



B.C. Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association

Report to the 2005 WCRHCA Annual General Meeting Cancun, Mexico

The past year has been a very exciting one for the B.C. Road Builders Association and the province alike. The provincial government has made a commitment to infrastructure funding and, with the successful 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics Bid, our membership is beginning to build and continuing to maintain the transportation system of B.C.

2005 Election

There is now growing public pressure on the provincial government to improve our transportation system and start traffic moving. The public wants our roads and highways to be safer. This coming election will make it even more important that we be heard. The future of our industry's economic viability and the continued economic growth of our province depend on our Association to send the message out.

The current provincial government has recognized the necessity of improving and expanding our transportation system to grow the economy of British Columbia. From 2004 to 2009 the government will be investing over \$2.6 billion in transportation. This funding means jobs, investment, and opportunities. The B.C. Road Builders Association is working to ensure that British Columbia stays the course.

Partnerships

Over the past few years, we have worked on forming new partnerships with several important industry organisations. New approaches developed within the Ministry of Transportation have led to changes in the delivery of the many transportation projects in British Columbia. Participation in our Fall Conference by the Consulting Engineers has added a new and very positive dimension to our business sessions. At the beginning of February we partnered once again with the Consulting Engineers and Ministry of Transportation to host a one-day conference aimed at Ministry field staff, supervisors, construction personnel and consulting engineers to exchange ideas and help solve problems before they get to the job site.

We are also working with the Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) on HR/skills training programs and WCB issues. In addition, our Safety Network is working with ICBA to deliver their Certificate of Recognition program. We have found that forming alliances with other important associations, like CEBC and ICBA, allows us to share our resources and gives us a much stronger voice with which to speak.

2004 Strategic Goals

For the past five years, our Board has met in January to decide upon our strategic focus for the upcoming year. This year we have developed three areas we are using to focus our efforts.

1) To Support And Promote The Continued Strategic Investment In The Transportation Infrastructure Throughout B.C.

The upcoming election will provide the Association with a unique forum to rally public support for a more efficient system and we plan on using these opportunities to their fullest. The Association has embarked on an aggressive fundraising campaign aimed at marketing the message that ongoing investment in the province's transportation system is good news for all British Columbians. We are also working to mobilize the employees of member companies through an in-house marketing program asking them to show their support in keeping the transportation system as a priority.

2) To Gain Public Support for Transportation Programs

In maintaining public support, our Association continues to ensure that transportation remains at the top of the public's agenda. We have seen a great shift in the public's perception of transportation issues as these matters have come to the forefront of public concern over the past several years. The Association has published numerous articles and letters supporting increased investment and we will continue to use the media to keep infrastructure improvements in the spotlight.

3) To Develop Strategies to Deal with the Shortage of Skilled Labour

This committee has made exceptional progress with this strategy. Through this group we have secured \$85,000 from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to provide resources and administration for the delivery of four objectives:

- i) Support research and analysis to identify the specific skills that employers are predicting shortages in;
- ii) Support the development of a database listing education, training, and apprenticeship programs currently being offered for the development of road construction, road maintenance and heavy construction industry skills in B.C.;
- iii) Support the development and delivery of an industry program to inform high school students and their parents about the many satisfying and fulfilling career opportunities in the construction industry;
- iv) Support the development and delivery of an industry program to recruit aboriginal people and immigrants to work in our industry and to assist employers in connecting with these traditionally underrepresented groups.

The B.C. Road Builders Association continues to build momentum for investment in the province's transportation system. We are looking forward to working with our members to achieve our goals in the upcoming year.