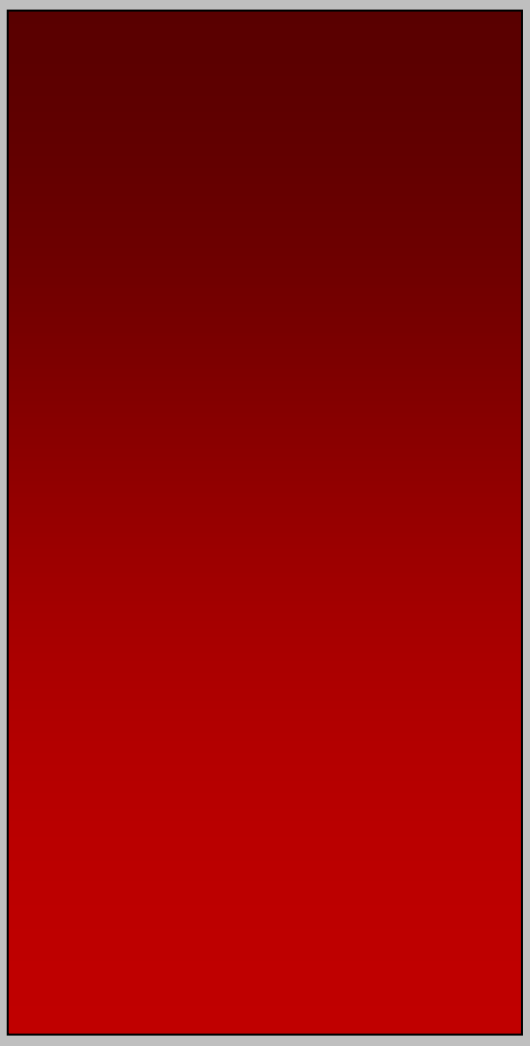
the edmonton Specifier

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.

January 2026 Edition

Editor: Tracey Stawnichy

In This Edition...



