

Construction Specifications Canada is an organization representing diverse interests in the construction industry and related professions. It is dedicated to improving the quality and flow of information between these interests, whether in the form of specifications, contract administration or marketing.

November 2025 Edition **Editor: Tracey Stawnichy** 

# **Working with Infrastructure**

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025

**Time:** 11:30am – 1:00pm Place: Matrix Hotel

10640 100 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3N8

Presented by Cam Munro from Alberta Infrastructure, this 1hr presentation will discuss working through tendering, specs, design, reviews, and communications with Infrastructure.

CSC Edm. Lunch and Learn - Working with Infrastructure Tickets, Thu, 20

Nov 2025 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite



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# Student Sponsor Reach out to us for more information at edmonton@csc.dcc.ca

# **Meeting Sponsor**

\$50 for Individual (personal) Sponsor \$250 for Corporate Sponsor

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact any member of the Executive, attend one of our Chapter Meetings, send your name and address to CSC Edmonton Chapter, PO Box 35093 Mid Town PO. Edmonton, AB T5J 0B7, or go to edmonton.csc-dcc.ca for additional contact information.

# **GOALS OF CSC**

Construction Specifications Canada is a multi-disciplinary non-profit association dedicated to the improvement of communication, contract documentation, and technical information in the Construction Industry. CSC is a national Association with Chapters in most major Canadian Cities.

To this end, CSC pursues the study of systems and procedures that will improve the coordination and dissemination of information relevant to the construction process.

We seek to enhance the quality of the design and management aspects of the construction activity through programs of publication, education, and professional development, believing that by so doing, we can contribute best to the efficiency and effectiveness of the construction industry as a whole.

# **OBJECTIVES OF CSC**

To foster the interest of those who are engaged in or who are affected by the compilation or use any forms of specifications for the construction industry.

To publish literature pertaining to the construction industry.

To engage in activities to improve procedures and techniques related to the construction industry.

The opinions and comments expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the official views of Construction Specifications Canada. Also, appearance of advertisements and new product or service information does not constitute an endorsement of those featured products or services.

# **Announcements:**

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or a mentee for CSC, please hit the link!

MentorCity - Mentoring Software

# **Chair's Message**



Dylan Leclair, CSC Edmonton | Chapter Chair

Hello, Edmonton Chapter,

I hope you're all staying warm as the weather shifts, and we prepare to put our snowshoes and tires back on.

I am pleased we have some exciting items we are working on in regard to our program and membership offerings. We know that the cost of everything has risen substantially for everything we do, not only in our daily lives but also our professional lives and professional development. In that regard, in the next couple of weeks, we are looking at launching sponsorship packages to provide savings and benefits to our membership. This is being undertaken because we have listened to you, our membership, and feel there needs to be more done as our purpose is networking/knowledge, growth, and education.

At the request of many of our members, we conducted a survey regarding our events that we are reviewing as an Executive. I am excited to say that some of the suggestions have already been implemented, such as expanding the program offering, and we are working on a few networking event ideas in the background. When we launch our holiday event, sign up asap – it promises to be an awesome event!

In the next couple of weeks, you will see updates for CSC Edmonton and event sign ups coming from Constant Contact. We are switching programs to streamline our information flow as well as our event registrations. These emails may end up in your junk or spam folders so please, if you have not heard anything from CSC Edmonton, check those folders and contact us.

Have a great start to the winter!

# Membership in CSC

# Dave Lawrence



In the construction industry's fast-paced environment, the need for and value of Construction Specifications Canada is greater than ever. CSC brings together individuals from all segments of the construction industry. All who have a vested interest in Canada's largest industry are invited to join CSC. When you join CSC, you become part of the only association that brings together professionals from all aspects of the construction industry.

#### **DESIGN TEAM**

CSC offers members of the Design Team the opportunity to meet with other members and exchange information. It also affords you the chance to help improve technology and its management, and the means to improve ways in which your ideals are translated into clear, concise, and complete documentation.

#### **BUILDING TEAM**

If you are a member of the Building Team, CSC offers you the opportunity to become involved in formulating specifications. Your valuable input into the programs can help generate time and cost savings, as well as improve performance.

# **SUPPLY TEAM**

The multi-disciplinary composition of CSC allows members of the Supply Team to meet with other members of the construction team. CSC programs in data filing and information retrieval are geared to present convenient and concise information on your products for proper evaluation and specification.

