

## CONCRETE ALBERTA

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members,

As our association evolves under our new brand of Concrete Alberta, I would like to thank those who were able to attend our 54th AGM & Convention and help move our organization forward in making an impact in 2016/17. For those of you who weren't able to make it, we need to see you at next year's event!

I am honored to be your President for the next twelve months, and I'm looking forward to working with all of you towards ensuring continued growth for our industry even in these challenging times. As I received the gavel from our outgoing President, Kris Lasek, I spoke to those in attendance about the challenges facing our industry. I shared with the delegates how I got involved in our association and why I decided to step up into a leadership position. I absolutely believe that our association is well-positioned to provide our industry with the support and resources that we need to protect and increase our market share, as well as raise the profile of what we do and how we do it. I would like to welcome Toby Piper and Manuel Garcia to the Board and thank Brian Tkachuk and Curtis Bouteiller for their many years of service to our Association.

One of the most significant changes that we unveiled at the AGM was related to our identity.



Rob Lali - President

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ARMCA served us well for 54 years, but as our organization adapts and becomes more engaged with those from outside our industry we needed to become more relatable. With that in mind, the board of directors chose to change the brand of our association to “Concrete Alberta”. I’m very proud of this new brand, as it represents who we are and what we do and I believe that it sets us up for success going into the future. The name change will make it easier for us to engage with a broader range of stakeholders, such as different levels of government, engineers, architects and homebuilders. We need to leverage our resources and find allies who share our goals for a more sustainable and resilient construction environment; an environment where concrete is clearly the best choice as a building material. During an address to delegates about the province’s capital plan and the future infrastructure investment in Alberta, The Honorable Brian Mason (Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation) also commented on our new brand and said that it looks fresh, exciting and he looks forward to working with us in the future.

The AGM was a great forum to hold our Residential Driveway workshop with Concrete Alberta, CHBA-Alberta, and new home warranty providers. This was an important first step to start an aggressive process in developing a collaborative solution in maintaining our concrete market share. In this facilitated session, we were able to bring together representatives from the homebuilding industry as well as the new home warranty industry to have frank and challenging discussions as to what we can do, collectively, to mitigate this issue and ensure that our industry is doing all it can do to provide a good experience for homeowners as it relates to our product. The workshop was well received by all who attended (which was over 90% of the delegates) and we continue to receive positive feedback from all who were there.

As you can tell, it was a busy couple of days in Jasper, and I think it sets the tone of what my year as your president will have in store. I am a firm believer that you get out what you put in to an organization, and I challenge you all to consider that as the year unfolds. Get involved with Concrete Alberta. Help shape the future of your association and our industry. We will all benefit from a higher level of engagement and participation. Thank you, in advance, for your continued support of Concrete Alberta. I hope that you all have a successful and safe construction season.

Regards,  
Rob Lali  
Concrete Alberta President

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Members,

Welcome to the latest issue of The Mixer. Having just gotten through our most recent AGM and convention, there's a lot of news to share with you.

First of all, with respect to this year's AGM, we had a great time and another successful gathering. Despite the tough economic times, we had a great turnout this year, with no significant decline in attendance. We also adjusted the format of the Convention slightly to make the Saturday golf an optional event so that those who needed to get home for the weekend could still participate in the entire AGM and Convention program. The AGM consisted of a robust discussion of the issues related to your association, including some turnover in the makeup of the board of directors. We were also able to approve some bylaw changes and share the new strategic plan for Concrete Alberta that the board developed earlier this year. After the AGM, we hosted Hon. Brian Mason, the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure who addressed the delegates at lunch about the provincial government's five-year capital plan and the need for resilient infrastructure.

Among the various topics that were addressed during our time in Jasper were succession and estate planning (primarily for the benefit of our independent producer members) and a robust discussion on residential driveway failures. Working with our partners from the CHBA-Alberta and new home warranty providers in the room, we had a facilitated discussion about some of the causes and a range of possible solutions to the challenges faced by the industry related to residential driveway failures. It was a very productive session that saw real and positive engagement with representatives from CHBA and the new home warranty industry that I'm certain will result in further collaboration in other areas of common interest. We have committed to following up with the group about the outcomes of this workshop to develop some tangible solutions to the 'driveway issue' that we can all agree on.

