



Winter 2024

NEWSLETTER

Constructing Ontario's Future



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Winter 2024



RESIDENTIAL AND
CIVIL
CONSTRUCTION
ALLIANCE OF
ONTARIO

Constructing Ontario's Future



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Reflecting on 2023 with optimism and looking ahead to 2024

Nadia Todorova
Executive Director

As we approach the end of another dynamic year for the infrastructure and construction industry, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the achievements and growth we've experienced together. I recently read that Canada is a construction economy and I couldn't agree more with that sentiment – the construction sector has always been the backbone of progress and development and this year has been no exception.

There is reason for optimism – from a New Deal agreement between the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto (pg. 14) to address the financial challenges of Toronto to continued focus by the government of Ontario on investment into critical infrastructure projects like the Bradford Bypass (pg. 10 – 13).

We are hopeful that in 2024, we continue this positive momentum in transportation and transit infrastructure and hear positive news about moving forward with Highway 413 (pg. 16 – 18).

In 2024, RCCAO will also continue its work on various regulatory industry files, especially around the timely delivery of underground utility locates. We have concerns with recent proposals around extending the delivery timeframe of locates but have reason to celebrate with the legislative proposal to prohibit fees for locate and relocate delivery. RCCAO will remain engaged with the government and members to ensure that any changes to locates process are made in a predictable, balanced, and positive way.

There may be economic storm clouds on the horizon, but I believe in our industry's ability to be resilient, innovative, adaptable, and steadfast in the face of adversity.

RCCAO will continue to advocate and represent the interests of the infrastructure industry in Ontario to ensure that infrastructure remains top of mind for decision makers at all levels.

The office will be closed over the holiday break, but you can stay connected with us through [LinkedIn](#) and [X \(Twitter\)](#).

I want to thank RCCAO members and staff for the unwavering commitment, passion and hard work! Here is to a new year filled with inspiring projects, continued progress and enduring spirit of excellence.

On behalf of all of us at RCCAO, I want to wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday season, Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!



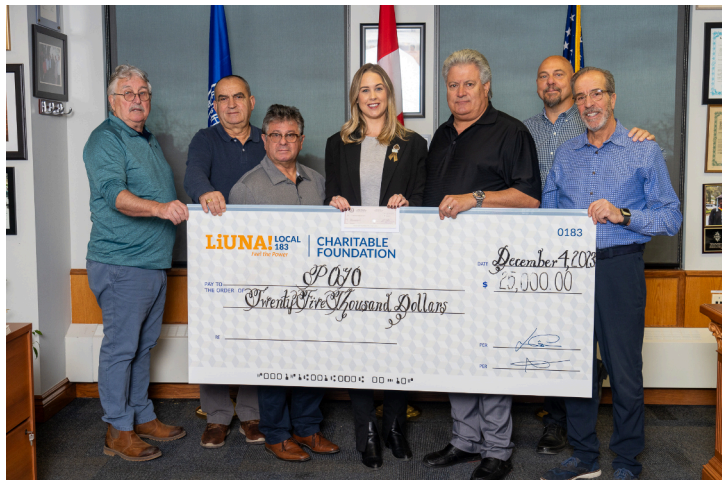
LIUNA Local 183 Donates Over \$1 Million to Local Charities

Posted by LIUNA Local 183 via X, December 5, 2023

Earlier this month, LIUNA Local 183 donated over \$1 million dollars raised from their 2023 Golf Tournament to over 30 local charities and community organizations.

These organizations and charities support a range of incredible initiatives such as cancer research, senior citizen support, youth empowerment, individuals & families living with physical and/or developmental disabilities, and addiction recovery & substance abuse support.

In times of need, LIUNA! Cares steps up. Whether it's disaster relief or supporting local charities, the LIUNA Local 183 union family is there for our communities. Together, we stand strong. #LIUNACares



IUOE Celebrates 127 Years of Fighting for Working Men and Women

[Posted by Danny Celia via iuoelocal793.org, December 7, 2023](#)

December 7th marked the 127th anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, when eleven determined steam engineers set in motion the formation of what would become, and remains today, one of the strongest labour unions fighting for working men and women in North America.