#### THE STUDENT

If you are a student of architecture, engineering, or construction technology, CSC will provide you with a greater exposure to, and a better understanding of, the construction industry, giving you an excellent opportunity if you plan a career in the construction field.

# People and Places – Welcome to new and past CSC Edmonton Chapter Members!

**Todd Willick, Senior Project Manager** 

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# Fresh Faces (New Members)

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Elemex

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Yes, We've Moved (Contact / Mailing Address Update)

None this month.

Previous Members Re-Joining / Re-Activated

None this month

# **CSC Education:**



Kevin Osborne, CET

# Principles of Construction Documentation

The PCD course is an introductory course that will enable the student to have a better understanding of construction documentation (specifications, drawings, and schedules), products, bidding procedures, and contracts. It is also a prerequisite to all the other CSC education courses.

# Specifier 1

Specifier 1 is an intermediate level course that will take the individual beyond the concepts previously introduced in the PCD Course. Although some of the same topics are included, the depth of comprehension and explanation exceed that of the PCD course. The Specifier 1 is a prerequisite for the Certified Specification

Practitioner (CSP) designation from CSC. Successful completion of the course may be credited toward the experience component requirements for the Registered Specification Writer (RSW) designation.

# Technical Representative

The TR course provides a better understanding of contract documents and bidding procedures, product representation, professionalism, and ethics, and will provide a new depth of understanding and explanation of concepts beyond what was previously introduced in the PCD course. The course is designed for the individual involved in the supply section of the construction industry, such as manufacturer representatives, agents, or distributors of products. The student will have successfully completed the PCD course.

Contact Kevin for all your education needs. kosborne@jtas.ca

# EDUCATION COURSES

# **Upcoming Classes:**

Principals of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Sept 29, 2025 / Jan 5, 2026 Specifier – Nov 7, 2025 / Feb 27, 2026 Construction Contract Administration (CCA) – Nov 7, 2025 / March 6, 2026 Technical Representative (TR) – TBD

# **Upcoming Classes Online:**

Principles of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Sept 8, 2025 / Jan 5, 2026 Construction Contract Administrator (CCA) – Nov 7, 2025 / March 6, 2026 Specifier – Nov 7, 2025 / Feb 27, 2026 Technical Representative (TR) – Nov 7, 2025 / March 6, 2026

# **Upcoming Virtual Classes:**

Principles of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Jan 9, 2026 Construction Contract Administration (CCA) – Nov 7, 2025 / March 6, 2026 Specifier (SP) – Nov 7, 2025 / Feb 27, 2026 Technical Representative (TR) – Nov 7, 2025 / March 6, 2026

Social Media:

Check us out:



# **Articles of Interest**

# These Windows are Credit-Card Thin. They're About to Revolutionize the Way We Design Buildings

Sourced from: https://www.fastcompany.com / Patrick Sisson

Photo: Courtesy Alpen



A new type of window on the verge of mass production in the United States will provide a new vision for architects and builders seeking to marry design with energy efficiency.

This window, made from millimeter-thin glass panels, can achieve exceptional energy efficiency scores and make a significant difference in global emissions. Buildings account for about 30% of global energy consumption, and about half of the energy use in residential and commercial buildings is used for heating and cooling.

Corning, the firm that developed Gorilla glass in 2007 for Apple iPhones, helped refine the mass-manufacturing process based on material discoveries made at Lawrence Berkeley National Labs. In the late 1980s, researchers at the lab began looking into window efficiency in the aftermath of the energy crisis of the '70s. It led them to develop a new kind of glass that was thinner, yet stronger and more efficient.

In short, by creating these ultra-thin layers of glass, more layers and air gaps can be arranged inside a standard window frame, which multiplies a window's ability to insulate. Typical double-pane windows utilize two sheets of glass three or four millimeters thick; this new thin glass can be a half-a-millimeter thick.

Corning developed a modified manufacturing process based on the lab's research that can create glass sheets at scale, as thin as a credit card. It can be cut and modified to suit standard window frames, as well as for more unique designs for custom buildings designed by architects. Corning calls this new, larger commercial glass Enlighten.

# A more efficient window

Stephen Selkowitz, a research scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who theorized this process in the '80s, before it was commercially possible to produce, says that windows lose 10 to 20 times more energy per square foot than a well-insulated wall. Within a standard home or business, windows and glass represent the most porous area for heat exchange, letting in cold weather in the winter and heat in the summer.

By cutting down this energy transfer, this new glass – which contains layers of inert gas between thin panes, increasing its insulating properties – can slash the costs of heating and cooling a single-family home or office building.