Secondly, as you are now all aware, our association has undergone what some may call a transformation, but I'd prefer to call it more of an evolution. I'm excited about our new brand, Concrete Alberta because of all the opportunities that it provides us to be more visible and effective, for you. In addition to the new name and logo, we have new corporate colors that represent our new focus on sustainability and environmental issues. We now have a presence on social media such as Twitter (@ConcreteAlberta) and LinkedIn. As we move forward, we'll

be evaluating expanding our social media footprint, but in the meantime, please link up with us on these two platforms so that we can share news and events to a broader audience.

Work continues on the EPD (Environmental Product Declarations) Program that you all participated in earlier this year. We have expanded the number of mix designs that will be included in the program, and the consultant is now beginning the process of contacting a number of participants to collect the detailed data that we'll need to complete the next stage of the process. We are still on track to complete the process by October of this year so that we're ready to go in time for the release of LEED v4, which is expected this fall. Expect to hear more about this in the months to come.

As we continue to move into the summer construction season, I'm looking forward to getting back on the road to meet with as many of you as possible. Paul and Ed are also busy working with the various municipalities across the province to work on developing current concrete specifications that will serve to benefit our members directly, when it comes to working with your local governments.

You'll see even more exciting changes and news coming from us over the summer and into the fall. I'm looking forward to sharing all of this with you and getting your feedback so that we can make Concrete Alberta work even better for you.

Have a safe and productive summer!

Robin Bobocel  
Executive Director

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

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### JOB POSTINGS

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 Concrete Alberta website. Send your postings to [info@concretealberta.ca](mailto:info@concretealberta.ca).

### From The Office

Members, I hope that you embrace and utilize our new rebranding of the association however any payments for member fees, registrations and advertising must be made payable to ARMCA. Thank you!

## TOOLS AVAILABLE ON THE CONCRETE ALBERTA WEBSITE

### MEMBERS, ARE YOU AWARE OF THE TOOLS AVAILABLE ON THE CONCRETE ALBERTA WEBSITE?

<b>Concrete Calculator:</b>	Access an online calculator to determine approximate volume needed.
<b>Evaporation Loss Table:</b>	Avoid plastic shrinkage cracking
<b>CANPav Application:</b>	Cost Comparison Tool; understand your projects real cost of ownership. You can quickly conduct numerous “what if” scenarios comparing the initial constructions costs of both concrete and asphalt paving materials and save on projects.
<b>Impact Estimator:</b>	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!
<b>Weather Table:</b>	Access the Government of Canada Weather Office

These tools can all be accessed from your smart phone. Go to [www.concretealberta.ca](http://www.concretealberta.ca), click on the “Members” tab and select “Tools”.



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## Concrete Durability: Everyone Has a Role to Play

When it comes to concrete durability, everybody needs to be on top of their game. From the specifying engineer to the final owner, everyone can play a part of the success story so that the concrete outlasts everyone's expectations!

Concrete specs, whether their written from a performance or a prescriptive perspective, are all composed with the best of intentions but unless everyone down the line executes on their commitment, the potential is there to miss the mark when it comes to the owners expectations.

In The Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, the Cement Association of Canada defines the term **Durability** as "the ability of portland cement concrete, mortar, grout, or plaster to resist weathering action and other conditions of service, such as chemical attack, freezing and thawing, and abrasion." In Alberta, most of us are very familiar with each of these conditions among others. CSA 23.1-14 identifies a range of exposure classes to cover the degrees of severity of each of these conditions and defines limits for concrete design parameters in support of the successful production and placement of durable concrete.

For the most part, durability hinges on the selection of the right certified materials proportioned in the correct quantities, sufficiently mixed, placed and adequately consolidated, finished and cured and protected in the proper manner in a specified time period.

