



# Effecting change at the local, provincial and international levels

by Gordon Masters

**B**uilding Code review, eradicating barriers to free trade and the birth of a new provincial agency are all on the government relations radar this spring.

## The Ministry of Municipal Affairs – Building and Development Branch

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs established Building Code Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) to review and evaluate proposed Building Code changes for Parts 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 12. The ministry requested that OACETT nominate three members to represent the Association on the TACs.

OACETT forwarded the names of three highly qualified members for the ministry's consideration. Public consultations took place in the fall of 2016, with TAC meetings commencing in February.

Congratulations to all three OACETT members for being selected to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Building Code TACs: Dennis Martin, A.Sc.T. – Part 9 (houses & small

buildings); Lisa Miller-Way, C.E.T., LET – Part 3 (large & complex buildings); and Shervin Reyhani, C.E.T. – Part 4 (structural design).

## Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is a free-trade agreement between Canada and the European Union (EU). When enacted, the agreement will eliminate 98 per cent of the tariffs between Canada and the EU.

The negotiations were concluded in August 2014. All 28 European Union member states approved the final text CETA for signature. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau traveled to Brussels in October 2016 to sign on behalf of Canada. The European Parliament approved the deal on February, 15, 2017; most of it can be applied provisionally from as early as April 2017. The remaining parts of the agreement are subject to ratification by national legislatures.

How will this affect OACETT members? The European

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Commission indicates there will be mutual recognition in regulated professions, such as architects, accountants and engineers, as well as easier transfers of other professionals and company staff between the EU and Canada. We will keep you posted when more specifics are available for OACETT certified members.

This is a huge opportunity for Canadian manufacturers, businesses, goods and services since the treaty will lead to savings of millions of dollars in taxes for Canadian exporters every year. Canada and the EU have a long history of economic co-operation. Comprising 28 Member States with a total population of over 500 million and a GDP of €13.0 trillion in 2012, the EU is the world's largest single market, foreign investor and trader. As an integrated bloc, the EU represents Canada's second largest trading partner in goods and services.

**Ontario Climate Change Solutions Deployment Corporation**

The Ontario Government has filed Ontario Regulation 46/17 – Ontario Climate Change Solutions Deployment Corporation (OCCSDC). The regulation creates a new provincial agency under the Development Corporations Act.

OCCSDC will play a major role in the achievement of

the province's climate change objectives by significantly increasing the deployment of low-carbon technologies in Ontario. The OCCSDC will help households, small and medium enterprises and industry reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from buildings and from the production of goods. OCCSDC will accomplish this by stimulating the development of low-carbon industries, trades and businesses in Ontario. OCCSDC will focus on reducing market barriers to deployment of low-carbon technologies through improved access to information, marketing, incentives, and stimulating private sector financing.

The province is currently hiring for members of the soon-to-be-established Board of Directors for the OCCSDC – positions include one chair, up to two vice-chairs, and up to 10 board members. For further details on the application process, please visit the Public Appointments Secretariat website at [www.pas.gov.on.ca/scripts/en/advertPositions.asp](http://www.pas.gov.on.ca/scripts/en/advertPositions.asp).

For further detail on the regulation and OCCSDC, please visit the Environmental Registry ([www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External](http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External)) and enter "OCCSDC" in the "Search Notices" box. ☰

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