



Regulatory changes to keep an eye on

by Gordon Masters



Working at Heights Training Program deadline extended to October 1, 2017

All workers who use fall protection on a construction project must complete an approved Working at Heights Training Program. This includes workers who met the fall protection training requirements of the *Construction Projects Regulation* prior to April 1, 2015.

Employers

Employers must ensure that certain workers complete a Working at Heights Training Program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) – and delivered by a CPO-approved training provider before they can work at heights. The training requirement is for workers on construction projects who use any of the following methods of fall protection: travel restraint systems, fall restricting systems, fall arrest systems, safety nets and work belts or safety belts.

This training requirement is in the *Occupational Health and Safety Awareness and Training Regulation*, and is in addition to training requirements under the *Construction Regulation*. The ministry has now extended the transition period by six months to October 1, 2017. Employers will have until then to ensure that workers successfully complete a CPO-approved Working at Heights Training Program.

The extension applies only to experienced workers – those who completed fall protection training prior to April 1, 2015 – who are enrolled in a CPO-approved working at heights training program scheduled to be completed before October 1, 2017.

Employers must ensure that certain workers complete a Working at Heights Training Program that has been approved by the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO)

Recent developments in health and safety regulations and a new internal-trade deal could have a significant impact on OACETT members.

Proposed amendments to the Electrical Distribution Safety Regulation

The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) has proposed enhanced reporting requirements and housekeeping amendments to the *Electrical Distribution Safety Regulation* (O.Reg. 22/04); interested parties were requested to comment in early April, 2017.

Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) submitted a letter on April 3 recommending additional amendments to the ministry's proposals, one recommendation being that Section 7(1)(b) be revoked. This section states that standard design drawings or standard design specifications can be assembled by an engineering technologist certified by the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians

and Technologists. PEO asserted that this work is exclusively the practice of professional engineering. OACETT strongly objected to PEO's assertion that Section 7(1)(b) be revoked.

The removal of Section 7(1)(b) was not proposed by MGCS in the regulatory registry posting on O.Reg. 22/04. MGCS is aware that revisions to Section 7(1)(b) would have significant impact on utilities who rely on OACETT technicians and technologists and, as such, any potential changes to this section should not be pursued without comprehensive consultations.

Homeowners

It is in a homeowner's best interest to make sure workers at their home are safe. This can be as simple as asking contractors if their workers have been trained, and how they plan to keep workers safe on-site, before signing a contract. In the case of projects where workers will be at heights, such as repairing a roof, homeowners should ask contractors if their workers have been trained to do the work safely. Depending on the circumstances, homeowners may be considered constructors and subject to obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* if they hire multiple contractors to work at the same time.

This information can be found on the Ministry of Labour website www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/. For more information regarding Working at Heights certification, contact: Lou Locatelli C.E.T., P.Geo. at 416-709-4293 or llocatelli2015@gmail.com.

Canada's new Internal-trade deal


Canadians finally have a comprehensive internal-trade agreement, after 150 years. It is expected to add \$25 billion a year to our economy, and, to lower inter-provincial trade barriers that will improve the flow of goods and services across the country. This agreement takes effect July 1.

The federal government, 10 provinces and three territories recently unveiled the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, a deal that commits them to remove all internal barriers on trade — except for specific exemptions which are eligible to be claimed by member governments. Government procurement is a big part of the new deal. Suppliers and service providers can now bid on government business outside their home provinces.

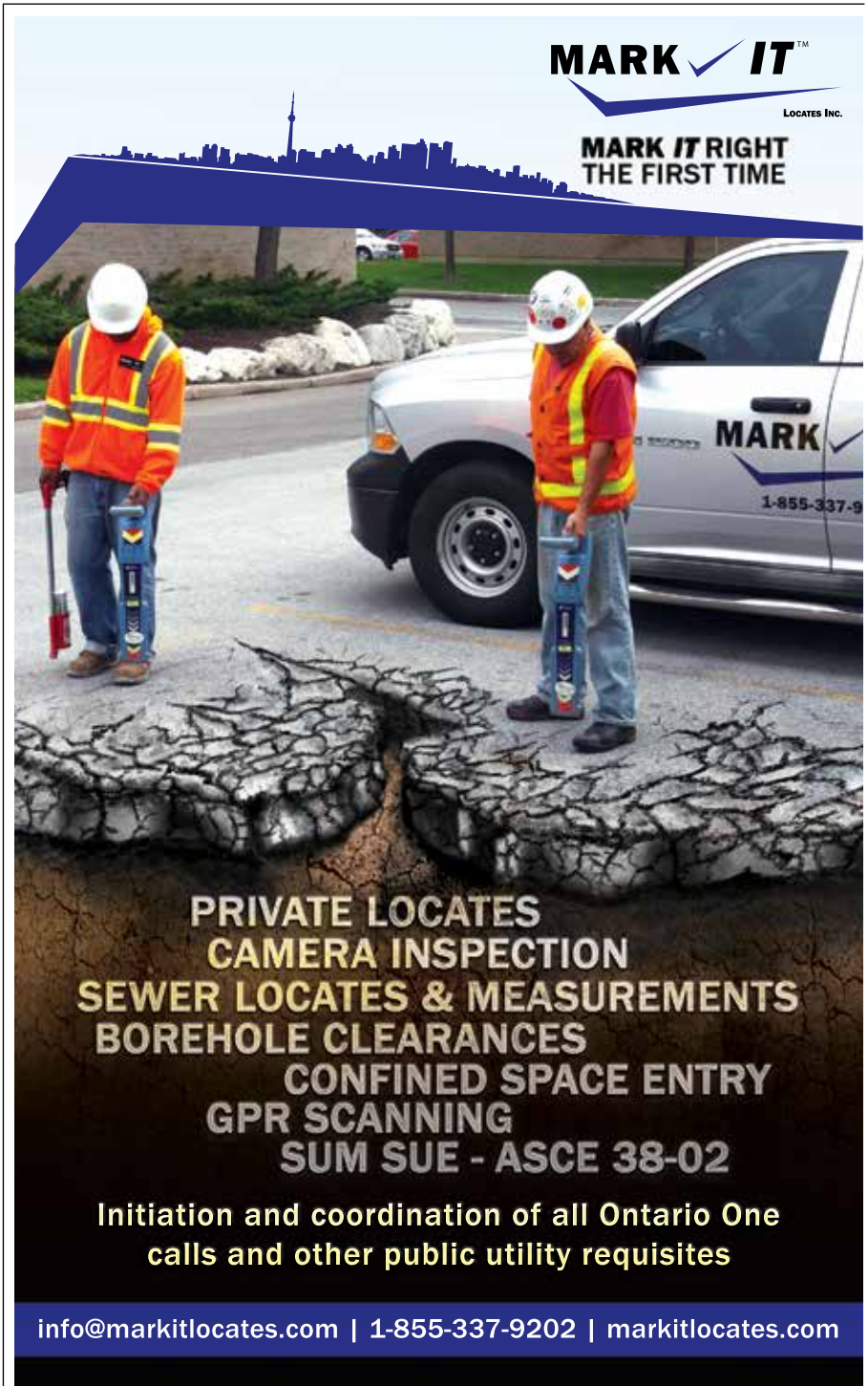
The federal government is making significant investments in infrastructure, \$180 billion over the next 10 years. That procurement will be open to all businesses across the country. Labour mobility is another big part

of the agreement. Licensed professionals and trades people accredited in one province, will be allowed to work in another province without having to re-qualify with the local regulator.

We will keep you posted as more

details become available that will affect OACETT members. 

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