

ALBERTA READY-MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored and excited to be elected as the 2015/16 ARMCA President. It is extremely gratifying to be able to collaborate with the Executive Committee and our membership who have the same passion and interests with respect to the concrete industry. I would like to welcome Massimo Spoletini to the Executive Board; his industry experience will provide tremendous value to our members.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to thank our Past President, Norm Kuntz, for his leadership and contribution during his tenure. Norm has a firm vision of the industry and integrated tangible objectives and actions for our association. I look forward to his continued input and guidance over the next 12 months.

My commitment during my tenure will be to execute objectives defined in our 2015 Strategic Plan, ensuring the association is relevant and useful for our existing members, which will include; Amendments to Bill 203 (6 story wood buildings), Concrete Paving initiatives and awareness, improving our relationship with the Canadian Home Builders Association with focus on concrete finishing programs, improved communication with industry representatives, ARMCA membership and implement a road map to source government funding for projects to promote the use of concrete vs. alternative building materials. We need to ensure our voice is heard with respect to government regulations; such as permitting, silica dust exposure limits in our operations and acceptable axle configurations in certain municipalities. Lastly, continued focus and growth to our education and training programs because it is a cornerstone of our association.

As we transition to our newly appointed Executive Director, Robin Bobocel, who many of you will meet face to face in the coming months, I encourage all our members to connect with



Norm Kuntz passes the gavel to incoming president, Kris Lasek

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Robin on any issues, concerns or comments that may arise. Robin's previous experience will enable our association to increase our visibility across Alberta and improve our lobbying efforts to regulatory bodies, specifiers, elected officials and the public. As well, Robin will continue our collaboration with other ready mix associations across Canada, Concrete Council of Canada (CCC) and our alignment with the Cement Association of Canada (CAC).

Thank you to all members who attended our 2015 Convention and AGM at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge. Your support and attendance is important to ensure a successful and relevant association. The convention committee reorganized our AGM to highlight training, education and networking, while continuing the social atmosphere and entertainment for all members. The feedback was positive and I encourage all members to attend next year's convention.

Our upcoming construction season is going to prove challenging across the province given the volatility in oil prices, however we will continue to provide value to all members and stakeholders by effectively meeting the challenges facing our industry. Although we may not be able to conclude all industry related challenges from our membership we will certainly endeavor to address each of them and respond accordingly. I encourage all members to be clear in your expectations with the association as we continue to be more relevant and vocal throughout the concrete industry.

I would like to personally wish everyone a safe and healthy construction season!

Regards,

Kris Lasek
ARMCA President

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I wanted to thank you for the warm welcome that I've received since taking on the role of your new Executive Director in mid-April.

First off, one of the things that have impressed me about ARMCA is the quality of the individuals that give their time to serve you on the board and the executive. They are all committed to furthering your interests and those of the ready-mix industry in Alberta. I thank them for the trust that they have placed in me as I take on this new challenge.

Secondly, I want to take the opportunity to recognize the staff. Cheryl, Ed and Paul have been wonderful to work with through this transition, and have been very patient with me as I learn the ropes.

Third, I would like to address you, the members. I want to let you all know that I'm committed to working on your behalf to further our industry. Concrete has a great story to tell, and I'm excited to position ARMCA as the voice of concrete in Alberta.

In order to do this, however, I need a commitment from each of you that you will help us be successful. I need to hear from each of you directly, so that we can be a more effective organization and more responsive to your needs.

Going forward, you are going to hear from us more often.

I'm going to be sending out a series of surveys in the coming weeks and months so that I can learn more about our membership, and more about what you want and need from ARMCA.

I know that you're all heading into your busy time right now, but I ask that when you get these surveys, you take five minutes to fill it out... It will make ARMCA better, and I know that you all want that.

You are also going to see us more often.

As part of my ongoing education and desire to make you better connected to ARMCA, I'm going to be hitting the road this summer. I want to meet as many of you as possible, face to face, and on your turf.

I'm excited about learning more about the industry, and I'm excited about the opportunities that exist for us as ARMCA...there are many. I ask for your patience, and again for your help, as I learn more about the industry and get to know each of you.

Have a great summer and a safe and productive construction season.

Robin Bobocel
Executive Director

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MEMBERS, ARE YOU AWARE OF THE TOOLS AVAILABLE ON THE ARMCA WEBSITE?

Concrete Calculator:	Access an online calculator to determine approximate volume needed.
Evaporation Loss Table:	Avoid plastic shrinkage cracking
CANPav Application:	Cost Comparison Tool; understand your project's real cost of ownership. You can quickly conduct numerous "what if" scenarios comparing the initial construction costs of both concrete and asphalt paving materials so you can save time and money.
Impact Estimator:	Impact Estimator for Buildings Lifecycle Assessment software is now available and free of charge. Includes the ability to import a bill of materials from CAD or other sources, enhanced extra materials input form, new assemblies, new materials and more!
Weather Table:	Access the Government of Canada Weather Office

These tools can all be accessed from your smart phone. Go to www.armca.ca, click on the "Members" tab and select "Tools".

