Construction Economist

Building Information Modeling

Social Media Marketing
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CONSTRUCTION ECONOMIST

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Do your part for the environment – reuse and recycle.
very year, council tries to hold at least one meeting out of the four somewhere other than its Markham, Ontario home base. This time we were treated to the outstanding hospitality of the members of the AEQSQ in Montreal. Over 30 people attended the Friday night reception and the welcome by the Quebec members was gratifying.

At the beginning of my term as president, I laid out an aggressive agenda for the year with some ambitious goals. We are not there yet but have come a long way since the last AGM. The tool of email has made it possible to continue to develop ideas and have decisions made between council meetings making the production rate of council members much more efficient.

The Staffing Committee has undertaken an analysis of the duties of head office staff and identified areas of change that are needed to improve efficiency. Some of these changes have already been implemented such as outsourcing some bookkeeping functions and planning to get help in website maintenance.

On the education front, we put out a request for expression of interest for the part time position of Education Coordinator and have received five submissions which we are evaluating.

The Website Committee has come to the conclusion, through surveys to the members, that our website is salvageable, which was in doubt, although in need of a degree of overhauling and upgrading.

For those of you that volunteered to help the CIQS in various areas, we have not forgotten you and plans are afoot to engage you in a positive way.

Part of the duties of council is to make sure the Institute is marketed effectively to sustain awareness and growth of the membership. A new Marketing Committee has been set up, led by Chris Reinert, the CIQS rep for Alberta, and we are expecting great things from this initiative. I am sure Chris would welcome input and suggestions from members.

By now it is old news that the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has accepted the qualifications of PQS / ECA as equivalent to full membership of that Institution, MRICS.

This is something we have strived for over several decades and has been brought about, I believe, by international exposure and reciprocity agreements entered into through our connections with the Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors (PAQS) as well as strict adherence of the administration of the TPE process.

This year, our first vice president, Herve Couture, visited Malta to attend the biannual meeting of the CEEC, the European Council of Construction Economists who represent 14 country organizations across Europe and Scandinavia.

Our association with organizations such as PAQS and CEEC give us the recognition on the international arena which, I believe, is essential to the survival of CIQS as a lead in the quantity surveying and cost consulting profession in the most prosperous continent in the world.

Going back six years or so, our numbers were only half of what they are today. The majority of our new members have come from outside of Canada. Without them and our international policies, I am not sure we would have an Institute to be proud of.

Education is always the key to progress and as we move forward to higher standard, we will gain greater acceptance and respect and hence more work and prosperity for our members. This is one area I see as a conduit for our volunteers.

I suspect some of you have noticed what I have over the past six months or so but there appears to have been an increasing number of opportunities presenting themselves related to the, so called, economic downturn.

Firstly, apart from the undoubted reduction in oil industry related work, which cannot be easily dismissed, I would contend that our profession has benefited considerably in several areas from the change in the world economy.

Reduction in available public funds has fuelled the fires of P3 (under whatever guise it may manifest itself) which brings with it the need for a multilevel of cost consulting services for owners, financiers and contractors.

With contractors competing for fewer projects, the competition between contractors and subcontractors requires more effort and therefore more personnel and more work for members.

What I, personally, have noticed is the increased demand for payment certification by professional quantity surveyors. Owners and lenders seem to be feeling the need to be more diligent in controlling borrowing. The AEQSQ from Quebec shared with me the news that there has been a spike in membership application because government is being more insistent on proper due diligence in project controls and monitoring.

Recognition of our profession continues to rise under the stewardship of committed people on council and administration, namely: Lois Metcalfe, Ishrat Alidina, David Lai, Roy Lewis, Mark Russell, Mark Gardin, Bruno Pilieci, Orest Stachniak, Joshua Mutize, Hervé Couture and Chris Reinert.

I thank all of the above as well as the board members and administrators of all the affiliates and all volunteers for the giving of their valuable time and effort for the good of the Institute.
Nouvelles de autour de CIQS

Chaque année le Conseil tient au moins une de quatre réunions à un autre endroit qu’au siège de l’Institut à Markham, Ontario. Cette fois, nous avons goûté à l’hospitalité exceptionnelle des membres de l’AEECQ à Montréal. Plus de 30 personnes ont assisté à la réception du vendredi soir et l’accueil des membres du Québec a été gratifiant.