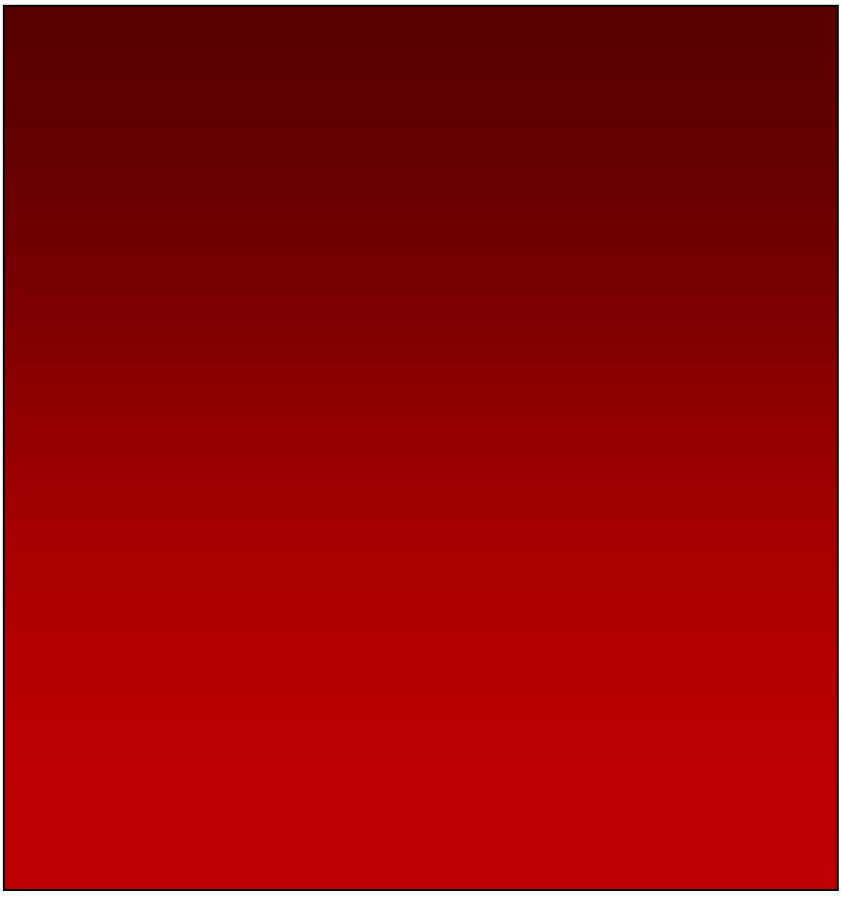
EPDs for Sustainable Interiors

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026
Time: 8:00am-10:00am (breakfast included)
Place: Edmonton Expo Centre, Room 108
7515 – 118 Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T5B 0J2

Guest: Dr. Shiva Zargar, Ph.D., Msc*2 is a life cycle assessment (LCA) scientist and accredited EPD verifier with more than a decade of experience helping businesses navigate complex environmental challenges. As the founder of Build Neutral, she combines data-driven solutions with practical insight to guide organizations toward sustainable success.

2026 Architects – Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for Sustainable Interiors – 2026 Supply-Build Canada Building & Hardware Showcase

This session gives you the tools to make it happen. You'll learn how to integrate your material selection process – from flooring and wall coverings to ceilings, furniture, and beyond.



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General Contractor	Position Open	
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Sustainability	Position Open	

Chapter Sponsor

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

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

Meeting Sponsor

$50 for Individual (personal) Sponsor
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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.

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

Happy New Year Edmonton Chapter,

Hope you had a great holiday and were able to spend time with your families, friends, and others important to you.

It was great to see all those in attendance at Rosarios for our Holiday Wrap-Up last year. It was a spectacular time with many laughs and good company. Special thanks to Cherrise for organizing and continuing to grow the event, I am already looking forward to this year's!

As we start 2026, be on the lookout for our Infonet package and education offerings in the coming days. Also, we are looking at events for the second half of the year so please, if you have any suggestions for events or topics you would like to hear, reach out to us and we will look into these ideas.

We are looking great for 2026, and we can't wait to see everyone!

Have a great January

Membership in CSC

Doug Rossum, CTR

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!

Fresh Faces (New Members)

Daniela Blank
Architect and Design Specification Rep
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Shaye Wiese
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16089 – 132 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5V 1H8
P: (780) 447-0975
E: shaye@amroofingltd.ca

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

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) – Jan 5, 2026
Specifier – Feb 27, 2026
Construction Contract Administration (CCA) – March 6, 2026
Technical Representative (TR) – TBD

Upcoming Classes Online:

Principles of Construction Documentation (PCD) – Jan 5, 2026
Construction Contract Administrator (CCA) – March 6, 2026
Specifier – Feb 27, 2026
Technical Representative (TR) – March 6, 2026

Upcoming Virtual Classes:

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

Social Media:

Check us out:

Articles of Interest

Gordie Howe Bridge Aiming for 'Early 2026' Opening

Sourced from: https://canada.constructconnect.com / Ron Stang

GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT – The US ramp to the Gordie Howe International Bridge will connect Interstate 75 and Detroit streets to the bridge deck.

After more than six years of construction the $6.4 billion Gordie Howe International Bridge linking Windsor and Detroit is now expected to open in "early 2026," according to officials.

Construction began in October 2018 and the twin "hockey stick" arc like concrete bridge towers were topped off in December 2023. The bridge deck linking the two countries – the longest cable-stayed bridge in North America at 853 metres or 2,800 feet – was joined in a ceremony in June 2024.

In recent months the bridge has the appearance of being completed and in fact is lit at night, providing a dramatic new silhouette to the Windsor-Detroit skyline.

And, say officials, 98 per cent of work has been done. However, completion of the port of entry (POE) buildings like toll booths, customs and warehouses, along with landscaping, are in the final stages. Moreover, ramps on the Detroit side linking the bridge to Interstate 75, and pedestrian bridge and street work, is still underway.

GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT – This photo shows the Gordie Howe International Bridge lit at night.

