

# DAILY COMMERCIAL NEWS

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## AND CONSTRUCTION RECORD

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Ontario Cabinet Shuffle

Construction industry takes Caplan's move to health portfolio in stride

VINCE VERSACE

staff writer

The recent provincial cabinet shuffle which resulted in creation of a "super ministry" sees a minister considered an advocate of the construction industry in a new role.

MPP David Caplan is now health minister after Premier Dalton McGuinty's recent cabinet shuffle. Caplan had been public infrastructure renewal minister for the last five years. MPP George Smitherman is now minister of energy and infrastructure, the new "super ministry" resulting from the combination of both portfolios.

Smitherman was health minister the last five years. Former energy minister MPP Gerry Phillips has stepped down and will remain an MPP without a portfolio.

"The construction industry has a great relationship with Caplan," says Andy Manahan, executive director, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario. "We are sorry to see him go, but we feel with Smitherman's extensive experience he will do well."

Caplan served as public infrastructure renewal minister since 2003 and he led the introduction of ReNew Ontario, Ontario's a long-term infrastructure investment plan.

He has been the only minister of the infrastructure ministry since it was created. The Council of Ontario Construction Associations hopes Smitherman will continue some of the partnership work with construction Caplan had taken on.

"Caplan assumed the chair of the construction advisory council and we hope Smitherman will continue working with the advisory council," says David Surplis, acting president of COCA.