The officers and executive board members of Local 793 congratulate the IUOE in achieving this milestone.

On December 7, 1896, eleven men met in Chicago and organized the National Union of Steam Engineers of America. They were tired of the terrible work conditions and the 60-90 hour work weeks for very low wages. They knew that joining together in a union was the only way they could improve their work lives.

A year later, the first Canadian workers joined the young union and to reflect this expansion across the border, the name was changed to the International Union of Steam Engineers.

The union dropped the word “steam” in 1928, as both the technology and the scope of labour had moved beyond steam technology.

Today, all IUOE members are reaping the rewards of the sacrifices of their forerunners. Their foresight for safer working condition and fair wages has help thousands of families and will continue to help thousands more in the future.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read more on the history of IUOE
[CLICK HERE](#) to read about the history of IUOE Local 793



IUOE Work Zone Safety Campaign

Posted by IUOE via X, December 1, 2023

WORK ZONE SAFETY IS IN **YOUR HANDS**



**SLOW DOWN WHEN DRIVING THROUGH
WORK ZONES, GIVE WORKERS ROOM TO
WORK, AND BE READY TO STOP.**

EVERYONE DESERVES TO GET HOME SAFE



LOCAL 793
international union of
operating engineers

TARBA Hosts 2023 Annual General Meeting and Reveals New Logo & Branding

Posted by TARBA via LinkedIn, November 2023

TARBA was delighted to welcome members to its 2023 Annual General Meeting in November to set a renewed approach for the association's governance, industry-wide advocacy and branding and officially welcome new Executive Director Raly Chakarova.



Toronto and Area Road Builders Association

"Thank you to our Board of Directors for their continued steadfast leadership and to special guests Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, Hardeep Grewal, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation, RCCAO Executive Director Nadia Todorova, and Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association Executive Director Patrick McManus for joining us."



GTSWCA Scholarship Program Testimonial

Posted by GTSWCA via LinkedIn

"The GTSWCA's scholarship program aims to inspire and support young adults entering the construction industry - however, we often don't have the opportunity to engage with past recipients. Recently, we were contacted by Kathleen Gregus, a previous recipient of the scholarship, who was kind enough to share her experience and the impact of the GTSWCA scholarship.

It feels very special for us to know we are helping to change lives and make a positive impact on the young professionals joining our industry. Thank you again to Kathleen for brightening our day!"



Kathleen Gregus
Articling Student at WeirFoulds LLP

"The GTSWCA Scholarship has provided me with invaluable opportunities to engage with evolving practical, business, and legal issues directly impacting the sewer and watermain sector of the construction industry.

The support I received from the GTWSCA has played an instrumental role in my journey to becoming a construction lawyer, and has solidified my commitment to serving this sector in my current and future work."

RCCAO Hosts Annual Holiday Luncheon

RCCAO was delighted to host our annual holiday luncheon earlier this month.

Thank you to Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria, RCCAO board members, industry colleagues and partners for joining us to celebrate the upcoming holiday season and celebrate our industry's critical infrastructure work over the last year!



WATCH: RCCAO Executive Director Nadia Todorova Deputes on Ontario's 2023 Fall Economic Statement

RCCAO Executive Director, Nadia Todorova, deputed recently in support of the *Building a Stronger Ontario Together Act (Budget Measures)* to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

The Bill and its accompanying Fall Economic Statement demonstrates substantial progress on building critical infrastructure needed to support a growing province:

- ✓ Advancing Bradford Bypass and Highway 413
- ✓ Providing investment in critical water infrastructure to enable housing
- ✓ Taxation measures to substantially increase housing supply to alleviate the housing crisis.

Watch Nadia's deputation by [clicking here](#).



RCCAO Committee FES 2023 Deputation - Opening Remarks

[youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy Shares Supportive Statement on X from RCCAO Executive Director Nadia Todorova

Posted by Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, via X (Twitter), November 9, 2023



Peter Bethlenfalvy
@PBethlenfalvy

...

