



Acoustical Association Ontario

Provincial in scope ...

Provincial in outlook

Volume 12 Issue 9, September 2017

Executive Director's Report

UPDATE

LEGISLATURE RESUMES SEPTEMBER 11, 2017



With an upcoming election in June 2018, the government's plate is full of competing legislation (Bill 148, Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act 2017 or the framework for the federal cannabis legislation that has to be in place before July 1, 2018, to name a few). We have to make sure that Bill 142, Construction Amendment Act 2017(Prompt Payment), remains at the top of their agenda and gets passed this fall.

COCA is holding their "Construction Lobby Day" at the legislature on September 25, 2017, with meetings again planned throughout the day with various MPP's, stressing the importance of Bill 142 and the positive and transformative effect it will have on the industry and the need to ensure it makes its way through the legislature and passed into law by the end of the fall session.

COCA contacted the Minister's Office in August and were assured that Bill 142 remains a high priority with the Attorney General. The Ministry is apparently busily drafting the regulations. The majority of bills come into force upon Royal Assent (usually immediately after passing third reading). Some bills however come into force at a later date, when it is proclaimed. There is always the possibility that even though the bill gets passed this fall, it might not be proclaimed until a later date. The main thing is to get the bill passed – we can always put pressure on the government to complete the process. A reasonable delay in order to get things right with the regulations/adjudicators/industry education would be secondary.

In addition, Prompt Payment Ontario, will be hosting their third annual Queen's Park advisory Day on October 24, 2017, meeting with MPP's that day. The day has two plans. Plan A is to use that date as a celebration the passing of Bill 142, Plan B is to use the day for meetings with MPP's in order to get the legislation to the finish line. We have to hold this government to its promise of passing prompt payment legislation prior to the election in 2018. Anyone interested in attending either meeting day to participate can contact Paul Gunning. Past participation by AAO employers was very successful.

UPDATE

DRAFT ACCREDITATION POLICY



As we stated in the July Newsletter, the Ministry was expected to produce a final draft standard sometime in July. This has been delayed and the Ministry has informed us to expect it in late September or October. AAO and COCA will then be reviewing the document and providing comments back to the Ministry. As currently planned, the process will still close in the fall and the Accreditation Standard will be posted in Spring of 2018.



Executive Director's Report

UPDATE

2018 RATES
RATE FRAMEWORK
CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES



2018 WSIB RATES

We are still waiting for the WSIB to release the rates for 2018. Last year rates were reduced. We anticipate that they will be announced at the WSIB AGM September 20, 2017. As soon as they are released, we will inform all members.

RATE FRAMEWORK

In the time leading up to the introduction of the new framework (2019 or 2020), the WSIB will be developing and consulting on various policies to support the implementation of the rate framework. On August 14, 2017, the WSIB announced it is seeking input into seven draft policies. COCA through its OHS/WSIB committee, which AAO participates on, will be commenting on the policies. The policy comment period ends October 13, 2017.

The policies contain the features of the rate framework that have been provided to stakeholders already, such as the rate framework's classification structure and premium rate setting methods.

Certain rate framework features, such as limited consideration for allowing employers to carry more than one premium rate, have been further detailed with the specifics of the assignment of one or more premium rates.

WSIB CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES

As we are aware, clearance certificates issued by the WSIB are usually requested by owners, generals and others for us to prove we are registered with the WSIB and are in good standing. We also ask for them from any contractor working under us. The WSIB are temporarily extending the validity period, for one time only. Clearances issued on or after August 20, 2017 will be valid until February 19, 2018. As a result, you will not have to renew your Clearance until February 2018, instead of November 2017.

The WSIB is extending the Clearance validity period to support the upcoming changes related to the rate framework and the requirement to collect classification information from employers starting in September. Please remember, your reporting and payment obligations do not change and you still need to report and pay your premiums on time.

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2017



IHSA Construction Legislative Review Committee Meeting September 7, 2017
(Paul Gunning attending)

Carpenters Joint Labour/Management Meeting September 11 -13, 2017
(Bob Grassing, Robert Troup, Doug Smith, Joe Liberman, Paul Gunning attending)

COCA “CONSTRUCTION LOBBY DAY” AT QUEENS PARK September 25, 2017
(Paul Gunning attending)

COCA COO/Board Meeting September 26, 2017
(Paul Gunning attending)



UPCOMING - Mathews Dinsdale Seminars/Webinars

Copy the following URL to your browser to register for new sessions or to review archived session:
<http://www.mathewsdinsdale.com> (see right side)

WEBINAR - WSIB Rate Framework
September 14, 2017 from 8:00 am - 9:30 am

Ontario's Proposed Changes to Employment and Labour Laws
September 20, 2017 from 8:30 am - 10:30 am

WEBINAR - Wrongful Dismissal Update
October 17, 2017 from 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m.

CAD-7 Experience Rating for Employers
November 8, 2017 from 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

WEBINAR - OHS in Canada: The Year in Review 2017
November 16, 2017 FROM 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

If you have any questions, please call me at 519-671-5930.

Paul Gunning
Executive Director