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Construction and design experts seek procurement solutions

TORONTO

More than 100 construction and design professionals will unite later this month as they address ongoing procurement problems and try to achieve a better understanding of all sector issues.

Procurement Day, on April 16, will facilitate a discussion of the issues being faced on all sides of the procurement process. The goal is to find common ground and identify mutually satisfactory ways to address identified issues.

“Without a doubt, there are ongoing problems with procurement,” said event chair Clive Thurston in a news release.

“Whether you are a buyer or owner, designer, constructor or trade contractor, we all have our own unique challenges with the process.”

The idea for Procurement Day came from informal discussions with provincial associations representing general contractors, mechanical and electrical trade contractors. Following these discussions, the idea was presented to associations representing architects, consulting engineers, interior designers and a broad range of buyer groups in Ontario who quickly expressed interest in the forum.

“We have obviously hit a sore spot across the board as evidenced by the buzz, excitement and support for the day from all sectors,” said Thurston.

“We have all noticed a decline in decorum and civility in the procurement process and hope to address that. But first we must seek to understand each other’s issues and concerns.”

Organizers of the professionally-facilitated, day-long private session, will outline the day’s findings and make recommendations on how to move forward.

“This is the first step in what we hope to be an ongoing dialogue and process. We don’t want to produce a report that sits on a shelf and collects dust. We hope to move the process forward and regularly revisit the issues raised and discuss the possible implementation of suggested solutions with key players,” said Thurston.

Members of the organizing committee include: Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario, City of Vaughan, Consulting Engineers of Ontario, Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario, Infrastructure Ontario, Interior Designers Canada, McMaster University, Miller Thomson LLP, Ontario Association of Architects, Ontario Construction Users Council, Ontario General Contractors Association, Ontario Public Buyers Association, Ontario Road Builders Association, Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association, Peel Region, **Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario**, Revay and Associates Ltd., Strategies 4 Impact, Surety Association of Canada, and York Region.