A quote from [@_RCCAO](#) on Ontario's 2023 Fall Economic Statement, Building a Strong Ontario, Together. [#OnFES2023](#)

BUILDING A STRONG ONTARIO *TOGETHER*

"RCCAO welcomes the Government of Ontario's focussed \$200 million investment in critical water infrastructure. Premier Ford and Minister Surma's leadership to solve the housing crisis recognizes that 1.5 million new homes will need the supporting critical infrastructure. Water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure are essential to accommodate growth and upkeep existing systems flowing smoothly."

Nadia Todorova, Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario

Ontario investing in critical infrastructure

By Adam Freill, On-Site, November 9, 2023

The Ontario government is earmarking \$200 million over a three-year period to help municipalities repair, rehabilitate and expand critical drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. The funding, says the province, will support rapidly growing population, unlock more housing opportunities and spur economic growth.

“We have heard time and time again that municipalities need more options for funding to meet the growing demand for infrastructure in their communities,” said Kinga Surma, Ontario’s Minister of Infrastructure. “We are listening and taking action by launching a new Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund to build stronger, more prosperous communities. At the same time as the province is moving forward with our own program, we continue to call on the federal government for new federal-provincial infrastructure funding to address significant unmet infrastructure needs.”

The fund will help growing municipalities build critical water infrastructure that would not otherwise get built in an effort to bring the province closer to its goal of building at least 1.5 million homes by 2031.

“We know that to build homes faster, municipalities need to service those homes. That’s why our government has been stepping up, giving our partners the tools that they need to build housing-enabling infrastructure,” said Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. “Programs like the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund are just one of several ways we are working with municipalities to help build more homes.”

As announced in Ontario’s 2023 Fall Economic Statement, the government is also introducing additional measures to help build critical infrastructure faster and smarter. This includes launching the new Ontario Infrastructure Bank and the building of more rental homes by taking steps to remove the full eight per cent provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax.

“Ontario is facing a housing crisis like never before and our government will continue to work with partners at every level of government to get shovels in the ground to build more housing,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “We will continue building a strong Ontario together through our responsible, targeted approach to get more critical infrastructure built while laying a strong fiscal foundation for future generations.”

Eligible municipalities will be able to nominate housing-enabling water and wastewater projects through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund in early 2024.

“The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario welcomes the Ontario government’s focused \$200 million investment in critical water infrastructure,” stated Nadia Todorova, executive director of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario. “Water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure are essential to accommodate growth and keep existing systems flowing smoothly.”

“Water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure are the most critical infrastructure assets necessary in the residential construction process,” added Patrick McManus, executive director of the Ontario Sewer and Watermain Construction Association. “This is the first step in building new residential developments, so without these assets being built, homes can’t get built.”

The government has committed over \$185 billion over the next 10 years for the construction and renewal of hospitals, long-term care homes, highways, public transit and other key public infrastructure.

Infrastructure Ontario's December 2023 Market Update

Earlier this month, RCCAO Executive Director Nadia Todorova attended an Empire Club of Canada Luncheon featuring Minister Kinga Surma, MPP and Infrastructure Ontario President and CEO Michael Lindsay.

During the event, which RCCAO was proud to sponsor, the 2023 Infrastructure Ontario Market Update was released, which featured important updates on critical infrastructure projects, including the Bradford Bypass.

RCCAO commends the substantial work that positions the province to execute the tendering phase of work to build the Bradford Bypass. This is a significant project milestone and moves the Bradford Bypass closer to being completed and alleviating gridlock to help build Ontario's prosperous future.

Thank you to RCCAO members and industry partners for attending - Raly Chakarova, Patrick McManus, Justin O'Neill, Gerry Boccia, Derrick Speakman, Margaret Taylor, Jeff Brown.

See RCCAO's full statement on the December 2023 Market Update below.



RCCAO Statement: Bradford Bypass Tendering Achieves Project Milestone

"Infrastructure Ontario's Market Update presented at the Empire Club is positive news for Ontario. The significant progress in completing and advancing dozens of infrastructure projects across Ontario will help meet the needs of a growing province."