The six-lane bridge was touted to open late this year but construction delays, including because of the COVID-19 pandemic, have been blamed for the later opening. That hasn't stopped online rumors suggesting the delays are everything from U.S. customs being slow to field a full staff complement, to President Donald Trump deliberately delaying it to penalize Canada over the tariff issue.

Not true, according to bridge officials, though there is some accuracy to the customs allegation.

Tara Carson, spokeswoman for the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, says the operator is "providing all border agencies and our operating teams sufficient time to be ready to operate this new and modern land border crossing between the U.S. and Canada."

But a casual viewer can see that infrastructure, especially on the Detroit side, is still being worked on. In fact, a major part of the delay is due to extensive and stringent systems testing. As Carson says, officials "taking the time to do it right is time well spent."

Much of the testing is technological, such as ensuring the fire suppression system is working properly; the bridge will be able to handle hazmat shipments.

As well, testing of traffic "connectivity" such as dynamic overhead signage to respond to real time traffic volumes and oversized vehicles.

GORDIE HOWE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT – Shown is the Gordie Howe International Bridge's Canadian port of entry, with dynamic overhead traffic controls and cycling-pedestrian lanes at left.

The bridge has four components: the bridge itself, the Canadian and U.S. POEs and the "Michigan Interchange" with I-75 and local Detroit streets.

Carson says this is the current status of work:

Final installation of the electrical, fire suppression and drainage systems, as well as barriers and fencing, the 12-foot-wide multiuse (pedestrian and cycling) toll-free lanes which will have their own small customs facility. Deck line painting is completed.

At the POEs the focus is on interior finishing work, and fencing, landscaping and paving around the 36 U.S. primary inspection lanes and 24 Canadian ones.

At the Michigan Interchange crews are working on lane painting and sign installation. "Work also continues on the five new pedestrian bridges and local road improvements," she said.

World's Longest Suspension Bridge to be Sicily's First Link to Mainland

Sourced from: https//www.globalconstructionreview.com / Rod Sweet

A Webuild-led consortium today won the contract to build the long-planned bridge over the Strait of Messina in Italy to provide the first fixed link between Sicily and the mainland.

At 3,666m in length, the bridge, estimated to cost €13.5bn, will be the world's longest suspension bridge.

Two steel towers, 399m tall, will hold up the deck. The suspension cables will be 1.26m in diameter and 5,320m long, which Webuild called an "engineering first".

The 60m-wide deck will have three vehicle lanes in each direction, two rail lines and two service lanes. The bridge will accommodate up to 200 trains a day and 6,000 vehicles an hour.

The deck's 600m-wide sea clearance will be 72m, dropping to 70m with a full load of vehicles and two passenger trains passing simultaneously.

Earthquakes and 292km/h winds

The design team, which includes Danish consulting engineer Cowi, must design the bridge to withstand strong seismic activity and 292km/h winds. It will have an intelligent monitoring system for predictive maintenance work.

Eurolink, the international consortium Webuild leads for the project, includes Japan's IHI, Spain's Sacyr, and Italian firms Condotte and Itinera.

The bridge over the Strait of Messina will be 3,666m long (Rendering courtesy of Strait of Messina company)

The project includes infrastructure upgrades on both shores, comprising some 40km roads and rail lines in all, three train stations in Messina, and a multifunctional centre in Calabria.

"All of these complementary works will profoundly change mobility for the two regions, whilst protecting the surrounding environment," Webuild said.

Long history

A competition to build the bridge was first launched Italy's public works ministry in 1969, but construction didn't take place.

The project was restarted in 2003.

In 2006, the Straight of Messina company awarded the design and build contract to Eurolink, led by Webuild, then called Salini Impregilo.

Works were stopped for 11 years by an Italian Law-Decree in October 2012, and then restarted under an Italian Law-Decree in March 2023.

Webuild chief executive Pietro Salini said the renewed project "marks the start of a new season of vision, courage and confidence in the capabilities of Italian industry and the entire infrastructure sector".