Au début de mon mandat de Président, j’ai énoncé un programme agressif pour l’année avec des objectifs ambitieux. Nous n’y sommes pas encore arrivés, mais nous avons fait un bon bout de chemin depuis la dernière Assemblée générale. La messagerie électronique nous a permis de continuer à développer des idées et a facilité la prise de décisions entre nos réunions, accroissant la productivité et l’efficacité des membres du Conseil.

Le comité des ressources humaines a entrepris une analyse des tâches du personnel du siège social et a identifié les domaines de changement qui sont nécessaires pour en améliorer l’efficacité. Certaines de ces modifications ont déjà été réalisées, telles que l’externalisation de la tenue de livres et la planification du soutien à la maintenance du site internet.

En ce qui a trait à l’éducation, nous avons lancé une demande d’expression d’intérêt pour le poste à temps partiel de coordonnateur à l’éducation et nous avons reçu cinq propositions que nous évaluons. Le comité du site internet en est venu à la conclusion, par le biais de sondages auprès des membres, que notre présent site internet peut être conservé, de dont nous doutons, mais qu’il a besoin d’une mise à niveau.

Pour ceux d’entre vous qui se sont portés bénévoles à aider le CIQS dans divers domaines, nous ne vous avons pas oubliés et sommes à préparer des façons de vous mettre à contribution.

Une partie des fonctions du Conseil est de s’assurer de que l’Institut est publicisé efficacement pour soutenir la prise de conscience et la croissance des membres. Un nouveau comité de marketing a été mis sur pied et est dirigé par Chris Reinert, le représentant de l’Alberta au CIQS, et nous attendons beaucoup de cette initiative. Je suis certain que Chris appréciera l’apport et les suggestions des membres.

C’est maintenant connu que la « Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors » a accepté la qualification PQS / ECA comme pleinement équivalente pour l’adhésion au statut de MRICS de cette Institution. C’est le résultat de plusieurs décessées d’efforts qui ont finalement porté fruit, je crois, par notre présence à l’international et les accords de réciprocité signés par le biais de nos liens avec la « Pacific Association of Quantity Surveyors » (PAQS), aussi bien que notre stricte adhésion à l’administration du processus TPE.

Cette année, notre premier vice président, Hervé Couture, a visité Malte pour assister à la réunion semestrielle du CEEC, le Conseil européen des économistes de la construction qui représente quatorze organisations de pays à travers l’Europe y compris la Scandinavie.

Notre association avec des organisations comme PAQS et CEEC nous donne une reconnaissance sur la scène internationale qui, je crois, est essentielle à la survie du CIQS comme un chef de file dans la profession de conseillers en coûts et économistes en construction dans l’un des continents les plus prospères au monde.

Revenons environ six ans en arrière ou nous avions seulement la moitié des membres actuels. La majorité des nouveaux membres viennent de l’extérieur du Canada. Sans eux et nos politiques internationales, je ne suis pas certain que nous aurions un Institut dont nous sommes fiers à ce point.

L’éducation est toujours la clé du progrès et à mesure que nous avançons vers des standards plus élevés, nous allons acquérir plus de reconnaissance et de respect et par conséquent plus de travail et de prospérité pour nos membres. L’éducation est un domaine que je considère comme une avenue pour nos bénévoles. Je soupçonne que certains d’entre vous ont remarqué comme moi-même, qu’au cours des six mois derniers mois environ, un nombre croissant d’opportunités se présentent qui découlent de ce que l’on appelle la récession économique.

Tout d’abord, mis à part la réduction incontestable du travail relié à l’industrie pétrolière, je soutiens que notre profession a bénéficié considérablement dans plusieurs domaines à cause des changements dans l’économie mondiale.

La réduction des fonds publics disponibles a favorisé l’émergence des PPP (peu importe de quelle manière cela peut se manifester) qui apporte avec elle le besoin de services conseils à plusieurs niveaux pour les propriétaires, les financiers et les entrepreneurs.