JOB POSTINGS

As we all know, working within the concrete industry provides a vast range of occupations. From the inception of the mix, to the final stage of the product, there are many opportunities for employment. **MEMBERS – advertise your job postings on the ARMCA website.** Send your postings to info@armca.ca.

EDUCATION UPDATE

The Alberta Ready-Mixed Concrete Association's courses have wrapped up for the construction season. It was a very productive, busy and successful year for the Alberta Ready-Mixed Concrete Association's educational programs. Educating the people that work for you will give them the tools to not only perform their job better but will enable them to be better employees who can succeed in a dynamic environment.

Through November to April there have been five Concrete Technology Level 1 courses, three Concrete Technology Level 2 courses, three ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Grade 1 certification programs, one ACI Flatwork course, and one Dispatch Training course. In total we have educated 330 people this past education term.

Courses will begin again in the fall of 2015. Please check our website regularly for the dates of upcoming courses being offered. As the dates are confirmed, they will be posted.

We would like to emphatically thank our instructors, and their respective companies, for their time and commitment to furthering the continued education of the concrete industry.

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HOT WEATHER CONCRETE

The hot weather concrete season is upon us, and all of the challenges that go along with pouring concrete in the summer months are just around the corner. Let's take a minute to remember all of the best practices that we can put into place to ensure that all of our hot weather pours are successful.

- Keep a good handle on the temperatures and moistures of all of your concreting materials.
 - Make use of sprinklers on your aggregate piles to work with Mother Nature's natural cooling powers of evaporation.
 - Run daily moistures on your sands even to validate your probe readings to make sure you don't send any thirsty loads out the gate.
- Make appropriate modifications to concrete mix designs to manage rate of slump loss, setting time and other characteristics like bleeding.
 - Retarders, normal, mid and high range water reducers, extended set control admixtures, fly ash, slag, meta-kaolin or other proven local solutions may be used.
 - Reduced cement content while ensuring concrete strength will be attained may be appropriate. Synthetic Fibres may be used to reduce the likelihood of plastic shrinkage cracking.
- Have adequate manpower to place, finish and cure the concrete.
 - Schedule the rate of concrete delivery that can be managed by available crew and placement equipment.
- Limit the addition of water at the job site – do not exceed the quantity of mixing water established in the mix design.
 - CSA allows water to be added to the load once and only within an hour of the initial batch time stamped on the delivery ticket.
 - Upon addition of water, the mixer drum should be turned a minimum of 30 revolutions at full mixing speed to ensure thorough distribution throughout the load.
- Slabs on grade placed on vapor barriers will need special precautions to when finishing and curing to avoid cracking.
- On dry, hot windy days, when conditions are conducive for plastic shrinkage cracking, dampen the subgrade, forms and reinforcement prior to placing the concrete.
 - Do not allow excess water to pond.
- Make use of evaporation retarders behind screeding operations and before floating or trowelling.
- Begin final finishing operations as soon as the bleed water sheen has left the surface; start curing as soon as finishing is completed.
 - Continue curing for at least 3 days at a minimum temperature of 10°C. Wet cure the concrete by continuous ponding or by covering the concrete with wet burlap or an un-woven geotextile and plastic sheeting to prevent evaporation.
 - Or, use a liquid membrane curing compound. Using white pigmented membrane curing compounds will help to ensure proper coverage and will help reflect heat from the concrete surface.
- Protect concrete test cylinders on the jobsite to maintain temperature and moisture for the initial curing period.
 - Field curing boxes with ice or refrigeration may be necessary to ensure that the temperature immediately around test cylinders is kept at 20 +/- 5° C for the first 28 +/- 8 hours.
 - A maximum/ minimum thermometer must be used to validate initial cure temperature compliance with this CSA test standard.
- Accelerators may be used in hot weather to expedite finishing operations and to avoid plastic shrinkage cracking.
 - An appropriate sized and experienced placing and finishing crew is vital when this approach is taken.

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HUMOR

A Baptist pastor decides to play hooky on a Sunday to play golf. He's playing the best golf of his life when an angel asks God, "Are you going to let this slide? Do something!"

So God says, "Watch this."

The pastor hits a 425-yard tee shot and the ball goes in the hole for a double eagle. The angel asks, "Why did you reward him?"

God says, "Who is he gonna tell?"