Poured Earth is a Sustainable Construction Method Modelled on Concrete Casting

Sourced from: https://www.dezeen.com / Amy Peacock

Material research studio Matter at Hand, founded by Assemble co-founder Lewis Jones, has created a prototype clay-based construction method named Poured Earth that emulates casting concrete.

Poured Earth was developed to make building with earthen materials easier and more accessible than when using materials such as rammed earth and cob, which are hailed for their sustainability but often labour-intensive.

Created by Matter at Hand as part of a residency at the Art in Manufacturing programme at the National Festival of Making, the Poured Earth project also explores how earthen construction

methods could be scaled up by using a process similar to casting concrete, reusing much of the same equipment.

Matter at Hand has created a prototype earthen material named Poured Earth

"Our use of concrete has shown how extraordinarily useful it can be to have a flowable, castable, solid material," Jones told Dezeen.

"The huge drawback of concrete is obviously its carbon footprint, and so being able to form and work with earth in a similar way could offer a very practical approach for rethinking how we build in the future," he continued.

"Along with the scalability of this approach, it opens up new design possibilities for working with earth, allowing for a diversity of surface finishes and applications not usually associated with the material."

Similar to other earthen construction materials, samples of Poured Earth have so far been made by mixing clay with different quantities of sand, aggregate and natural fibres.

They are made without the need for a binder such as cement or gypsum, meaning they can be reformed or returned to the earth at the end of their life.

In a process akin to casting concrete, the materials are combined in a cement mixer and poured into formwork, which is vibrated to remove trapped air and left until ready to be demoulded.

Matter at Hand worked with ceramic manufacturer Darwen Terracotta when developing this technique, also building upon the company's slip-casting methods that it uses for architectural ceramics. Slip-casting is the process of pouring liquid clay into a plaster mould.

What sets Poured Earth apart from other earthen construction materials is the addition of deflocculants – a type of chemical agent commonly used in ceramic slip-casting.

By adding deflocculants such as sodium silicate, soda ash or bark tannins, the clay mix flows better without the need for additional water, resulting in a denser material and minimal shrinkage.

"The key difference is the use of deflocculants to create the flowing, fluid consistency that means it can be poured," said Jones. "Rather than having to add a lot of water, which reduces strength, increases shrinkage and drying time, deflocculants make a mix more fluid by changing the surface charge of clay particles."

"A few drops can transform a very thick, dense mix into a free-flowing liquid for pouring, whilst retaining its density," Jones continued.

"In ceramics, the use of deflocculants is really the foundation of slip casting, and a huge amount of knowledge exists in this area in the ceramic industry, but which hasn't yet made its way over to the world of earth construction."

Samples of Poured Earth were exhibited at this year's National Festival of Making, which took place from 5 to 6 July at Blackburn Cathedral in England.

The studio has designed a dual-layer wall that combines a structural material mix with an insulative mix

Matter at Hand reused moulds from Darwen Terracotta to cast the samples, using clay supplied by the manufacturer, combined with local waste aggregates and natural fibres produced in north-west England.

One of the exhibited pieces was a prototype structural Poured Earth wall that can be constructed in situ or as precast panels, made from clay, crushed ceramics and recycled construction aggregates.

A lightweight insulative panel set in a timber frame was made from a mix of clay, wood chip, hemp shiv and foamed recycled glass, while prototypes of hollow clay cast blocks were infilled with loose, natural insulation.

Matter at Hand also presented a composite wall comprising a 200mm-thick internal load-bearing layer and a 250mm-thick insulative layer, drawing on the CobBauge composite wall system.

Jones hopes to eventually develop the Poured Earth prototype into a full-scale building, offering an exemplar of how earthen construction can become a mainstream contemporary building method.

"In the context of the climate emergency, unfired clays offer so much, but there is a lot more we need to do to push earth construction back to being considered a mainstream building material again," said Jones.

"Partly this needs to come from a design perspective, showing all the incredible possibilities that these materials offer, and partly this needs to come from a practicality perspective – how to make these brilliant materials easier to use," he continued.