Avant les entrepreneurs en compétition sur moins de projets, la concurrence accrue entre eux et entre les sous-traitants nécessite plus d’efforts, donc plus de personnel et plus de travail pour nos membres.

J’ai aussi remarqué une augmentation de la demande pour la certification de paiements par des économistes en construction certifiés. Les propriétaires et les prêteurs semblent sentir le besoin de contrôler l’emprunt de manière plus diligente.

L’AEEC du Québec m’a confié qu’il y avait une croissance des demandes d’adhésion parce que le gouvernement insiste pour une diligence accrue dans le contrôle et le suivi des projets.


Merci à toutes ces personnes, ainsi qu’aux membres des Conseils et aux administrateurs de toutes les Associations affiliées et à tous les bénévoles pour le temps et l’effort qu’ils donnent pour le plus grand bien de l’Institut.

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RICS recognition

As announced in January of this year, qualifying members of the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS) are eligible for a streamlined qualification process for Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors’ (RICS’s) AssocRICS and MRICS designations.

Members of CIQS at the grade CEC/ECC are eligible for Direct Entry to the newly created RICS membership qualification ‘Associate,’ or AssocRICS, Quantity Surveying and Construction pathway. Members with 10 years professional membership of CIQS (at any grade), of which at least five years have been as PQS/ECA, are eligible for Direct Entry to the Membership qualification, or MRICS. Any PQS/ECA with less than 10 years professional membership of CIQS (of which at least five are at PQS/ECA) is eligible for Direct Entry to AssocRICS. More details are available online at www.ricsamericas.org/ciqs.

The RICS’ Associate qualification, or AssocRICS, is a new grade of membership. It provides an opportunity for those with relevant work experience and vocational qualifications to enhance their professional status and gain recognition. AssocRICS also provides a stepping stone to advance to the MRICS designation.

During the announcement, Ian Duncan, PQS(F), President of CIQS stated, “We are extremely pleased to receive this recognition and especially pleased to receive it in the year when we are celebrating our fiftieth year of quantity surveying and construction cost estimating leadership in Canada. This is a landmark in quantity surveying in North America and we look forward to strengthening our relationship with RICS here in the region and worldwide.”

RICS Canada Chairman John Hughes, FRICS stated during the announcement, “This is an important milestone for both organizations which undoubtedly would please those RICS members who were instrumental in founding CIQS in 1959. This development will further strengthen the quantity surveying profession in Canada. I believe it will also help our QS firms to compete domestically and in the global market.”

RICS recognition has been on the table many times over the last 50 years, without success. As we continued to increase our standards at CIQS through examinations, the Test of Professional Experience and Continuing Professional Development, I believe our case with RICS strengthened.

“Progress, of the best kind, is comparatively slow. Great results cannot be achieved at once; and we must be satisfied to advance in life as we walk, step by step.” (Samuel Smiles, Scottish Author)

On behalf of CIQS, I would like to personally thank Jessica Horan, Development Manager of RICS Americas for all her work on this initiative.

On another note, CIQS Council decided at their March meeting in Montreal that RICS members with the designation MRICS (quantity surveying/construction division) would no longer be required to sit the CIQS Test of Professional Experience Practice Problem By-laws/Ethics portion obtaining direct membership to the CIQS designation Professional Quantity Surveyor (PQS).
Industry should prepare for another year of decline in nonresidential construction.

FMI, management consultants and investment bankers for the construction industry, releases the Construction Outlook: First Quarter 2010 Report.

Unfortunately, the outlook for put in place construction for 2010 remains bleak. Total construction in 2010 will be down after declining in 2009. Residential construction is expected to begin recovering in 2010. Nonresidential construction will continue to decline in 2010. Nonbuilding construction will continue to be a positive contributor, increasing another 4% in 2010.

The construction industry should prepare for another year of decline in nonresidential construction. Construction lost 64,000 more jobs in February. It was the 31st consecutive month of significant job losses, bringing the construction unemployment rate to 27.1%. An increase in residential construction in 2010 could begin to turn the employment situation, but it is unlikely that it would do much to offset the losses from nonresidential construction.