Andrew Zech, the CEO of Alpen, a company that has collaborated with Corning on commercializing this technology for the last six years, says this new glass can achieve five times the energy efficiency of standard windows. The material also boasts a special coating that inhibits solar gain, or the heating effect of bright sunlight on a room.

The Kenzi Apartments at Bartlett Station, Boston-area (Photo: Courtesy Alpen



As Ronald Verkleeren, Corning's senior vice president for the Emerging Innovations Group, sees it, energy efficiency codes have in effect provided a limiting factor for glass. Increasingly strict building standards require a more balanced approach to material choices and window sizes to limit energy use. This development, in effect, frees up the industry to use and buy more windows, and will help manufacturers utilizing this process gain market share in the large, lucrative, architectural glass market. Corning has reached out to architects to encourage them to create case studies and new designs utilizing this glass.

"All of a sudden you can show up with a window that comes as close to matching what's possible from a wall, in terms of energy efficiency, and that gives a lot of degrees of design freedom to be able to meet the code," Verkleeren says. "That's the game changer."

# Ramping up production

Alpen was the first domestic firm to manufacture this glass, and will ramp up facilities in Pennsylvania and Colorado later this fall. According to news from Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, which helped develop the breakthroughs that made this process possible, a number of larger producers will begin making these kinds of windows. Manufacturers include Andersen, the world's biggest window manufacturer, which plans to open a plant in Georgia in October specifically geared towards this product, as well as PGT, which makes hurricane-resistant windows.

The rate of window replacement is rather slow, says Zech, just about 1.4% of the national stock gets updated every year, and the number of windows sold each year is generally split in half between new projects and replacement. As Zech sees it, these new thin glasses can be used for any shape or profile – they can "be as boring as you need them to be."

This new wave of thin glass production in the United States – coming during a time of heightened tariffs and a loosening of environmental regulations – can help U.S. developers and builders utilize more glass on projects in a way that can not just cut emissions but help architects rethink how they're designing buildings.

# The end of architectural trade-offs

Alpen's factory utilizes a number of robotics and advanced manufacturing technologies in the production process, says Zech. A vacuum system holds onto the panes as they roll down a conveyor belt – a stiff wind could blow them off – and a series of superfine bristles wash the glass, akin to a microscopic glass carwash.

Alpen's Zech says the company's working theory was that they would sell tons of these new windows in cold climates like Alaska or Minnesota. But they're also selling a lot in hotter climates and temperate areas like San Francisco, as a way to open up walls and facades with glass without creating additional heating burdens through substantial solar gain. Selkowitz believes this tech offers so many commercial opportunities where this technology helps meet real world needs, such as building offices with more daylighting.

In fact, Zech says the trend in recent years has been adding fewer windows to new construction, as

energy efficiency standards have demanded builders figure out how to meet more strict insulation goals. He believes this new thin glass will eliminate the need for these kinds of design trade-offs, and allow for larger windows and showier facades.

"There is an energy savings story here, and it's really potent," Zech says. "But probably the bigger story is actually, people just want to have massive windows in their homes and businesses, they want walls of glass."

# **Canadian Architects Gain Global Licensure Access**

Sourced from: https://www.constructioncanada.net / Construction Canada

The MRA with NCARB's Canadian counterpart, the Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada (ROAC), replaces an existing agreement between NCARB and ROAC, removing several impediments to architects' participation. Image courtesy Rawpixel.com/bigstockphoto.com



The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards' (NCARB) member licensing boards have ratified two new Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with its counterparts in Canada and South Africa.

The agreements expand access to international reciprocity, allowing qualified architects from each country to pursue licensure through a streamlined process.

The MRA with NCARB's Canadian counterpart, the Regulatory Organizations of Architecture in Canada (ROAC), replaces an existing agreement between NCARB and ROAC,

removing several impediments to architects' participation.

Both agreements are based on shared competencies obtained at the point of licensure and accept architects from various backgrounds, including those who hold the NCARB Certificate through the Education Alternative or Foreign Architect pathways.

The new agreement between NCARB and its counterpart in Canada includes several changes from the existing agreement that are intended to remove barriers to reciprocity, including eliminating the 2,000 required hours of post-licensure experience, removing requirements related to citizenship and residency, and accepting architects licensed or certified through alternative pathways.

To be eligible for reciprocity under the new agreement, architects must be licensed and in good standing in a participating jurisdiction in their home country, and for U.S. architects, hold an active NCARB Certificate.