"RCCAO members commend the substantial work that positions the province to execute the tendering phase of work to build the Bradford Bypass. This is a significant project milestone and moves the Bradford Bypass closer to being completed and alleviating gridlock to help build Ontario's prosperous future."

Link to full statement: <https://bit.ly/47H0rpr>



Statement by Nadia Todorova, RCCAO Executive Director, in response to the new Ontario-Toronto funding deal

“Premier Doug Ford and Mayor Olivia Chow’s new funding agreement is recognition by both governments on the need for sustained and focussed investment to build and maintain critical infrastructure in a state-of-good-repair. This will benefit all Ontarians and recognizes Toronto’s unique role as Ontario’s and Canada’s economic engine.”

“The uploading of the Don Valley Parkway and Gardiner Expressway to the province provides leadership to ensure upkeep of these critical infrastructure assets, and keep people and goods flowing throughout the region while affording Toronto municipal coffers substantial relief to address its state-of-good-repair backlog.”

“RCCAO has long been an advocate for long-term, predictable funding from higher orders of government for municipalities to address the backlog of state-of-good-repair work and the maintenance of critical infrastructure, especially in the City of Toronto. It is imperative that the City of Toronto keeps its infrastructure capital deficit top of mind when allocating the provincial funding received through this new deal.”

“RCCAO commends the leadership of Premier Ford’s government and Mayor Chow on working together to reach a new funding agreement for the City of Toronto. We will analyze the implementing legislation in the days ahead and will continue working collaboratively with decision makers on this important issue. We urge the federal government to come to the table and build on this positive momentum in support of a region that generates 20 percent of Canada’s GDP.”

RCCAO Celebrates National Construction Day

On November 30th, RCCAO recognized and celebrated the hard working, dedicated skilled people that build, maintain and care for our critical infrastructure, connect our communities and keep our economy competitive.



National Construction Day



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RCCAO Constructing Ontario's Future

Join us in celebrating the men
and women who day after day
work to build our future.



Supreme Court Ruling a Win For Building Critical Infrastructure in Ontario

Statement by Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) Executive Director, Nadia Todorova, in response to the Supreme Court of Canada ruling on the Impact Assessment Act, also referred to as Bill C-69:

“Today’s Supreme Court ruling is welcomed news for building critical infrastructure in Ontario. It reaffirms the province’s clear mandate to build and manage critical infrastructure in its own jurisdiction.”

“Ontario is a growing province and needs to build new critical infrastructure, including Highway 413, the Bradford Bypass, and transit projects across the province to realize the more prosperous society that renews the promise of Ontario for future generations.”

“Removing duplicative regulations and unnecessary impediments provides clarity for labour, industry and investors on the requirements and opportunities to build for our province’s future.”

Ontario Place, Highway 413 at centre of ongoing impact assessment debate

By Angela Gismondi, Daily Commercial News, December 15, 2023

The political back and forth about impact assessments continues with two high-profile Ontario projects taking centre stage.

Are these assessments critical to controversial projects or is it time to “end the political games?”

Recently, the federal government decided not to conduct an impact assessment of Ontario Place, a project that has seen its share of discussion, with many opposed to a \$350-million spa and waterpark being constructed on the site by Therme Canada.

Ontario’s Attorney General Doug Downey issued a statement in response to the federal decision, urging them to do the same with other projects such as Highway 413.

It all stems from an October Supreme Court of Canada decision that held the vast majority of the federal government’s “duplicative” Impact Assessment Act (IAA) was unconstitutional.

According to the Province of Ontario, the federal government’s refusal to accept that decision prompted Ontario’s immediate application for judicial review for Highway 413 and Ontario Place.

“I am urging them to similarly get out of the way so that our government can get shovels in the ground on Highway 413,” Downey said in the statement.

“Until the federal government provides the certainty we need, by acknowledging that its unconstitutional legislation doesn’t apply to this vital infrastructure project, Ontario will continue to move forward with our judicial review of Highway 413.”

Nadia Todorova, executive director of the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario, echoes the province’s sentiment.

“With the federal government now welcoming over 500,000 new permanent residents to Canada every year, it is incumbent upon them to end the political games that create regulatory uncertainty and create costly delays,” said Todorova.