Report highlights include:

• Residential construction is expected to begin to recover in 2010, with a slight increase in residential improvement construction.
• Transportation and public safety construction will likely see growth; the only nonresidential segments to do so. Conversely, severe declines will affect the lodging, office and commercial segments.
• The nonbuilding sector will remain positive again in 2010.
• Job losses continue in construction and information, while temporary help services have continued to add jobs in February. Employment in manufacturing did remain relatively stable in February.

Letter to the Editor

RICS...an interesting anecdote

I started working in very small New Zealand town with a UK/Brit QS firm in the early 1960’s. They wanted me to take RICS so I began a correspondence school course with RICS ‘Greater George Street’ London.

Sequence was - do a learning and study paper or two, send them surface mail to UK (four weeks), review and tutor marking (a few weeks), mail them back to Zealand (another four weeks). – papers there and back every three months minimum!

After a year of this, I decided to go to a New Zealand firm and do the local night school thing for the NZ qualification of PIQS (NZ) and ditch this RICS nonsense (that is how you are as a teenager and not living at home). My Brit RICS employer was adamant that I stay with the program and his opinion matched many Brit QS guys I have encountered over the years who could only see the RICS as the ‘real QS’ benchmark – pity, but we do come from the colonies! However, to be fair, I concede that in my travels and career changes, an RICS designation might have been of some recognition value along the way.

Now the irony – nearly 50 years later and heading into retirement and with now no need for the damn designation, I can have it for the taking and of course the fees. I might just apply for the RICS designation – it would certainly give me some personal career closure at this late juncture.

Congratulations to RICS and CIQS and their reciprocal agreement. After four decades of membership and support of CIQS, I am adamant that the RICS and CIQS agreement denotes how far CIQS has come. Unfortunately, an aging RICS colleague of mine is still hanging on to the ‘admitting colonial riff-raff’ theory – I hope in jest, but I am not really sure.

Regards,
Derek A. Sanft, PQS

Heather Jones, a construction economist for FMI’s Research Services Group, is responsible for design, management and performance of primary and secondary market research projects and related research activities, including economic analysis and modeling, construction market forecasting and database management. Her particular expertise is in the areas of market sizing and modeling, competitive analysis, sales and market performance evaluations, buying practices and trend analysis.

For more information about FMI’s Construction Outlook: First Quarter 2010, or to schedule an interview with Heather Jones, contact Sally Hulick of FMI Corporation at 919-785-9236 or shulick@fminet.com.
Our March 2010 Council meeting was held in Canada – Montreal. Montreal is known for its unique blend of French and English history and culture and this was evident at the reception for Council members hosted by the AEQSQ. Here are some of the educational items that were discussed:

- Last year, Council decided to offer examinations for most subjects in both examination sessions each year. This upcoming May examination session will be the first and we have had a record number of applications. We are seeing the same quantity of applications as we would have normally seen in one year applying to sit the May examinations. Council is hoping that this will help many members to achieve their academic requirements earlier.

- Of concern to Council is the failure rate of subject #C309 Development Economics. For the last four years, we are seeing an average failure rate of 40%. I am appealing to any member who can assist us in updating the current study guide to come forward. Also, suggestions for textbooks are welcomed.

- I was pleased to see that in all of the Affiliated Association reports there were several activities geared towards the student since the last Council meeting in early December 2009. These activities include career day seminar, roundtable presentation, meet and
greet functions as well as renewing contact with colleges. A special two part Resume Clinic was held by the GTA Chapter for new Canadians.

- Council has agreed to create an annual Student Bursary Award and we hope that this will begin within the next year.
- The Career Information Booklet and its condensed student version are now complete and we hope to have them ready for distribution shortly.
- In the winter edition of Construction Economist, I reported that as of April 1, 2010 all new members pursuing the CEC/ECC designation will be required to complete diaries as part of the Test of Professional Experience (TPE) requirements. This is now approved and is in effect.
- The TPE has been redefined and now comprises of three components:
  - Part (a) The required academic, professional or trade qualifications requisite for the designation applied for;
  - Part (b) A Structured Training Period requisite for the designation applied for and the submission of Diaries to record approved industry experience based on Section 6.2 – Areas of Approved Experience; and
  - Part (c) Practice Problem which comprises of section (a): By-Laws, Rules & Regulations and Professional Ethics and section (b): A Project.
- The Education Policy Guidance Notes are now revised to reflect the changes noted above as well as the various pathways for achieving your professional designation. In addition, the Notes have been categorized for easy reading. The complete Education Policy Guidance Notes will be posted on the CIQS website in the Members Only section.
- The new requirements of Part (b) of the TPE are shown in the table.

