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General Contractors Association of Ottawa Newsletter

Spring 2009

GCAO CALENDAR

10 June 09: GCAO Semi-Annual General Meeting

26 June 09: GCAO Annual Golf Day at The Marshes

29 May 09 GCAO Board of Directors Meeting

If you have an issue you wish to bring to the Board's attention, please contact the appropriate director. See the full list of directors and portfolios at the end of this newsletter.

Membership

We are please to welcome Bassi Construction & Masonry Ltd as the latest addition to our GCAO.

Request for New Auditor Filled, Thanks to Frecon!

Special thanks to Dean Drevniok for volunteering his services to complete the audit of the Associations finances this year.

Non Refundable Plans Deposit

We continue to receive requests from members regarding Non Refundable Deposits. All requests are investigated and responded to in accordance with the GCAO policy. To date in 2009 \$3,228 should be rebated to bidders.

GCAO Proposed Project Awards Program

Results of the survey were positive and the next steps will be taken to complete the program outline.



FORE!!!!!!

Mark you Calendar!

GCAO Annual Golf Day is scheduled for Friday June 26, 2009 at The Marshes Golf Club in Kanata. Refer to your invitation for additional details.

Tendering Practices Report

Addressing unfair tendering practices is a key responsibility of the GCAO and it is where your membership provides you the most value. The Tendering Practices Committee's main endeavor is to ensure adherence of the standard and recognized fair tendering practices in the industry. We also strive to enforce the execution of all the other various CCDC documents pertaining to tendering procedures.

Recent Issues:

1. Ontario Architects Assoc. SGCs

On May 14, 2008 the Ontario Architects Association issued a document called “

Recommended Supplementary Conditions for the Stipulated price Contract – CCDC-2, 2008” to its membership. This document contains numerous onerous and unacceptable supplementary conditions that significantly undermines the CCDC document and disrupts the balance of risk it south to achieve.

In response, the GCAO has joined forces with the Ontario General Contractors Association and the CCA to eliminate or reduce the SGCs. On 26 Mar 09 our Association submitted a letter to the OGCA that detailed the issues we had with the OAA document and was used by the GCAO in their discussions and meetings with the OAA. A copy the letter was distributed to the membership.

Unfortunately, we have already seen a number of instances where the OAA SGCs have been included in bid documents.

OGCA-OAA discussions are ongoing.

2. Carleton University

Positive progress has been made in the on-going discussions between Carleton, OGCA and GCAO. The University has undertaken to use CCDC 2--2008 with few SGCs on tender calls. The GCAO intends to issue a Letter of Understanding to formalize what was agreed.

3. Sandy Hill Arena / Nepean Sportsplex

City of Ottawa: The City included exclusionary

qualification conditions in the bid documents, significantly limiting the number of potential bidders. The GCAO raised the issue with the City, however the jobs closed without us achieving a change. The number of bidders was three and two, respectively.

The GCAO has proposed that an appropriate prequalification process be used in the future and will follow up on future projects.

4. Vankleek Hill Collegiate Institute

Thompson Rosemount Group: Here the GCAO responded to the inclusion of a significant number of onerous SGCs, including many of the Suggested OAA SGCs. In response to GCAO representations, seven of the SGCs were deleted and the architects undertook to review the balance on future projects.

5. University of Ottawa

The GCAO wrote to the University urging that it use the 2008 edition of CCDC2, rather than the 1994 edition. In response, it was stated that it would do so in time for major projects this year and invited the associated to comment on a lengthy list of proposed SGCs. The GCAO replied with a 5-page letter and has offered to meet with University officials.

6. Hunt Club Community Centre

City of Ottawa: The City conducted a CM RFP and award that was significantly flawed in that the selection criteria was too highly skewed on price and the selection process was ill-defined. The GCAO is working on putting together a best practices guide that we hope will influence the City of Ottawa's RFP

methodology for CM and Design-Build projects.

SNC-Lavalin ProFac.

CCA has learned that PWGSC is seeking to increase the \$1 million threshold (for project delivery services) to \$5 million. In light of this major increase and the possibility that it may become permanent, CCA is soliciting feedback from members regarding any concerns that they may have with SNC-Lavalin ProFac's practices. CCA's position on this important change will be based upon the feedback it receives from members. Please contact Eric Lee at ericlee@cca-acc.com".

It will be recalled that the GCAO did express concern in the early stages about ProFac's procedures. Any feedback from our members can be directed through the GCAO

Federal Security Practices

The GCAO has been working with the CCA in an on-going effort to curtail non-standard security procedures and the duplication of security requirements relating to federal tendering practices. In this effort, the GCAO, through its membership, and the CCA are attempting to approach federal security issues on two fronts. First, the appropriate application of security clearance information collection requested of GC's during or prior to the tendering period and second, the consolidation of the myriad of jurisdictional security clearance agencies (i.e. PWGSC, RCMP, CSIS, CIISD, etc.) confronting GC's in the procurement of various federal contracts.

While some progress has been made by the CCA during discussions with PWGSC (and subsequent discussions with the Industrial Security Sector) in restricting non-standard procedures relating to the collection and confidentiality of security clearance information, additional strides are being sought to streamline and standardize security clearance across federal jurisdictions.

A Task Force has been set up by the Treasury Board to examine how the process can be altered to avoid the current repetitive protocol and eliminate non-standard approaches taken in tendering. In an attempt to assist in this process, if you have recent examples of security issues relating to federal contract procurement, please contact CCA President, Michael Atkinson at mikea@cca-acc.com.

**Don't Forget
The GCAO Semi-Annual AGM
June 10, 2009. At the OCA
Education Centre See You
There!**

On the Lighter Side.....

"SO WHY DOES HE COME TO EACH MEETING WITH THAT SOOPER-DOOPER-POOPER-SCOOPER?"



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Roger E. George

2009 Board Members and Mandates



Back Row Left to Right: Don Chutter, Anders Persson, Hubie Splinter, Sean Lundy, Spencer Hagan, Paul McDonald, **Front Row Left to Right:** Michael Assal, Gary Kozak, Doug Burnside. Absent from this Photo is Shawn Argue

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Mandates

1. **Tendering Practices** - Michael Assal (chair), Gary Kozak, Hubie Splinter,
2. **Membership** - Doug Burnside
3. **Communications** - Hubie Splinter
4. **Entertainment** - Spencer Hagan (chair), Sean Lundy
5. **Nominating Committee** - Doug Burnside
6. **Non-Refundable Deposits** - Anders Persson
7. **Web Site** - Sean Lundy
8. **BILDCO – Ottawa** - Gary Kozak, Doug Burnside, Michael Assal, Hubie Splinter
9. **OVBD Liaison** - Anders Persson
10. **Integrity and Ethics Award** - Gary Kozak