

**TRIP Canada / Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Council
2004 Annual Report**

The following points summarize a number of the key accomplishments of TRIP Canada and the CCA Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Council over 2004, and looks ahead at some of the priorities for 2005.

Lobbying the Federal Government

Gas Tax Sharing Agreement:

- The 2004 federal budget, the electoral platforms, and the October Speech from the Throne all stated that the federal government would conclude an agreement with provinces and municipalities to share a portion of the federal gas tax for municipal infrastructure. This amount will equal 5 cents, or \$2 billion per year, within 5 years.
- Throughout 2004, TRIP Canada has consistently pushed for certain policy principles to be contained in these agreements that would ensure gas tax money is actually spent on infrastructure, and that the value of this money is maximized. TRIP Canada has met with the former and current Ministers of Infrastructure, opposition party critics, the House Finance Committee, and senior civil servants to deliver this message. TRIP Canada ran an opinion editorial in the Globe and Mail in July listing our policy principles. In September, Infrastructure Minister John Godfrey became the first Minister ever to address a meeting of the CCA Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Council.
- Liaised on a regular basis with our partners in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the engineering associations, the architectural associations, etc., to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to discussing with government the need for a gas tax arrangement.

National Highway Program:

- Lobbied the federal government to devote a portion of the proceeds of the Petro Canada share offering to the National Highway Program. A letter writing campaign to MPs, newspaper ads, a Globe and Mail opinion editorial, etc. were all part of this campaign.
- Met with opposition Transportation critics, the former Minister of Transport, and members of the former Liberal Highway Caucus and House Transport Committee to communicate our insistence that the federal government address the needs of the National Highway system.
- Began work with the National Research Council to conduct a study into the environmental and air quality impacts of additional highway capacity. The purpose of this study is to defuse the myth that more highways means more pollution.
- Communicated with candidates during the spring election campaign our policies and positions on the gas tax sharing proposal, as well as on the need for a National Highway Program.

Issues Affecting the Canadian Roadbuilding Industry

- In collaboration with the Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association, produced and distributed "Fatigue Management Guidelines for the Canadian Roadbuilding and Heavy Construction Industry". These proactive guidelines are intended for heavy equipment workers, and will demonstrate that the Council is taking a proactive, leadership approach to driver and worker fatigue.
- Drafted and produced an Energy Use Benchmarking and Energy Reduction report for the roadbuilding and heavy construction sector. Due to be released in early 2005, and produced with the financial assistance of the Canadian Industrial Program for Energy Conservation, this free guide will give practical advice to roadbuilders on how to reduce their energy consumption, and thereby save costs.
- Produced and released "CCA 83: An Environmental Best Practices Guidelines for Asphalt Plants". Looks at measures that asphalt plant owners can implement to improve their environmental performance.
- Lobbied against changes to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act requiring drivers who transport dangerous goods to obtain a "Security Clearance Certificate". Such a requirement would not enhance public safety, and would add yet another regulatory requirement on roadbuilding companies.
- Worked with the National Gold Seal Committee to amend their promotional strategy to remove any reference to using Gold Seal as a form of pre-qualification.

Priorities for 2005 and Beyond

- Monitor and comment where applicable on the gas tax sharing agreements that are expected to be announced in the 2005 federal budget. Ensure that these agreements are consistent with the policy principles advocated by TRIP Canada.
- Work with Environment Canada to introduce an "energy efficiency rating" system on makes of most heavy equipment and vehicles sold in Canada, in order to provide buyers with information on energy efficiency. The ultimate goal will be to lobby for financial incentives for purchasers of the most energy efficient models of heavy equipment and vehicles.
- Produce and distribute resources to promote the roadbuilding and heavy construction sector to youth as a viable career option. Also work with the Construction Sector Council to introduce a promotional campaign for careers in roadbuilding aimed at aboriginals.
- Work with the Canadian Automobile Association to implement a National "Worst Roads" contest and campaign.
- Host reception for the Prime Minister, and set up meetings with Transport Minister Jean Lapierre and senior officials within Transport Canada.