Some of us may not realize the influence that some of our daily work habits may have on the full potential to provide durable concrete.

The yard labourer at a ready-mix plant should be knowledgeable about the proper procedure of reclaiming aggregate from stockpiles to refill bins in the batch plant in order to minimize the potential for segregation. He should also tell the batchman and QC monitoring tech (which in some instances is the same person) when a substantial change in visible moisture is occurring during the bin filling process. Substantial shifts in aggregate moistures should be monitored daily and could not only have an impact on slump and yield but also on the w/cm ratio which is a primary factor that we must keep a handle on to ensure concrete durability.

When it comes to managing the receipt of cementing materials, dust collectors must not only be kept in good working order to prevent environmental excursions, they must be vented into the product specific collection bins/barrels, the contents of which are recycled back into their original product source silos. Sulphate resistant concrete is most often made with Type GU cement using SCM's like fly ash at supplier certified minimum cement replacement rates. If those rates are not met consistently, durability will be compromised. The same is true for

control of alkali silica reaction. The minimum SCM replacement rates of portland cement must be respected to provide durability when using reactive aggregates. Most concrete aggregates that have been tested in Alberta have been determined to be at least moderately reactive. If you haven't had your aggregates assessed for potential cement alkali reactivity, you must assume that they are reactive.

The mixer driver has an obligation to accurately communicate what is left in his truck to the batchman upon plant return and washdown/washout of his mixer drum. Residual materials and water can have an impact on both concrete performance and durability.

The mixer driver is also the concrete suppliers "storefront ambassador of concrete quality" and as such should be trained on how to best preserve that quality on the job site to the end of the chute. Before adding water to a load, he should confirm with his batchman how much room he has to add water to his load on site without exceeding the w/cm limit that is set out in CSA for the intended class of exposure. He should also not exceed the one hour time limit to add water to a load after batching. If his customer would like to increase the workability of the concrete after one hour has elapsed, a super plasticizer should be used to achieve that end. Getting the contractor to sign off on the addition of water that exceeds quantities and timelines limits in standards and codes does not absolve the concrete producer of responsibility for the performance of the load.

The placing and finishing contractor is obliged to properly place, consolidate, finish and cure the concrete in accordance with industry standards and codes. If a contractor's client requests departures from these codes, he is obliged to inform his client of this non-compliance with the Building code. For example, some home owners may request that a contractor install a hard troweled finished garage floor. The Alberta Building Code states specifically that garage floors must air entrained and that all "air entrained concrete should not be steel or hard troweled but rather a light boom or float finish should be applied." Steel (Fresno) or Hard troweling of air entrained flatwork destroys the air void system of the top surface and can contribute to surface defects regardless of freeze thaw exposure thus compromising durability.

Finally, the end user plays a role in preserving durability of their finished product by keeping the concrete clean and free of detrimental substances like de-icer salt residues, fertilizers and other harsh chemicals and chlorides and they should be sealing and resealing the exposed surfaces on a regular basis to keep these harmful substances out of the concrete.

Let's all do our part to make sure concrete lives up to its reputation of longevity that is still evident in architecture that dates back to Roman times!

Paul Masson

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## EDUCATION

The courses that we offer start up again in the fall after the busy construction season. November marks the start of these courses and will carry through until April. We do encourage people to send in a registration form early for the program they would like to take as we will schedule additional courses as the need arises.

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

Please check the website, [www.concretealberta.ca](http://www.concretealberta.ca) , for more information.



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## **New Study Finds Insurance Costs Are More Than Six Times Greater For Wood-frame Buildings Than For Concrete Buildings**

Higher fire and moisture risks for wood frame buildings are cited as the primary reasons for the insurance rate gap

Ottawa, ON – March 21, 2016 – A new study of the property insurance costs for wood-frame and concrete mid-rise residential buildings conducted by GLOBE Advisors and released today by the Concrete Council of Canada reveals a substantial gap in the risks and insurance rates between the two building systems.

