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Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793 joins RCCAO

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The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 793 has joined the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) because of their similarities in both association objectives and construction industry concerns.

“Local 793 has joined RCCAO because it is a unified and effective voice for labour and management in the low-rise, high-rise and civil sectors of Ontario’s construction industry,” said Mike Gallagher, business manager of Local 793.

“We share similar goals and aspirations.”

The major issues the RCCAO tackles that affect the construction industry include infrastructure, land supply and use, regulatory reform, affordable housing, and labour supply. Having the operating engineers on board with RCCAO only strengthens what it tries to do collectively for the industry and its members, says an RCCAO official.

“The operating engineers are involved in a lot of big projects, iconic work like Skydome (now the Rogers Centre) and they do a lot of major infrastructure work,” said Andy Manahan, executive director of RCCAO.

Gallagher added that the RCCAO helps deliver the construction industry’s message in a way that will effect positive change. Management and labour in the residential and civil sectors share common problems and a unified voice helps deliver clear messages to government.

“The goal of the RCCAO is to work in co-operation with governments and related stakeholders to offer realistic solutions to a variety of infrastructure challenges facing the construction industry,” said Gallagher.

“We are especially eager to work with them on promoting the importance of infrastructure investment. Construction investments in roads, sewer and water projects, bridges, transit and housing will create much-needed jobs and help spur the economic recovery of Ontario.”

Manahan points to an industry wide one-day event held last January, organized by RCCAO, as an example of the strength of a unified voice coming together to ultimately work with government. Various construction industry stakeholder groups, from management to labour and not all RCCAO members, came together that day to hammer out a message about stimulus spending priorities and industry concerns.

“It is always helpful for various organizations to come together under one umbrella,” said Manahan. “Members of our association always continue to do their own lobbying but as we learned at our recent roundtable, consolidation of effort is important too.”