“The federal government should instead support provinces and municipalities who are working to build and maintain the critical infrastructure needed in our country.”

“In 2022, Ontarians were clear that they want critical transportation infrastructure built in this province. Removing duplicative regulations and unnecessary impediments provides clarity for labour, industry and investors on the requirements and opportunities to build for our province’s future.”

Norm Di Pasquale, co-chair of Ontario Place for All, said his group was disappointed the feds decided not to perform an impact assessment when it comes to the Toronto project.

“In their decision, they reference the Heritage Act and other provincial protections which the province stripped away as part of Bill 154, so we believe the federal government should reconsider their decision,” he stated in an email to the Daily Commercial News.

Continued from Page 17

Ontario Place for All requested an audit of Ontario Place last November but at the time there was a heavy focus on the Greenbelt.

“Luckily they did pick it up this year,” he said. “We expect to see a report, with any luck, in the first quarter of the new year.”

This past weekend, Ontario Place For All also expressed concern that trees were being removed at the site.

“On Saturday (Dec. 9) without any sort of notice, a video started to surface of an excavator bashing down trees limb from limb,” said Di Pasquale.

“It doesn’t look like the work is being done with much care and it just continues to line up with the lack of care we’re seeing around the work at Ontario Place. We’re disappointed that they seem to be rushing with the cutting of trees before the auditor general report comes out.”

He said they were told some of the mature trees were going to be moved carefully and that trees would be replaced with new trees.

“We don’t view that as a good replacement, especially considering the current trees are an ecosystem to...well over 100 species of birds and animals,” he said.

In a statement to the Daily Commercial News, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma said as the province moves forward with the rebuilding of Ontario Place, site servicing work is underway to update and replace the aging and outdated infrastructure.

“As a result, tree removal is necessary to allow this work to be completed,” she said.

“For every tree that is removed, twice as many will be planted across the site and six times as many for large, mature trees, which means we will more than double the number of trees and vegetation that currently exists onsite.

“We appreciate the input we’ve received from Indigenous communities which is why we are supporting onsite environmental monitoring by select First Nation groups.”

Therme Canada spokesperson Simon Bredin also responded to concerns surrounding the site work. “The city’s public consultation process led to changes to our design to feature even more free waterfront space, trails and parkland,” he stated.

“The end result is more public space on the West Island at Ontario Place than currently exists. Therme Canada will continue to work with all levels of government to deliver a year-round affordable, family-friendly destination alongside nearly 16 acres of public space.”

Ministry of the
Environment,
Conservation and Parks



Ontario's Excess Soil Registry

Learn about the requirements to file a notice in the Excess Soil Registry, who they apply to, and where you can find more information.

What is the Excess Soil Registry?

Under [O. Reg. 406/19 – On-Site and Excess Soil Management](#) (Excess Soil Regulation), certain sites excavating or accepting excess soil may be required to file a notice in an online, public Excess Soil Registry (Registry).

The Registry allows project leaders, owners, and operators of those sites to file and update notices, as required by the regulation.

Why is the Registry important?

- The Registry provides transparency and accountability for those responsible for managing excess soil, and provides confidence that soil is either being reused appropriately or being properly disposed of.

- It can also be used as a resource for finding sites that are getting rid of soil or accepting soil for reuse.

How do I access the Registry?

- The Registry is managed by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA).
- You can access the Registry, including training materials and other resources, through RPRA's website: [Excess Soil Registry - RPRA](#).
- Any notice filed in the Registry is available publicly.

What types of notices must be filed?

Project area notice

A notice must be filed for soil leaving a project area, if any one of the following applies (unless otherwise exempt):

1. Greater than 2,000 cubic metres of excess soil is being removed from a project area used for commercial or community property uses, including roadways
2. Any amount of soil is being removed from a project area that is or was used as an enhanced investigation project area (i.e., an industrial use, a garage, a gas station or a dry-cleaning operation)
3. The project area is being remediated by excavating and

removing contaminated soil,
including for the purposes of filing
a Record of Site Condition (RSC)

Some exemptions to these registration
requirements exist (see [fact sheets](#)).