# **Architectural Competitions as a Tool to Empower Emerging Voices**

Sourced from: https://www.archdaily.com / Eduardo Souza

Open architectural competitions have long been regarded as gateways for new ideas. They level the playing field by proposing a single call, a clear set of rules, and an evaluation based on the quality of the work, conducted anonymously. For organizers, like cities, institutions, or companies, they represent a way to gather relevant proposals in a transparent public forum, backed by a competent

jury. Unsurprisingly, competitions have marked decisive moments in the history of the discipline, such as the Centre Pompidou competition in Paris, which brought Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers to prominence with their "inside-out building," or the one for Brazil's new capital, won by Lúcio Costa with the Pilot Plan that synthesized the city into two intersecting axes, interpreted as either an airplane or a cross.

So, why do competitions still matter in architecture today? Beyond their historic role in shaping iconic projects, they continue to serve as testing grounds for fresh ideas, talent, and innovation. In the following sections, we explore competitions from three angles: the motivations that keep architects returning to them, the reasons organizers continue to launch them, and a practical playbook of strategies to help you approach your next competition with clarity and purpose.

# Why Architects Keep Entering

Despite the competitive nature, competitions provide valuable exposure, portfolio growth, and the potential to win career-defining commissions — making them a vital tool for both emerging and established practices. Competitions continue to attract architects because they offer:

- Recognition and Visibility: Projects move beyond portfolios into public forums with juries, results, and media coverage.
- Opportunity: Shortlists and winning entries act as talent directories, opening doors to collaborations, interviews, and clients.
- Creative Progress: Structured briefs and deadlines push architects to explore new typologies.
   Even without winning, participants leave with a project that can be refined, published, and developed further.

"Our studio participates in competitions because they allow us to challenge ourselves and enhance our skills. They allow us to tackle unique design problems by experimenting with innovative solutions that explore unconventional ideas and push the boundaries of traditional design. Competitions also provide an opportunity for us to showcase our creativity and abilities. Winning or even participating can significantly boost our visibility and attract the attention of potential clients and future employees.

- Daniel Rojas, Wandrian Studios, winner on MICROHOME × Kingspan Competition"

# Why Organizers Keep Running Them

For institutions, cities, and companies, open competitions are strategic tools. By inviting a broad pool of participants, competitions generate diversity of ideas, stimulate public engagement, and often provide tangible solutions that can inform policies, guide investments, or feed directly into future projects. They also enhance transparency, positioning organizers as open and innovative actors willing to collaborate with the global architectural community.

For promoters, open competitions bring diversity of ideas and foster engagement around specific challenges. Recent Buildner competitions illustrate this balance well. In Dubai Urban Elements, the city was reimagined as a kit of parts, like shading structures, furniture, signage, and stops. Participants responded to precise, climate-conscious criteria, while the shortlist provided the city with a pipeline of elements ready for prototyping and scaling. In the House of the Future (€250,000), a national housing issue was translated into a clear and accessible brief: affordable, expandable, and climate-adapted dwellings.

Along similar lines, MICROHOME × Kingspan (€100,000) turned brand research and development into a tangible challenge: designing a compact 25 m² residence, wie the restrictions serving as catalysts for innovation, resulting in a library of solutions and a mapping of promising teams. The AIA/Denver Affordable Housing Challenge, in turn, brought global ideas into dialogue with local

realities, testing them against U.S. building codes, specific sites, and pragmatic strategies. At a smaller scale, The Architect's Chair showed how a craft-focused brief can be equally impactful, with the jury chaired by Philippe Starck. Together, these cases show how competitions leave behind a toolbox of concepts, prototypes, and teams that organizers can draw on to address pressing challenges in real and lasting ways.

# A Playbook for Participants

For those preparing a competition proposal, it's important to see each project as an investment in your professional trajectory. With the right approach, every entry can become a learning process, a portfolio piece, and an opportunity to open doors to new collaborations. A few strategies can help maximize the experience:

- Choose themes aligned with long-term interests: Competitions can act as stepping stones toward the kind of work you want to pursue.
- Present ideas in a clear and engaging way: Strong visuals and precise language make a proposal memorable to juries and readers alike.
- Balance boldness with feasibility: Innovative concepts gain traction when paired with realistic pathways for implementation.
- Share your work beyond the competition itself: Even unawarded projects can build visibility if published, exhibited, or adapted into future commissions.

