacancies available starting January 2017. Interested candidates are to forward a one-page biography stating your involvement in your respective firm, your industry experience, any volunteer or charity work involvement and reasoning for wanting to join the board. Interested candidates must also hold a prominent position in their corporations. Directors duties are noted on our website in the Resources section.

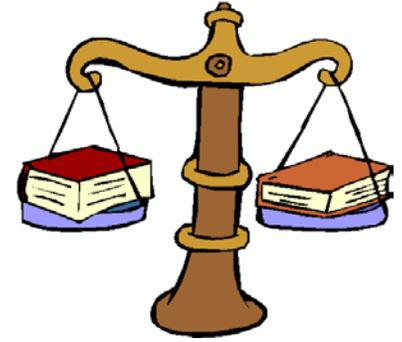
Our Association President would be happy to discuss any questions you may have before submitting yourself as a candidate. You can contact Gary Codogno at gcodogno@gcaottawa.com

Candidates are to e-mail your bio noted above to the GCAO Associations Coordinator at a.hogan@gcaottawa.com by January 6, 2017.



Tendering Practices

The GCAO Tendering Practices Committee continues to promote the adherence to approved industry and fair and equitable practices in competitive tendering and contract administration. Throughout the second part of 2016 we are continuing to see the increased use of liquidated damages, post qualifications, two envelope submissions and excessive information requested at time of tender.



The NCC – Sussex Properties – The NCC released audited tender results after bid closing which differed from the unofficial tender results at the time of the public bid opening. When questioned, the NCC stated that there were errors in several of the bids, and that the low bidder had not included the separate prices in their bid. Our position is that the NCC’s tendering practices for this project were not very transparent.

VIA Rail – Elevated Lateral Platform & Station Elevators – The front end documents requested excessive information at time of tender closing. The GCAO’s tendering practices committee requested that the supplemental information be submitted after time of closing. VIA responded with an addendum taking our suggestion into consideration and changing the tender form to allow bidders to submit the additional information in a reasonable amount of time post tender closing.

City of Ottawa – Elgin Podium Security and Architectural Upgrades – The City of Ottawa’s tender form included 10 pages of unit prices that were to be submitted at the time of tender closing. The GCAO requested that the City of Ottawa revise their tender form to make it less cumbersome at time of closing. The City of Ottawa revised their tender form as suggested.

City of Ottawa – Belfast Road Expansion – The City of Ottawa continues the use of incentive/disincentive clauses as well as Liquidated Damages. The GCAO’s tendering practices committee requested that the City of Ottawa remove the incentive/disincentive and Liquidated Damage clauses from the tender. The City of Ottawa responded and they feel that they have achieved positive results with these clauses. The City of Ottawa feels that they suffer real losses from projects not being completed on time.

City of Ottawa – Design Build Fire Stations #36 & 55 – The City of Ottawa’s tender documents did not contain an Honorarium for the unsuccessful proponents. We proposed that the City of Ottawa offer an Honorarium to the unsuccessful proponents to cover the consulting fees to submit a design build proposal. The City of Ottawa released an addendum and offered an Honorarium.

CECCE – Ange Gabriel Washroom Renovation – The CECCE tendered a project to a prequalified list of contractors. One of our member firms was the only bidder, the board decided to re-tender the project to an alternate list of contractors. The GCAO’s tendering practices committee sent a letter to the CECCE regarding this matter. The CECCE did not respond.

Tendering Practices Continued

University of Ottawa – Switchgear Replacement – The tender documents contained a requirement for a two envelope submission. The University of Ottawa’s justification for using a two envelope system was that the scope was very specialized and that most of the contractors would know right away if they would qualify as it was weighted as 50% of the submission. The GCAO’s tendering practices committee requested that the University of Ottawa remove the two envelope submission requirement. The University of Ottawa stated that they did not have enough time to complete a proper pre-qualification.

CEPEO - École élémentaire publique l'Odysée Daycare Renovation – The tender documents contained a requirement for a two envelope submission. The GCAO’s tendering practices committee requested that the CEPEO remove this clause from their tender requirements. The CEPEO did not respond to our correspondences.

Ottawa Carleton District School Board – West Carleton Secondary School Addition – The OCDSB’s front end documents contained an excessive amount of supplementary conditions. The OCDSB issued an addendum following a letter from the GCAO removing some of the Supplementary Conditions, which was deemed satisfactory by the GCAO.

GCAO Website

Over the second part of this year the Association’s website has seen regular updates provided as information becomes available for the membership such as newsletters, reports and announcements. The Association’s revenue based advertising has been implemented on our website and INTACT surety is continuing to utilize our advertising section of our website. The Association’s site traffic has been steady throughout the second part of the year, on average we have received between 535-585 unique visits per month. If members have pictures of current or past project, please forward them to the association. We would like to continue the fresh look of our site with current and relevant content.



Please continue to visit our website at www.gcaottawa.com for current news and information

NRDP

We would like to remind all GCAO member firms of our NRDP (Non-refundable deposits program for tendering document). We would like to encourage all member firms to participate in this advantageous program.

Some of the key highlights are as follows

To direct the cost of tender document production to appropriate party - The Owner

To provide each bidder with a maximum of two sets of tender documents

To ensure that the tender documents are recycled and redistributed to the successful contractor

To convince all owners to refund bidders the deposit of their tender documents upon the return by the unsuccessful bidders.

The procedure of the program is as follows

1. the Owner/Consultant, despite being contacted by us regarding our concerns, declines to refund the deposits
2. the non-refundable charge is in excess of \$100.00 per set of documents
3. a bidder has made a request to GCAO to invoke its policy;

Please Contact our director Yves Beaudoin at y.beaudoin@gcaottawa.com to implement the program on your next eligible project.

As many of our members are now printing documents within their own firms, we would like to advise all members that these internal costs can be recouped via the NRD policy. We would like to encourage all member firms to provide the quantity of drawings and specs to the NRDP Director with a calculation per the following.

\$1.10 Per page of 24 X 36" of Drawings

\$0.20 per page of 11X17" of Drawings

\$0.11 per page of 8.5" X11' of specification printing.



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MANDATES

Tendering Practices

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Non-Refundable Deposits

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Newsletters/Communication

Russell Grass

Entertainment

Eric Gaulin
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Web Site

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