



Vancouver Regional Construction Association
 General Contractors Division Meeting
 MINUTES

Date: 3:30 – 5pm, April 11, 2023

Location: Hybrid via VRCA Boardroom and Microsoft Teams

Attendee	Company	Div	In person	Virtual
Oliver Nicklin - Division Chair	Beedie Construction	GC	●	
Cam Roy	Ram Construction	GC		●
Lee Holland	Graham Management Services LP	GC		●
Bill Kelly	Kenaidan Contracting Ltd.	GC		●
Chris Stewart	Kenaidan Contracting Ltd.	GC		●
Ronan Deane	North America Construction	GC	●	
VRCA Staff				
Donna Grant – President	VRCA		●	
Erin Wormald - Member Experience Specialist	VRCA		●	

Action Items

Item #	Owner	Action	Timeline
GC230411-1	DG	Get update from Chris Atchison, BCCA: Prompt payment, ON experience, and CBAs	May 2023
GC230411-2	DG	Questions for Trade Contractors Division Meeting re Labour Shortage: 1. What are trades currently seeing and what are they doing about it? 2. What can GC's do to support the trades regarding talent?	2023/04/12
GC230411-3	All	If possible, volunteer yourself or your staff for School Connection program	ongoing
GC230411-4	DG	Identify more ways to include Owners in VRCA (e.g., Owner's Council)	June 28, 2023

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. VRCA Update
3. Discussion topics as presented by Chair.
4. New Business



VRCA Update

Presenter	Topic	Updates
President	Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New VRCA Honorary Board of Governors ceremony at Legacy Luncheon Construction Leadership Forum 2023 “Tools & Opportunities” – SOLD OUT

Discussion Topics as Presented by Chair

Topic	Discussion Points	Conclusions (if applicable)	Action Item
1. Prompt Payment	<p>Chair: How is the delay in Prompt Payment legislation currently impacting your businesses?</p> <p>Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector seems to be more delinquent; public sector is more on board. Legislation will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> entice the private sector to be more diligent. help educate the client on the law. set the standard. BC needs to fall in line with other parts of Canada. Cash flow is critical and is closing businesses. Canadian Homebuilders Association are leading the resistance. Manufacturers & Suppliers less impacted. Donna - BCCA Podcast on Prompt Payment. Unreasonable holdback delays creating negative impacts CBA Public Projects: Register for VRCA online webinar Infrastructure BC Spring Brochure – June 1, 2023 		GC230411-1
2. Labour Shortage	<p>Chair: What are people seeing & feeling with the current labour market?</p> <p>Responses:</p>	President: Promote construction in a more positive way; stop apologizing for the industry of the past. This is a good news industry when it comes to careers. People	GC230411-2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New projects stalled, but still burning through backlog post Covid. ○ Will the labour shortage shift in 1.5-2 years and not be an issue? ○ In the past 10 years hundreds of projects should have gone ahead but there isn't the capacity in BC to do it. ○ Differences between public project delays vs. private. ○ Cost of labour unrealistic, but Vancouver cost of living is an factor ○ Some estimate shortage of 30,000 skilled labourers in BC. ○ We need to look 6 months to 5 years ahead - how can we deliver without labourers? ○ Labour shortage is a current and future struggle. ○ Innovation needs to be alternative to labour ○ Transfer of knowledge will be lost with retirements; will leave a lack of skillset in the industry. <p>Chair – What is the VRCA doing about this?</p> <p>President:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Honorary Board of Governors was initiated April 6 to retain and engage former Board members as a key resource ○ Ongoing School Connection volunteer program is taking members to high school students. ○ sourcing programs for Grade 3 – 5 students, to create attraction from younger ages ○ speaking with school career counsellors to present construction as an equally prestigious option ○ speaking to parents to bust myths 	<p>make great money, there's great opportunities, the work is interesting, there's enormous opportunity for career advancement at a very fast pace. It's an industry that's hungry to train people on the job, you don't need to be going into debt to start your career. You can work while earning the "other 4-year degree".</p> <p>Chair: We need to push innovation.</p> <p>President: We welcome volunteers to speak to high school students through the VRCA School Connection program.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people enticed by perception of “quick, easy money” in online career paths. • Trades are more selective on what they chase and what they realistically can manage. • Decrease of 21% in woman in trades in past year. • Immigration policies – preference still for PhDs, not Red Seal • Coast Capital Road to Red Seal: funding to assist with trades achieving red seal certification. 		
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New Business

Brought to floor by:	Discussion Points	Conclusions (if applicable)	Action Item
President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VRCA identifying ways to incorporate owners more in the Association, to add value to GCs and more. 		GC230411-3