



THE BIGGEST SHOW IN TOWN

BY TOM VENETIS

This year's Construct Canada will feature some 1,600 exhibitors and plenty of networking opportunities for attendees

CONSTRUCT CANADA LOOKS TO ONCE AGAIN BECOME THE premier go-to event for the country's construction industry when it opens its doors this coming November/December. Building professionals from across the country are expected to gather in Toronto to network, listen, and learn about the latest industry practices and technologies, all under one roof.

The annual event, which has joined forces with other exhibitions under the umbrella of The Buildings Show, will run from November 30 to December 2, 2016 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. It remains the country's largest construction industry gathering to date.

George Przybylowski, vice-president of real estate/construction at Informa Exhibitions, says this year's show will highlight new products, innovations,

techniques and best practices to help industry professionals remain relevant and competitive. It also provides an excellent forum for networking.

"This show is one of the best places for companies to meet their clients and to get feedback from them, and for attendees to meet their peers and numerous industry leaders and network with them," says Przybylowski.

The three-day event will attract some 30,000 industry professionals and feature about 1,600 Canadian and international exhibitors. Some 350 seminars and 500 speakers will be at the show, covering a range of timely and relevant topics. The seminars will examine key issues such as changes expected to the National Building Code for 2020, how nations are committed to keeping

global temperatures under two degrees Celsius as set out in the COP21, how climate change negotiations will impact building design and construction, how NetZero commercial buildings are fast becoming a reality, and how technology, automation and innovation are transforming buildings.

IDEXCanada, to be held in the North Building of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, will feature "a wide breadth of exhibits that will deal with hard surfaces, wall coverings and all of the architectural features that make up the interiors of any building," says Przybylowski. IDEXCanada will also showcase international keynote speakers such as Karim Rashid, Chris Downey, Róisín Heneghan, Petra Blaisse, Edgar Gonzalez, Paul Scialla and Christophe Pillet.

The Ask the Experts Breakfast event, sponsored by BASF Construction Chemicals, will feature a panel of concrete industry experts that will offer solutions to challenges associated with production, construction, repair and maintenance on concrete projects. As well, the show will feature 30-minute live product demonstrations on the show floor on new installation techniques.

Pzybylowski adds that this year's International Architectural Roundtable should be of particular interest to construction professionals as many of the featured speakers do not normally present in Canada. This year there will be Pippa Brashear of SCAPE Landscape Architecture PLLC, Alexandros Washburn of CRUX at Stevens Institute of Technology, James Timberlake of Kieran-Timberlake, and David Turnbull from ATOPIA Innovation.

TCA PRESENCE

TCA will once more have a strong presence at the show with its prominent, centrally located stand (Booth #714). The large booth area will have key TCA staff on hand to answer questions from both TCA members and those interested in joining the association.

"If you are interested in learning more about the many services TCA offers, you can speak to Faith Chen, manager, professional development who runs our Construction Institute. She will be there," says Suzana Fernandes, director, corporate development at TCA. "She can answer any kind of questions around the association's upcoming education courses, including seminars and workshops. Polyanna Fok, our director of membership, will also be there and she can assist with inquiries that members may have about our many networking opportunities and upcoming events."

Fernandes adds that the booth will provide TCA with the opportunity to let people know about the many benefits that TCA membership brings. Arguably one of the biggest is having a collective voice in the industry.

"As an association, one of our goals is to get the industry involved and working together for better legislation and more proactive lobbying efforts on issues that matter and affect our members on a daily basis," Fernandes says. "Our booth will offer a lot of information about what is happening in the industry, and how TCA is changing to deliver even more value for membership."

There will also be the annual CEO Power Breakfast, organized in part by TCA and taking place the morning of December 1, as well as the annual TCA Christmas Luncheon, to be held in the South Building on December 2. Tickets to the luncheon are available for purchase on the TCA website at www.tcanconnect.com. **IBD**

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