"I think the goal of architecture competitions is to test out innovative ideas and showcase the creative potential of young designers and architects. I like to take part in these competitions to challenge myself and my creative thinking, and to improve my project managing skills for the future. - Valentí Soler Casas, 3rd place on MICROHOME × Kingspan Competition"

Ultimately, perhaps the greatest value of a competition lies in stimulating creativity. How many different paths can be taken to reach an answer? What possibilities emerge from a single provocation? Competitions are an essential part of the profession, bringing a freshness often absent in daily practice. More than immediate results, they offer emerging architects a stage to experiment, test ideas, and shape the future of design.

Buildner Unbuilt Award 2025 invites architects worldwide to share projects that exist on paper but have yet to be built. With €100,000 in prizes, publication in the Unbuilt Book, and global visibility, it's an opportunity to transform concepts into recognition, and perhaps into the next step in your career. Learn more and register here <u>Buildner's Unbuilt Award 2025 International Architecture Ideas Award</u>.

# Why Medieval People Slept in Wooden Cupboards – and Why We No Longer Use Them

Sourced from: https://www.msn.com / Arezki Amiri

In a time when homes were small, cold, and often overcrowded, the idea of sleeping in a wooden cupboard may not sound so unusual. From the medieval period to the early 20th century, "bed cupboards" or "box beds" were commonly used across Europe. These simple yet ingenious furniture pieces offered more than just a place to sleep – they provided warmth, privacy, and space-saving solutions in an era when living conditions were far from ideal. But why did this practice emerge, and why did it eventually fade into history?

# The Practicality of Bed Cupboards in Medieval Homes

Box Bed © Daily Galaxy CA



In medieval Europe, living conditions were harsh. Houses were typically small, often no larger than a single room, with minimal insulation against the brutal cold. The only source of heat in many homes was a fireplace, which wasn't enough to keep the entire space warm, especially during long winters. This is where wooden cupboards became essential. By providing a confined, enclosed space for sleeping, these cupboards trapped body heat, creating a warmer, more comfortable environment in an otherwise chilly room.

These bed cupboards weren't just for sleeping. Many had multifunctional designs, allowing them to be used for storage or even as extra seating during the day. In an era when space was limited, especially in overcrowded homes, the ability to fold away the bed and reclaim valuable living space was a huge advantage. Moreover, for families living in cramped conditions, these cupboards also offered a small amount of privacy – a rare commodity at the time.

# A Space-Saving Solution for Overcrowded Homes

In many medieval homes, particularly in rural areas, families often lived together in tight quarters. Privacy was a luxury that few could afford, and as a result, the need for space-efficient furniture was paramount. Bed cupboards, often known as box beds, were compact enough to fit into these cramped living

spaces while still serving as a functional sleeping area.

In some cases, they could even accommodate multiple people. It wasn't uncommon for several members of a family – or even strangers, like migrant workers – to share a bed, sometimes in conditions that would seem uncomfortable by modern standards.

In addition to their space-saving capabilities, these cupboard beds were also seen as an opportunity to secure a bit of privacy. Even if the cupboard wasn't fully enclosed, many had curtains or doors that could be shut, offering a sense of personal space in otherwise crowded homes. In an era where theft was common, some bed cupboards could even be locked, providing a small degree of security for personal belongings.

# How Changes in Society Led to the Decline of the Bed Cupboard

The widespread use of wooden cupboards as sleeping spaces began to wane with the advent of modern heating systems. As central heating and improved fireplaces became more common in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, homes became warmer, reducing the need for cramped, cold sleeping arrangements.

Over time, the notion of sleeping in a small, enclosed space began to feel less desirable. Social attitudes shifted, and larger, more open sleeping arrangements took precedence, as people sought comfort and the ability to breathe more freely while they slept.

Box Bedroom © Daily Galaxy CA



By the early 20th century, as homes grew larger and better insulated, the practical need for bed cupboards largely disappeared. The increasing availability of modern furniture, coupled with a growing emphasis on hygiene and privacy, pushed the humble cupboard bed out of fashion.

# **Modern Interpretations of Space-Saving Designs**

In today's world of urban living, where apartments are getting smaller and more expensive, the need for space-efficient furniture is once again becoming a priority. Ironically, some of the very principles that made medieval bed cupboards so useful are now being reinterpreted for contemporary living spaces.

Capsule hotels, for instance, offer compact, minimalist sleeping pods that provide both privacy and comfort in crowded cities. Similarly, multifunctional furniture – such as foldaway beds and storage solutions – are becoming increasingly popular, especially among younger people living in microapartments.