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2015 AGM & CONVENTION RECAP

This year's AGM & Convention was held May 7 – 10, 2015 at the Fairmont Jasper Park Lodge in the beautiful Jasper National Park. The event was reformatted to include an extra day which provided the opportunity to add more speakers and industry related discussions. This year we had a total of 160 people including children attend! It started off with a new "Family Social" evening on Thursday night which was a very casual get together with lite food stations offering a taste of different varieties. The children had a craft corner to entertain them along with visits from some Super Heroes! The adults had the opportunity to visit and catch up with each other and just relax. A great way to start the Convention!

The AGM was moved to the Friday morning time slot and was a great success! The new format promoted discussion and was insightful and productive. The conclusion of the morning was a presentation by keynote speaker, Wayne Lee, who spoke to us about Positive Programming for Optimal Performance.

The afternoon had three additional speakers for our delegates to listen to. Charles Kelly from the British Columbia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association discussed the development of a new Pump Operators Safety Certification. Teri Moran from BASF spoke to the members about Profitability on Purpose: An End to Zombie Market Practices. The afternoon wrapped up with a presentation on personal and professional development from Ian Whitfield.

There were two activities for the spouses and guests to participate in. The first was a mid-morning yoga session...a great way to start the day! The second was an afternoon cake decorating session hosted by the pastry chef. There was a great turnout at both events with a lot of positive feedback!

The theme dinner of "*Heroes and Villains*" inspired quite a few of the members and spouses to dress up and we applaud the effort and imagination of everyone that participated! We had everything from someone dressed as broccoli (SUPERfood) to Cruella DeVil in the room that night. The evening's entertainment was hypnotist Wayne Lee who put on a great show that had everyone amazed and laughing!

Later that night, our always popular hospitality suite was open for all to enjoy. The DJ, Gary, was back and had people involved with Karaoke and dancing! Surprising how many people have such great singing voices...or at least they think they do!

Saturday was our Golf Day! The weather was great, the bears stayed away, the course was in good shape and all who participated had a great time.

The president's banquet saw everyone in their best dressed attire as emcee Ian Whitfield thanked the past president, and welcomed the new president as well as recognizing all of our wonderful sponsors for their generosity. We heard from Norm Kuntz as he concluded his term as president and introduced his successor Kris Lasek. Kris introduced himself and spoke to his vision of the direction of the association. The evening concluded with our members being entertained by the Ivory Club Dueling Pianos.

Thank you to those that attended, to our sponsors, to our volunteers, to our emcee Ian Whitfield, and to the staff at the Jasper Park Lodge for making this year's convention memorable! We invite you all back next year - same time of year, same place and we encourage you to invite other members who have not attended, to make the time to enjoy a fantastic event. This convention is for the members, by the members so please participate, volunteer and enjoy!

**ALBERTA READY-MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION
2015 AGM & CONVENTION**

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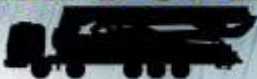
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2015 JUNE GOLF TOURNAMENT



The 30th Annual ARMCA Golf Tournament will be held **June 24, 2015** at the Lacombe Golf Club in Lacombe, Alberta. Format will be a Texas Scramble with a shot gun start at 9:00 am rain or shine!

Registration fee is \$175.00 per person if entries are received by June 12, 2015 and \$195.00 per person if entries are received after June 12, 2015.

Registration fee includes green fees, power cart, a steak BBQ, gratuities and GST. Breakfast is not included in the fee, a breakfast buffet will be available for purchase.

Please find the registration form and information on our website: <http://www.armca.ca/events>
Register by June 12, 2015 to be entered into a draw.

Mark your calendar for the September Golf Tournament on September 3, 2015 at Lacombe Golf and Country Club.

2ND ANNUAL ARMCA ROAD TRIP



Polish up your bike and put the top down on that convertible! Join us on our 2nd annual road trip August 20 – 23, 2015. We will begin in Calgary travelling through the Crowsnest Pass to our first destination, Kokanee Springs Resort near Balfour, BC. From there we will ride north through some spectacular country side to our next stop in Golden, BC. Our finale will take us through the Banff National Park back to Calgary. Group activities and meals will be planned for your enjoyment along the way. Don't miss out and sign up now! Contact Mark (Mark@Interstar-paf.com) for any questions. More information can be found on our website: <http://www.armca.ca/events>

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Maverick Concrete Ltd. – Affiliate

North Star Trucking Ltd. - Producer



Maverick Concrete Ltd started with a 1978 Chevy and some hand me down finishing tools in 2003, twelve years later, Maverick Concrete Ltd employs 32 hard working individuals. Owner and general manager Mike Gerstenbuhler is a third generation concrete finisher whose father, Armin, still works with Maverick Concrete Ltd today. What started out as a summer job while going to school at SAIT polytechnic in Calgary, Mike soon realized that Maverick Concrete Ltd could be more than a three man crew during the summer months.