The data for the study “**Insurance Costs for Mid-Rise Wood Frame and Concrete Residential Buildings**” was drawn from relevant published literature and consultations with brokers, underwriters and property managers. Interviews with three underwriters and data from the Canadian Wood Council (CWC) show that builders’ risk insurance rates per \$100 monthly for comparable wood and concrete buildings are on average \$0.008 for concrete and \$0.053 for wood. When excluding the rate provided by CWC for wood frame insurance, which was significantly lower than the rates provided by the underwriters, the average rate for wood buildings rises to \$0.06, a factor of 7.5 times greater than that for concrete buildings.

The study identified four main reasons for the higher rates:

- **Greater fire peril:** The fire insurance portion of property insurance is 7 to 11 times higher for wood than for concrete structures, reflecting the far greater fire peril due to wood’s combustibility. Fire damage to a wood frame structure can result in a total loss, whereas for concrete, the financial loss is only partial. Only 1% of concrete buildings are demolished due to fire, compared to 8% of wood frame buildings.
- **Significantly higher moisture risk:** moisture control is a difficult and expensive process for wood frame mid rise buildings as they are much more susceptible to mold and rot, which is much less of an issue for concrete structures. Water damage is already the leading cause of residential claims costs in Canada. Water damage tends to spread more rapidly and remain undetected longer in wood frame structures compared to concrete structures, which can affect the safety of the structure or can even make it uninhabitable due to extensive rot and mold. BC’s “leaky condo” problems are well documented and known on an international scale.
- **Climate Change:** Payouts from extreme weather have more than doubled every 5 to 10 years since the 1980’s, and are now a leading cause of property insurance claims.

- **Difficulty in obtaining insurance for wood frame structures:** Many insurance companies in Canada are hesitant to underwrite wood frame structures, or will aggressively limit their risk exposure for such structures, during construction and over the life of the asset. Home warranty concerns are also highly relevant for strata owners in wood frame structures. In 2014, in BC, only 8% of claims filed under home warranties from multi-unit residential buildings were paid. Condo owners in wood frame buildings therefore carry greater individual financial risk, and the data shows they may not be covered by their home warranty.

“One of the key points about insurance rate setting emerging from this research was the importance of moisture control, both during construction and over the life of an insured asset. Indeed, the importance of moisture management could emerge as one of the most important takeaway conclusions of this research.” said Frank Came, Senior Advisor, GLOBE Advisors.

GLOBE Advisors conducted the study on behalf of the Concrete Council of Canada.

“We commissioned this study because we believe it is important for everyone to be aware of the implications of mid-rise wood-frame construction in terms of public safety, municipal budgets, homeowner risk exposure and contractors liabilities”, said Chris Conway, Chair, Concrete Council of Canada. “The GLOBE Advisors study demonstrates that there is a need for a definitive comparative analysis of total life-cycle costs of wood-frame and concrete structures, taking into consideration not only changing technologies and related costs of building products, but also the longer term costs of building operation, maintenance, and decommissioning. Given the high costs already associated with constructing and operating a mid-rise residential structures, a concerted effort must be made to build better awareness of the factors that influence insurance rates.”

To view the Full Study please go to: <http://globeadvisors.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Study-of-Insurance-Costs-for-Mid-Rise-Wood-Frame-and-Concrete-Residential-Buildings-Final-Revision-January10.pdf>

#### About GLOBE Advisors

GLOBE Advisors, a subsidiary of the Vancouver-based not-for-profit GLOBE Foundation, was established in response to increasing demand to provide consulting services on a project basis.

GLOBE Advisors has extended networks and extensive experience in the areas of international project management, partnership development, consulting, and market research.

For more information:

Frank Came,

Senior Advisor, GLOBE Advisors,

1-800-274-6097 Ext. 707    [frank.came@globe.ca](mailto:frank.came@globe.ca)

## About The Concrete Council of Canada

The Concrete Council of Canada is an organization of national and provincial associations bringing together representatives from the full spectrum of cement and concrete manufacturers across Canada. The Council's mission is to advance the industry's leadership in sustainable construction and promote the social, environmental and economic value of concrete, concrete products and concrete systems in Canada.