"This project seemed like a great opportunity to try and explore both of these elements, seeing how we can learn from knowledge in other fields to help drive new directions for earth construction and give us new ways of working with this age-old material."

The Secret to Change Isn't Procedural, it's Psychological

Sourced from: https://www.fastcompany.com / Jessica Wilen

Organizations often describe change as a technical exercise: Adjust a workflow, update a reporting line, reorganize a process or two. On paper, it all looks relatively contained. But the lived experience of change rarely aligns with the tidy logic of a project plan.

Recently, I worked with a team in the midst of what leadership kept referring to as a "small restructuring." And technically, it was. The core work wasn't shifting, no one's job was threatened, and the strategy made sense.

Yet the emotional climate thickened almost immediately. One manager became more reserved than usual, answering questions with careful brevity. Another grew unusually fixated on minor details. A third found herself more irritable, though she couldn't articulate why. Nothing dramatic – just a low hum of unease moving through a group of otherwise steady professionals.

What struck me was how quickly this supposedly minor adjustment stirred up deeper questions for people. That's the part of change we tend not to acknowledge. Even modest shifts can unsettle the

psychological architecture we rely on to feel competent, grounded, and connected. The disruption isn't about the logistics of the change; it's about the quiet, internal recalibration that follows.

The Psychology Beneath Transition

In both coaching and clinical work, clients often describe this experience in vague terms: "I don't hate the change. Something just feels... off." That feeling isn't superficial. It's a signal that the change is brushing against something important – identity, capability, belonging, autonomy, the sense of who we are in relation to the work and the people around us. Most reactions to change are not reactions to the actual change. They are reactions to what the change is interpreted to mean.

A new workflow can raise doubts about whether one's skills remain relevant. A shift in reporting lines can evoke questions about trust or status. A more efficient structure may unexpectedly trigger fears of being left behind. Even when the change is welcome or long overdue, it can still destabilize the sense of continuity that makes daily work feel predictable.

When these emotions aren't acknowledged, they tend to surface indirectly – as tension, withdrawal, hypervigilance, or that familiar sense that the team is slightly out of sync without being sure why.

A Leader's Turning Point

I saw this play out with a director who couldn't quite understand why her team seemed anxious. "We're not changing their jobs," she said. "Why is this causing so much stress?"

She was looking at the content of the change rather than its psychological implications. So I asked her, "If you were sitting in their chair what might this change symbolize?"

She thought for a long moment. "Probably that I'm losing control," she said quietly. "Or that leadership thinks our judgment isn't strong enough."

Once she recognized that meaning-making – not mechanics – was driving the reaction, she changed her approach. Instead of doubling down on explanations of the strategy, she met individually with team members to ask how the transition was landing for them. These weren't troubleshooting conversations; they were opportunities for people to articulate the emotional subtext of the change.

Over the next two weeks, the atmosphere settled. People began to reengage. The same plan, once met with tension, now felt workable. The difference wasn't procedural. It was psychological.

What Effective Leaders Actually Do

Leaders often assume that smooth change management depends on clear plans and well-communicated timelines. Those matter, of course, but they're not what ultimately determines whether people adapt. The leaders who navigate transition well understand that the emotional environment carries more weight than any formal framework.

1. They acknowledge the wobble

Effective leaders don't pretend everyone is fine, nor do they treat every raised eyebrow as a crisis. They simply name what's happening in a way that feels matter-of-fact and compassionate: "This kind of shift can throw people a bit. If you're feeling unsettled, you're not alone."

The acknowledgment isn't performative; it's grounding. It signals that disorientation is expected—not a personal failing or a sign that someone is "resistant." When the leader names the wobble, the team doesn't have to expend additional energy hiding it.

2. They offer predictable touchpoints

In times of transition, people instinctively look for something steady to hold onto. Leaders who understand this create simple, reliable anchors: a weekly check-in that doesn't get rescheduled, updates that arrive when they're promised, a shared understanding of what will happen next – even if "what happens next" is simply another conversation.