Maverick Concrete Ltd began to expand its operations, from renting one shop to renting three more bays to accommodate the equipment & trucks. With the company growing and being able to complete larger projects, Maverick Concrete Ltd hired a full time safety manager in 2012 and received its Certificate of Recognition in 2013. Later that same year Maverick Concrete Ltd was the recipient of the CHBA Building the Best Trade Safety Award & the ACSA Trailblazer Safety Award. With a crew who stands behind safety, it was nice to be recognized for all the hard work. Just this past year Maverick Concrete Ltd was the first ever to win back to back CHBA Building the Best Trade Safety Award in 2014.

In 2013, Maverick Concrete Ltd built its new shop and offices. The 6,500 square foot shop can house everything Maverick Concrete Ltd has to offer: from one of the many ride on trowels; concrete line pumps; laser screed; bobcats; truck fleet or tandem truck, the new facility is state of the art.

Maverick Concrete Ltd has become a turnkey operation and prides itself on being able to do any project from start to finish, whether it is a back yard retreat or a 20,000 square foot commercial slab Maverick Concrete Ltd standards will remain at the highest level.

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ARMCA NEWS

ARMCA has a new Safety Committee!

About a year ago we were so busy some of us were going 200 km/hr with our hair on fire! It seemed you'd read about at least one construction fatality a month in the oil or construction industry; and to me this says a couple things. Some have become so busy that they have their sights set on getting the job done quickly, at the cost of adhering to established safety programs. The other factor may be fatigue, as we try to extract extra minutes or even hours out of our daily lives to just get one more thing accomplished whether it be business related or personal.

It's nice to hear that, for the most part, everyone is still staying fairly busy this year but we need to make sure that we learn how to bring safety back where it belongs, in all aspects of our lives. The new ARMCA Safety Committee hopes to give everyone that opportunity by developing and promoting the tools and resources that can be used to reinforce the practices that can be taken to ensure safety forms an integral part of the work environment.

Paul Masson
Assistant Director, Technical Services and Training

WHMIS 2015

Alberta Occupational Health and Safety regulations require employers to provide training of employees on how to safely work with any potentially harmful chemicals or materials in the workplace. In 1988, under the Hazardous Products Act and Controlled Products Regulations, the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) was established, including the use of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

An MSDS is required for any potentially harmful or hazardous chemicals or materials used by an employee. These must be available for employees to review at any time, and list information on the physical and chemical makeup of workplace materials. The MSDS lists first aid information for use if an employee is improperly exposed to the product. It also lists what effect the substance will have on the environment if released and what steps can be taken.

As of 2015," The *Hazardous Products Act* (HPA) has been amended, and the WHMIS requirements for hazard classification and communication set out in the *Controlled Product Regulations* (CPR) and the Ingredient Disclosure List repealed and replaced with new regulations, the *Hazardous Products Regulations* (HPR). This modified WHMIS is referred to as **WHMIS 2015**. The *Hazardous Products Act* and Hazardous Products Regulations regulate suppliers of hazardous products (defined as persons who, in the course of business, sell or import a hazardous product) while federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) occupational health and safety (OHS) authorities regulate the employer requirements of WHMIS in workplaces.

To fully implement **WHMIS 2015**, changes to the federal, provincial and territorial occupational health and safety requirements for hazard communication devices, specifically labels and safety data sheets, are required. This new system will incorporate the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). The Globally Harmonized System requires the use of a standardized 16-section Safety Data Sheets with minimum information requirements for each section. The Safety Data Sheets must provide the Globally Harmonized System hazard classification for the product, the Globally Harmonized System label text, and information on any other hazards. The Globally Harmonized System label text consists of standardized pictograms, signal words, hazard

statements. Additionally, products are subject to additional regulation by Environment Canada, provincial environment ministries or other regulatory agencies, if they are used or stored in larger quantities.

To give suppliers, employers and workers time to adjust to the new system, implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) ([WHMIS 2015](#)) will take place over a three-stage transition period that is synchronized nationally across federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions. For more information on compliance transition, timing and training requirements go to the Health Canada Website Environmental & Workplace Health WHMIS Transition <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/occup-travail/whmis-simdut/transition/index-eng.php> as well as www.WHMIS.org

You've still got some time, but don't put off learning what you'll need to do to be compliant!

ARMCA Safety Committee

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Full page	6¼" wide x 8¼" high	\$300 + GST
Half Page	6¼" wide x 4¼" high	\$200 + GST
Quarter Page	3½" wide x 4¼" high	\$150 + GST
Business Card		\$100 + GST

If you would like to place an advertisement in the "The Mixer", please forward your high resolution PDF advertisement to the Alberta Ready-Mixed Concrete Association (ARMCA) Office.

Alberta Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
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