


Acoustical Association Ontario

Volume 10 Issue 1 January 2015

Provincial in scope ...

Provincial in outlook

President's Annual Message



Another year, wow has it gone fast. It seems that it was just yesterday that I wrote my first President's Message. I do hope everyone met with great success in 2014 and that this success extends into 2015 for all of you. As I reflect on this past year and a third, since taking over as the President, it has been, to a large extent, a humbling experience but also an exciting one. Being President changes your perspective on the organization you lead. It is a new reference point and it has allowed me to view things, within AAO, much differently.

It is within this mindset that I reflect on AAO. It makes me think about the new vision and new approach that the Board of Directors has been dealing with and working on over the past several years. I have come to the conclusion that it calls for us, as an Association of like-minded people with a similar purpose; to strive and work together to build an organization that serves the members better. I have also come to the realization that, for AAO, it means a cultural shift of thinking within the context of this organization. As I look at AAO more closely, I see an organization identified by its parts rather than by its whole. But, I also see an organization dotted with scattered points of promise. It is my conclusion that our struggle is to connect all these points so that we can define our whole.

As President, it is my commitment to all of you to find a way to help build the bridges that will connect us all. The hiring of a new Executive Director with a given mandate to meet with members is the first step toward connecting those dots, that is, if I may, a step toward making a connection between the near and far. As we all know AAO is spread over a vast geographical area and other than our conventions we seldom connect to this organization. This must change if we are to move this Association forward. We can no longer operate in our local geographic vacuums. This industry has changed and in many ways has moved closer together. AAO needs to do the same.

The surveys, studies and actions taken by the Board of Directors is spearheading a new approach and, for that matter, a new era for AAO. The purpose and intent is to bring this membership closer together so that as an industry we speak with one voice. We want to engage everyone in the affairs of the organization and to provide all members with information to effectively run their own organizations. Our purpose is to identify those issues that are important to you all, so that we can offer the services to meet your needs.

I believe the success of an organization like AAO is measured in two key ways; how well it advances the interests and priorities of the membership but, and more importantly, how well members identify and are engaged in the organization. This is our collective mandate, this is our collective purpose. With this in mind, I invite you all to join me in pursuing our common goals and interest by engaging yourselves in this organization. This I believe will benefit us all today as well as tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Robert Troup

Robert Troup,

President

The Mathews Dinsdale Minute



Citing the fact that falls are the #1 cause of critical injuries and fatalities on Ontario Construction sites, on December 9, 2014 the Ministry of Labour issued a release and statement announcing new training requirements for working at heights in the construction industry.

It is important for employers to be aware of these new standards and this new training requirement which will become mandatory effective April 1, 2015. The new required training will include training on the following subjects:

- rights and responsibilities when working at heights;
- hazard identification;
- ladder safety; and
- proper use of personal protection equipment.

While these might sound like basic subject areas it is essential to note that all employers must ensure that the new training standards are covered with their employees. Even workers who have been previously trained and are long since certified on fall arrest requirements will need to receive training under the new program by no later than April 1, 2017. While that may seem a long way away many employers will likely find themselves training at the last minute or scrambling to make sure training has been provided.

This is another “action item” that you must add to your list. Making sure your employees are trained will be essential for your health and safety due diligence and it is certainly reasonable to expect that the Ministry of Labour will start spot checking for this training.



2015 AWCi Convention & INTEX Expo



The Association of the Wall & Ceiling Industry (AWCI) will be holding the 2015 Convention and INTEX Expo in Long Beach California. Full details for this annual event are as follows:

April 26 — 30, 2015
Long Beach California Center
Hyatt Regency Long Beach | Westin Long Beach
Long Beach California



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