



Just the FAX

MCA CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWS AND INFORMATION CHANNEL

WELCOME TO 2010!!

The **Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC)** experienced another productive year in 2009 along with our education division, the **Canadian Mechanical Contracting Education Foundation (CMCEF)** and our service division, the **Mechanical Service Contractors of Canada (MSCC)**.

2009 was a very busy year, as MCA Canada continued its work on a number of ongoing initiatives. Work towards the development of a national *Commissioning Standard* saw major headway. The project continues to move forward with public consultation scheduled to start early in the new year and a tentative completion date is set for September 2010. MCAC also continues to focus on new programs such as Building Information Modeling (BIM) as one of the industries fastest growing technologies. Additionally, MCA Canada continues to deal with such national issues as *sustainable buildings, labour shortages, pre purchasing of materials and equipment, payment clauses, use of standard contracts, and labour mobility* to name a few. MCA Canada also maintains a significant presence to ensure it represents the interest of mechanical contractors across Canada through ongoing discussions with the federal government, industry representatives, and participation in many allied industry organizations. The highlight event of the year remains the *Annual National Conference*, which was held in San Francisco, California. Delegates enjoyed high level education and world class events in one of the worlds most popular destinations. You are invited to join us at this years conference in picturesque *Halifax, Nova Scotia, September 22 – 25, 2010*.

Your education division, the Canadian Mechanical Contracting Education Foundation (CMCEF) continues to deliver more than 60 of the country's top educational courses. At the same time, CMCEF remains committed to the creation and delivery of new programs for our members. In 2009, we saw the completion of the highly anticipated *Supervisory Training Program* and courses are schedule to begin in early 2010. Check the website for all your educational needs at www.cmcef.org.

Your service division, the Mechanical Service Contractors of Canada (MSCC), continues to grow with more than 100 members across every province in Canada. In 2009, the first membership recruitment drive took place, service committees were established in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, several service courses were offered by CMCEF and a draft criteria for a national service certification program was developed. Look for even more in 2010 at www.servicecontractor.ca.

It looks like another busy schedule for everyone in 2010. We hope you enjoy the many programs and services you have available through MCA Canada and that you have a successful and profitable new year!

BILL C-56: EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR SELF EMPLOYED

Bill C-56 passed the House of Commons in December and was read for the first time in the Senate. The Bill amends the Employment Insurance Act and other Acts to establish a scheme to provide for the payment of special benefits to self-employed persons who are not currently entitled to receive them, including:

- maternity benefits (15 weeks maximum, a claim can start up to 8 weeks before the expected birth date);
- parental/adoptive benefits (35 weeks maximum);
- sickness benefits (15 weeks maximum); and
- compassionate care benefits (6 weeks maximum)

Under the proposed legislation, self-employed Canadians would be required to opt into the program at least one year prior to claim benefits. To read more [click here](#). (Source: CCA Weekly, Dec. 15/09)

2010 AUTOMOBILE DEDUCTION & EXPENSE RATES ANNOUNCED

The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance, announced December 31, 2009 that the automobile expense deduction limits and the prescribed rates for the automobile operating expense benefit that will apply in 2010. All of the limits and rates in effect in 2009 will continue to apply in 2010. For the complete report click <http://www.fin.gc.ca/n08/09-125-eng.asp>.

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2010 CMCEF MIDDLE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Every two years, your Canadian Mechanical Contracting Education Foundation hosts the industries top educational conference, the CMCEF Middle Management Education Conference. This year the conference will take place from March 24th to 26th at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel in downtown Toronto and registration is now open. Sessions include strategies for mitigating project risk, identifying risks with Leed projects, improving productivity, managing project change, and improving performance through commissioning and retro-commissioning. Also on the agenda are sessions covering BIM (Building Information Modeling) and building collaborative customer relationships. The brochure is also available for immediate download at www.cmcef.org. For further information or sponsorship availability please contact Tania Johnston at 613-232-5169 or by email at tania@cmcef.org.

Vol. 12, No. 01

January 04, 2010

In This Issue:

- *Welcome To 2010*
- *Bill C 56 Moves Forward*
- *2010 Automobile Deductions Announced*
- *Registration Now Open For CMCEF Conference*