



## Your Monthly News & Updates

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

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### Scaffold and Access Committee Making Strides

The Scaffold and Access Equipment Sector Committee, a partnership between SIAC and the IHSA, met on September 10th and discussed several top-of-mind issues for our members. The new committee has given SIAC a foot in the door on decision-making and allows us to better advocate for members' interests.

The committee meets quarterly and has representation from management, labour, and the Ministry of Labour itself. If you have an issue you would like to bring up to the Committee, please email [info@siac-ontario.com](mailto:info@siac-ontario.com).

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### Construction Advisory Committee Announced

A new Construction Advisory Panel has been announced tasked with providing input on issues of interest in the construction sector to the Minister of Labour including labour and employment law, the rise of new equipment and technologies, workplace health and safety, and injury prevention.

Minister of Labour Monte McNaughton said, "Construction is a vital engine of growth for our economy, creating good quality jobs across our province. That's why it's important that we listen to and work closely with our construction partners. This is an opportunity for the construction sector to bring their issues, concerns and changing trends directly to me and our ministry."

The multi-sector panel will complement the work of other construction-related initiatives, including the Construction Health and Safety Action Plan Advisory Group, which developed and implemented an action plan on construction health and safety.

[Click here to learn more](#)

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### SAIA Convention Update



The 2019 SAIA Convention was held on September 23-26th and featured a wide range of speakers and industry experts. The Ontario Chapter led a Canada Meeting and invited members from Quebec, Western Canada, and the Maritimes to provide updates on activity in their regions. Members also discussed the importance of increased collaboration interprovincially.

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### Government Introduces New Training and Skills Advisors



The Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities is also introducing two Training and Skills Advisors (TSAs) for a period of two years who will be responsible for leading consultations with industry and stakeholders and provide recommendations to the Minister to modernize the skilled trades and apprenticeship system, specifically on competency-based portable skill sets and risk-based restricted activities. The TSAs will meet directly with employers, apprentices, skilled tradespeople, and training providers.

## Administrative Authority for Building Code Services Proposed

Ontario is proposing the creation of a new administrative authority which would focus on the following:

- Developing digital tools to support municipal e-permitting and make the Building Code easier to use and understand;
- Providing supports to help municipal governments increase the number of building inspectors in Ontario;
- Introducing continuing professional development to make sure registered building code professionals remain up-to-date on Building Code requirements; and
- Providing supports to small, rural and northern municipalities to help them deliver local building services.

The public and building sector professionals are invited to share their thoughts on the proposed changes online before November 25th, 2019.

[Click here to learn more and submit your thoughts](#)

## MOL Health and Safety Construction Consultations

The Ministry of Labour is inviting stakeholders to engage in discussions about the direction of its Safe at Work Ontario strategy for 2020/2021 and will provide an update on its planned activities. Morning and Afternoon construction-specific consultations will be held on Thursday, October 24th, 2019.



[Click here to learn more](#)

## WSIB Eliminates Unfunded Liability Charge

In January 2020, WSIB will be eliminating the unfunded liability charge, or Past Claims Cost, which is expected to reduce premiums to 222,000 businesses. The unfunded liability was the shortfall between future obligations to pay injured workers and the money available to pay them. [Click here to learn more.](#)

It has also been announced that nearly 2,700 non-profit organizations will have their WSIB rate increases frozen for the next five years. [Click here to learn more.](#)

These changes come as WSIB introduces its new Premium Rate Framework which will come into effect in January 2020 and is expected to result in a 17% reduction on the average premium rate and increased benefits to injured workers. [Click here to learn more.](#)



## Feature Your Company & Projects in SIAC's Magazine

If you would like to highlight your company in SIAC's next issue of our Access Canada magazine, please reach out to [info@siac-ontario.ca](mailto:info@siac-ontario.ca). First come, first serve!

Access Canada is distributed to over 1,000 companies in the construction industry as well as Ontario's Ministry of Labour officials and others.

If you would like to inquire about advertising, member features, or article submissions for SIAC's future issues, please contact [info@siac-ontario.ca](mailto:info@siac-ontario.ca).