For more information:

Lyse Teasdale

Chair, Communications,


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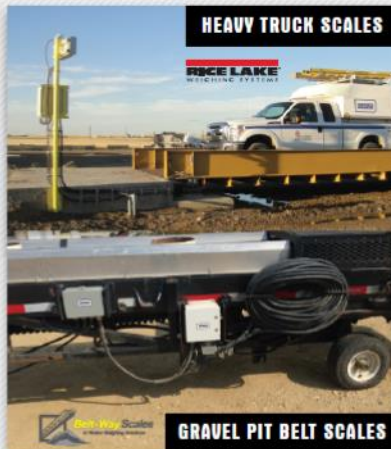
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# Trimac



## Rural Producer Certifies Its Concrete Drivers

The Canadian Ready Mixed Concrete Association (CRMCA) Concrete Professional Drivers Certification (CDP) is one way of differentiating your drivers from other concrete suppliers. The certification program is a national program that is recognized across Canada and is made up of 5 modules which are as follows: Product Knowledge, Environmental, Customer and Company Relations, Safety and Vehicle Maintenance, and Operations.

One of our rural producer decided to put all his drivers through the program this spring and they are all now certified through the CRMCA CPD program. To help facilitate the different dynamics of each member's situation, Concrete Alberta can provide alternative delivery methods of this program. We can provide the company with a Train the Trainer session in order for you to be able to administer the program in house or we can do the training for you.

Common questions asked:

Who can take the course? **Drivers who work for Concrete Alberta members only.**

Who does the Certification belong to? **The certification is given to the driver.**

How long is the Certification good for? **Five Years.**

Is there a minimum number of hours for the driver pre-qualification? **Yes – 1000 hours of experience before the driver can be certified.**

Who verifies the number of hours? **The member company signs an affidavit.**

Can a member company have their own in-house trainers? **Yes.**

What resource material is available? **CDP Drivers manuals and PowerPoint presentation are available through Concrete Alberta.**

Is there an examination? **Yes a written and practical exam is required.**

How long is the course? **It will take 2 days for the program.**

Why should my driver be certified? **It offers excellent training and support to your employees and certification of their chosen profession as a CDP.**

Who controls the examination? **The exam will be given by the sponsor; Concrete Alberta will grade and maintain a list of certification.**

Is this program mandatory part of membership? **No, it is voluntary.**

Is there an ID card? **There is a laminated "Certified CDP" card good for 5 years.**

What is the cost? **Concrete Alberta instructed program estimated minimum cost of \$375.00/student, company delivered program a minimum cost of \$200.00/student.**

For more information please contact the Concrete Alberta office.

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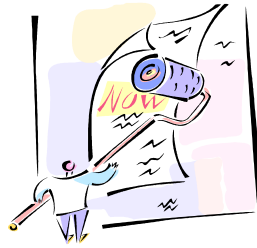
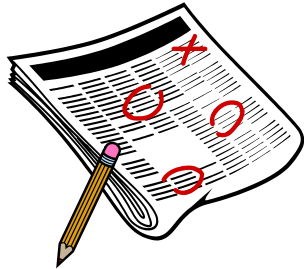
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## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY FOR CONCRETE ALBERTA MEMBERS

### THE MIXER

#### The Quarterly Newsletter of Concrete Alberta

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Make sure your advertising dollars hit the target. If concrete is your target market, then there isn't a better bang for your advertising buck than to advertise in Concrete Alberta's "The Mixer." In addition to reaching our membership and various stakeholders, the newsletter with your advertisement is accessed by over 1,500 people per month on the website and will remain on-line for at least two years so your advertisement will still be viewed long after the publication has been sent.

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 Concrete Alberta Office. Please make cheques payable to ARMCA.

#### Concrete Alberta

9653 – 45 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 5Z8

Phone: 780-436-5645 Fax: 780-436-6503 email: [info@concretealberta.ca](mailto:info@concretealberta.ca)

**Thank you** to those that attended, to our sponsors, to our volunteers, 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!

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