Interestingly, some modern furniture designs are reminiscent of the old bed cupboard, blending the space-saving functionality of the past with the comfort and style expected in today's homes. Wooden sleeping "nooks" that resemble the old box beds are even being marketed for use in cottage-style homes, reflecting a modern fascination with simplicity and minimalism.

# ASSOCIATION LINKS

 Alberta Construction Safety Association (ACSA)

www.acsa-safety.org

Alberta Building Envelope Council North (ABEC)

www.abecnorth.org

• Building Information Modeling (BIM) Forum

https://bimforum.org/

 Biomimicry Guild https://biomimicry.net/

- Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC) www.cagbc.org
- CCDC Documents ccdc.org

- Architecture 2030 www.architecture2030.org
- BuildingSMART Alliance (Canada Chapter of BuildingSMART) https://www.buildingsmart.org/community/ch apter-directory/buildingsmart-canada/

**BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI)** 

https://www.buildingsmart.org/

- Biomimicry Institute www.biomimicryinstitute.org
- Building Transformation (CanBIM)
   https://www.buildingtransformations.org/
- Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) www.csc-dcc.ca

 International Construction Information Society (ICIS) www.icis.org

# MasterFormat

https://crmservice.csinet.org/widgets/master format/numbersandtitles.aspx

# **ASSOCIATION LIAISONS**

Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) http://www.aaa.ab.ca/

Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta (APEGGA) http://www.apegga.org/

Alberta Painting Contractors Association (APCA) www.apca.ca

Association of Science and Engineering Technology Professionals of Alberta (ASET) http://www.aset.ab.ca/

Alberta Wall & Ceiling Association (AWCA) http://awca.ca

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) http://www.ashrae.org/

Alberta Roofing Contractors Association (ARCA) http://www.arcaonline.ca

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)

http://www.bomaedmonton.org/ /
Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA)
http://www.cea.ca/

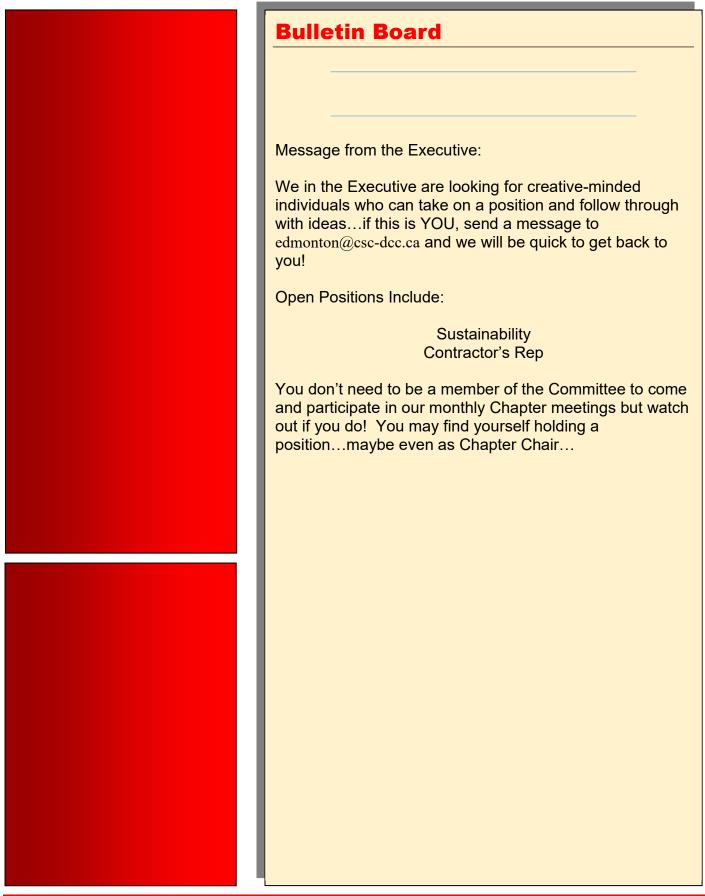
The Canadian Wood Council (CWC) http://www.cwc.ca

Edmonton Construction Association www.edmca.com

Portland Cement Association https://www.cement.org/ Terrazzo, Tile & Marble Association of Canada (TTMAC)

Interior Designers of Alberta https://www.idalberta.ca/

http://www.ttmac.com/



# **The Executive**

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Position Open

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Position Open

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