Predictability doesn't remove uncertainty, but it gives people a rhythm they can orient themselves around. It restores a sense of temporality – I know where we are, and I know when I'll hear something again – which has a surprising regulating effect on the nervous system.

3. They reinforce continuity

One of the most destabilizing parts of change is the fear that everything is up for grabs. Leaders who navigate change well remind people of what isn't shifting: the team's shared values, their collective purpose, the norms that shape how they work together, the relationships that predate the change.

This isn't about offering false reassurance; it's about locating the throughline. People need to know what they can still rely on so they can make sense of what is genuinely new. Continuity is the psychological counterweight to upheaval.

4. They return a sense of agency

Change often creates a feeling of being acted upon, which is why even small choices can make a disproportionate difference. Leaders who understand this invite their team to help in decision-making in thoughtful, bounded ways: How should we sequence this work? What would make the new process feel more workable? Which aspects should we test first?

It's not about democratizing every call; it's about restoring a sense of authorship. When people have a hand in shaping even a small part of the transition, the experience shifts from something happening to me to something I'm participating in.

5. They make room for emotion without absorbing it

Every change process brings emotion along for the ride—frustration, anticipation, grief, relief, confusion. Strong leaders don't pathologize those reactions, nor do they try to rescue people from them. They stay steady enough to listen without absorbing the emotional charge, and curious enough to understand what the emotion is pointing to. When they respond, they don't personalize the feelings or interpret them as pushback. They treat emotional reactions as data—information about needs, fears, assumptions, or blind spots in the transition. That stance alone often lowers the temperature.

Final Thought

Change will always involve more than new workflows or org charts. It touches people's sense of competence, identity, and place in the system – and that's where the real work of leadership happens. When managers pay attention to the emotional experience of change – not just the operational rollout – teams stay steadier and transitions land more cleanly. The leaders who succeed aren't the ones with the perfect plan; they're the ones who help people find their footing as the ground shifts.

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
- **BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI)**
  https://www.buildingsmart.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/chapter-directory/buildingsmart-canada/
  https://link.edgepilot.com/s/e586baa3/RRu60BvuAUuI1ebSszKcZw?u=http://www.buildingsmartcanada.ca/
- **Biomimicry Institute**
  www.biomimicryinstitute.org
- **Building Transformation (CanBIM)**
  https://www.buildingtransformations.org/
  Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) www.csc-dcc.ca
- **MasterFormat**
  https://crmservice.csinet.org/widgets/masterformat/numbersandtitles.aspx
  International Construction Information Society (ICIS) www.icis.org

ASSOCIATION LIAISONS

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

Alberta Painting Contractors Association (APCA)
www.apca.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
info@arcaonline.ca

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

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

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

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA)
http://www.bomaedmonton.org/ /
Consulting Engineers of Alberta (CEA)
http://www.cea.ca/

Edmonton Construction Association
www.edmca.com

Bulletin Board

Message from the Executive:

We in the Executive are looking for creative-minded individuals who can take on a position and follow through with ideas…if this is YOU, send a message to edmonton@csc-dcc.ca and we will be quick to get back to you!

Open Positions Include:

Sustainability
Contractor's Rep

You don't need to be a member of the Committee to come and participate in our monthly Chapter meetings but watch out if you do! You may find yourself holding a position…maybe even as Chapter Chair…

The Executive

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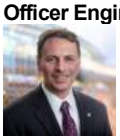
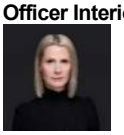
Officer Engineer  Jamie Murphy, RET, P.L. (Eng), CCCA, LEED AP, Principal Read Jones Christoffersen P: 587-745-0266 JMurphy@rjc.ca	**Officer Interior Design**  Nicole Bird, Creative Director RSVP Design Inc. P: 780-686-2452 nicole@rsvpdesign.ca	**Officer Contractor**  Position Open	**Officer Manufacturing**  Mike Lafontaine Expocrete P: 780-962-4010 Mike.Lafontaine@oldcastle.com
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