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Government and Regulatory Affairs

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The forecast calls for BBQs and picnics in June /July but Canada needs you!

“Dog days of summer can be useful”

The 2008 Canadian Legislative Conference was certainly a success for the Building Trades, affiliates and our industry partners.

Delegates from our industry met with their Members of Parliament, government officials and regional provincial councils on issues facing Canada. In particular, there are some important changes being made to **Employment Insurance which require our continued focus and action**. As discussed in the Legislative Issue Briefing Kit, these changes are being implemented as part of Bill-C50. Use the time over the summer to talk to your MPs again about this issue – it will impact our trades and families in challenging economic times.

The House of Commons is set to rise (adjourn) for the summer on June 6 and it is likely this is the last full session before an election. MPs will be back in your ridings and it is crucial you use this opportunity to follow up with the meetings you may have had here in Ottawa. **Make sure you are involved in the upcoming election campaign in your home ridings and those people who work in the local riding associations know you are involved.**

Election readiness is essential in our locals and provincial councils – it is unlikely the Liberals will continue to enable the Conservatives for much longer. The government must

shuffle a number of Cabinet Ministers in June or July in preparation for a fall election campaign and to manage the fallout from the resignation (firing) of Hon. Maxime Bernier.

For those of you that missed the Legislative Conference in early May we were honoured to have the following guest speakers and seminar facilitators:

Ken Georgetti, CLC

Hon. Jack Layton, Leader, New Democratic Party

Hugh Segal, Senator, Kingston-Leeds - Frontenac

Hon. Bob Rae, M.P. Toronto Centre

Hon. Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, M.P. Medicine Hat

Denise Doyle, Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion

Michael Ignatieff, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, M.P. Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Hon. Judy Sgro, Labour Critic, Liberal Party of Canada, M.P. York- West

Carole Lavallee, M.P. Saint Bruno-Saint Hubert

Libby Davies, M.P. Vancouver East

Terry Burton, Shell Canada
Marcel Weider, Arrow Communications Inc.

Carmine Tiano, Ontario Building Trades Council

Rosemary Sparks, Construction Sector Council

George Gritziotis, Construction Sector Council

Mark Ayers, President, Building Trades Department, AFL-CIO

Dr. Richard Loreto, R.A.L Consulting Inc

Sean McGarvey, Secretary Treasurer, Building and Construction Trades Dept, AFL-CIO

We thank all those that participated and look forward to seeing you all in 2009.

NATIONAL NEWSFLASH

→ Employment edged up in April – the Construction Industry led employment growth adding 113,000 workers to the economy

→ Strongest national wage growth has been in Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and Alberta year to date

→ **Prime Minister Harper** attended an apprentice graduation ceremony in Sarnia, ON as part of the Sarnia-Lambton Construction Association's 41st Graduation Ceremony

-**Hon. Monte Solberg** announced \$5.5 million over a number of years for the Construction Sector Council in order to facilitate enhanced Labour Market information initiatives