Reuse site notice

1. A notice must be filed for reuse sites (other than those related to infrastructure) accepting 10,000 cubic metres or greater for a beneficial purpose.

Residential development soil depot (RDSD) notice

1. A notice must be filed for any RDSD.

When should the notice be filed?

- **Project areas:** before any soil is removed from the project area
- **Reuse sites:** before any excess soil is deposited at the reuse site for final placement
- **RDSD:** before any excess soil is deposited at the site for management

Who can complete a notice filing in the Registry?

- It is the project leader/owner/operator's responsibility to ensure that a notice is filed in the Registry for a project, reuse site or RDSD. They are also responsible for completing any declarations that are required as part of the notice.
- The Registry, however, does allow for an authorized person to file the notice on behalf of the project leader or owner/operator of a reuse site or RDSD.
- This authorized person could be a qualified person or a site operator. The project leader/site owner/operator should ensure that the authorization to file a notice is documented.

For more information on detailed requirements as well as exemptions, refer to [the regulation](#), the ministry's [fact sheets](#), as well as [RPRA's website](#).

This handout is for information purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice or substitute for seeking independent legal advice on any issues related to O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Management. In the event of any inconsistency between the regulation and this handout, the regulation will always take precedence.

December 2023



RESIDENTIAL AND
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RCCAO Constructing Ontario's Future

ONTARIO'S LOCATE DELIVERY SYSTEM IS **BROKEN**.

LET'S **FIX** IT.

The timely delivery of underground utility locates is an integral component of building critical infrastructure in Ontario. To achieve this goal, RCCAO is advocating for a more **predictable, accountable, and efficient** delivery process:

ACCOUNTABILITY

To keep critical infrastructure on-time and on-budget, it is crucial that locate providers are held to account for their legislated obligations.



Ontario One Call must hold locate providers to firm, consistent, and automatic accountability measures to ensure they are compliant and delivering locates within the legislated timeline.



It is incumbent upon Ontario One Call to ensure that it develops those accountability measures, such as Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs), going forward.

PREDICTABILITY

Given that late locates delivery bring significant financial, workforce and social implications, it is key that industry has predictability.



Regardless of what the legislated delivery timeline is, it is imperative that industry can count on locates being issued and available in a predictable and consistent manner.



Ontario One Call must improve its data collection and reporting practices to ensure better accuracy and transparency regarding the delivery of locates.

EFFICIENCY

Streamlining and simplifying the process to reduce the overall volume of locates in the system.



Eliminate the need for relocates on non-linear excavation construction sites. The need for relocates should be eliminated once all utilities have been exposed and the general depth of excavation is one metre below the invert of the lowest utility.



Expand locate validity period.



Simplify the sharing of locates among multiple contractors for the same job.

Season's Greetings from RCCAO

RCCAO wishes you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year!

May this holiday season bring you quality time with family and friends, and lots of joy and laughter.

We look forward to continuing the important work of advocating for Ontario's critical infrastructure in collaboration with stakeholders and all levels of government in 2024.

Merry
Christmas

HAPPY HOLIDAYS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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Constructing Ontario's Future



Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO)

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario was founded in 2005. We are a unique alliance of labour and management construction groups that advocates for investment in Ontario infrastructure. We have commissioned independent research reports and videos to help inform decision-makers with a vision of "Constructing Ontario's Future."

RCCAO has an excellent track record of working with governments at all levels to help develop solutions to complex issues. Using a co-ordinated, evidence-based approach with key stakeholders, RCCAO has had a significant impact on the infrastructure agenda and is relied upon by government decision-makers for its expertise.

Our members are:

- Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association
- Heavy Construction Association of Toronto
- International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793
- Joint Residential Construction Association
- LiUNA, Local 183
- Ontario Formwork Association
- Toronto and Area Road Builders Association

As an alliance, RCCAO advances the infrastructure debate in a non-partisan manner. While expanding opportunities for the construction sector is a core mission, many of RCCAO's objectives will ultimately serve the betterment of society.



Toronto and Area Road Builders Association



Feedback on this newsletter is welcome.
Please send your comments to media@rccao.com.