



Your Monthly News & Updates

Below please find an update on the latest SIAC activities and other important industry information.

SIAC Annual General Meeting Recap

SIAC held its **2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on May 16th. We were pleased to have Pierre Rouleau, Ontario's New Provincial Coordinator; Dean Dunn, VP of Stakeholder and Public Relations at the IHSA; and Wayne Gates, VP of Client and Partner Development at WebTactics speak to members.



At the event, members reviewed a number of the recent activities of the Association, including securing a guidance document regarding the Suspended Access Equipment Regulations, building a new website, and working with government on files including the Fair Workplaces legislation, training, and the legalization of cannabis. One of the most recent accomplishment of the Association was the inaugural meeting of the **Scaffolding and Access Equipment Sector Committee**, which is a major success and will give SIAC a lasting impact on future developments in the sector and broader construction industry.

Additional details can be found below.

The 2019-2021 Board of Directors

For 2019-21 the new executive and Board of Directors of the SIAC are the following:

President: Rick McKinlay

Immediate Past President: Roger Marsland

Treasurer: Graham MacLeod

Board of Directors: Rick McKinlay, Roger Marsland, Graham MacLeod, Ryan Freedman, James Gordon, Dean Haig, Ken Lohnes, Victor Moffat, Thomas O'Reilly, Rory Smith, Neil Walters, and Jim Wilkinson

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors and best of luck in your roles!



Scaffolding and Access Equipment Sector Committee

The new **Scaffolding and Access Sector Committee** held its inaugural meeting on May 14, 2019. The committee, which was established following advocacy from SIAC, is part of the labour management network that operates through the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA). The goal of the new committee is to

promote both worker safety and be a voice for the scaffold and access sector to discuss existing and proposed safety rules and proactively address issues facing the industry.

The committee is made up of 12 members, which will **provide the Association with an even stronger voice** in discussions about proposed legislative and regulatory changes being proposed by the Ministry of Labour.

Dean Dunn, VP of Public and Stakeholder Relations, and Pierre Rouleau, the Acting Provincial Coordinator attended the first meeting, which focused primarily on on-going interpretation issues. These included both Regulation 213/91 Section 130 and 139, as well as the proposed elimination of belts in MEWPs in favour of other safety apparatuses.

The next meeting will be held in early September. If there are any issues you would like to be brought forward to the Committee, please contact info@siac-ontario.com.

Member Survey: Safety Belts

The SIAC has commissioned a survey of members to determine the Association's official stance on a proposal to amend Regulation 145/00 which would **remove reference of safety belts in mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs)**.

The results of this survey will be shared with members and the Association will develop an official position based on the results.

Please complete this form by 12:00 am on Friday, June 7th, 2019.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#)



Operational Review for WSIB Announced

An operational review of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) has been initiated and has been tasked with the following:

1. **Financial Oversight:** sustainability of the WSIB insurance fund and controls over it
2. **Administration:** effectiveness of the current WSIB governance and executive management structure
3. **Efficiency:** the cost-efficiency and effectiveness of operations, including comparisons to competing jurisdictions and private sector insurers

Insurance and public policy experts Linda Regner Dykeman and Sean Speer have been appointed as special advisors and are expected to provide a report to the Ontario government by the end of 2019.

[To learn more, please click here.](#)

Ontario Investing in Skilled Trades

The provincial government is making changes to the skilled trades and apprenticeship system. Ontario is introducing portable skill sets which will help fast-track the certification and training process without compromising health and safety.

Portable skill sets will allow apprentices, skilled tradespeople, and employers to choose skills rather than master the full scope of a trade to complete an apprenticeship and obtain certification.

The province is also investing \$12.2 million to support the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, helping grade 11 and 12 students to gain experience in the skilled trades while getting credits for school.

[To learn more, please click here.](#)



IHSA Labour-Management Health & Safety Committee Update

IHSA's Provincial Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee (Construction) met on May 1st. The following topics were discussed:

Occupational Health and Safety Program

The committee discussed the need for health and safety to be more entrenched in school curriculums and expressed interest in increased digital tracking. Cell phone use, work-related driving incidents, secondary exposure to hazardous substances, and the skilled labour shortage lowering standards were all identified as emerging health and safety concerns.

WSIB Incentives

WSIB is offering 1.5% [premium reimbursements](#) as an incentive for small businesses that participate in different elements of prevention.

WSIB also indicated that there will be a phased approach for employers that face increases under the

[new rate framework](#). WSIB will reach out to these employers to assist and may include additional incentive programs. There was a suggestion from the Committee to MOL that the WSIB share the list of companies that have significant premiums from poor performance with MOL to help these companies improve their record.

WAH Exemption for Automotive Industry

In the last meeting, the Committee were informed that there is a [new posting on the MOL regulatory registry](#) which would exempt the automotive industry from participating in Working at Heights (WAH) training. The industry has argued that companies have already put in place programs to train workers at heights and have raised concerns that WAH standards would force them to be re-adjusted. The Committee has now sent a letter to the Honourable Minister of Labour Laurie Scott regarding MOL's accelerated process on this issue.

Letter Submitted on Work Belts

The Committee has put together a letter to the Regional, Trade, and Sector Committee Co-Chairs regarding CLRC proposed amendments to section 26.4(1)(2) of the Construction Regulation to remove the reference to using a work belt for travel restraint.

IHSA agreed to share minutes from its construction PLMHSC with SIAC as part of our combined effort to strengthen the partnership between the Associations. You can find the complete May 1st meeting minutes [HERE](#).



Feature Your Company in SIAC's Next Magazine

SIAC's quarterly magazine, Access Canada, is delivered to over 1,000 companies in the construction industry.

If you would like to inquire about advertising, member features, or article submissions for SIAC's next issue, please contact info@siac-ontario.ca.

www.siac-ontario.com