The Ontario Association of Consulting Quantity Surveyors is an association of Ontario-based professional cost consulting firms who provide a full range of construction cost related services to a wide variety of public and private sector clients.

The Association provides a forum for its members to share technology and information, to evaluate market trends and construction costs and to speak with a collective voice when addressing issues of common concern to the construction industry.

Members of the OACQS adhere to a strict professional code of ethics to ensure that the highest possible standard in service quality and integrity is being provided to their clients.
After 30 years in the making, but still an emerging approach for conceiving, materializing and using buildings, Building Information Modeling (BIM) is finally getting enough adepts to become the standard for handling project documentation in a few years.

BIM approach is in concordance with the 21st century and the so-called information age and is a big step forward from hand drafted or computer drafted paper or virtual paper drawings. BIM’s intent is to create a building model that contains all the information of the project in a single database. All the components of the building can be visualized in 3D and traditional 2D drawings and schedules can be extracted from there. Although at first it can look like a waste of time (and money) creating detailed models like these, they have proven to significantly reduce the quantity of requests for information (RFI) and change orders. With the use of these models, it is less likely to see hundreds of addendum pages flooding the fax or e-mail inbox, as sometimes happens in typical projects when something goes wrong with the design and coordination of those projects.

BIM is not just about the tools but also about the processes. These processes require going from coordinated work to collaborative work between all parties involved in the production of the building. Roles are then redefined and responsibilities and proprietorship of the information are revised. It is necessary to define who creates the model, who owns it and who can use it. At this point, three parties are authoring models: designers, contractors and owners. These same parties, as well as others, can use the models authored by others, if they are available. Construction economists would normally use models but would not author them as that would require personnel, computer equipment and software beyond that which is normally required to fulfill their regular scope of work.

According to a recent survey sponsored by the American Society of Professional Estimators amongst others, half of the construction sector in North America is using BIM processes and tools at various levels of utilization and expertise; this is a big jump from two years ago when only a quarter of the construction sector was using BIM. An interesting finding is that the west is leading over the east in its adoption, both in United States and Canada. Reasons for this can be a matter of speculation but it could reflect a more open minded construction sector and more savvy customers, both of them highly comfortable with the use of the technology and ready to try innovative approaches.

Although architects have been the leading force in the use of BIM, contractors, fabricators and owners have also become heavy users. With BIM, all parties can imagine less and view more. Contractors that have embraced BIM have created virtual construction departments

“A BUILDING INFORMATION MODEL CAN INCLUDE AS MANY COMPONENTS OF THE BUILDING AS DESIRED WHETHER THEY ARE VISIBLE OR NOT.”
(another name for BIM) and they are creating their own models and getting value from it with better construction planning and fabrication. Their estimators can do more accurate estimates in less time and their project managers, schedulers and site managers can simulate the construction process linking the model to the schedule and view the construction unfold on the screen, detecting wrongly sequenced activities and fine tuning the schedule and site management. Contractors, in collaboration with subcontractors and fabricators, can also create detailed virtual mockups to study specific construction details. Owners get better communication with the architects about their design intents and get models that can be used for promotion and operation of the buildings. The model allows a quantity surveyor to assess the estimated cost of the building for the owner at any time. BIM raises the level of discussion among all the existing participants and communication and coordination are improved, putting the rolls of plans aside and working in real time directly on the model. One leader in the use of BIM is the government; since 2007, the US General Services Administration has made the use of BIM mandatory for all its projects and it is laser surveying existing buildings to have models of their current inventory.

A CAD file does not contain more information than the blueprint that can be printed from it. A CAD file contains unconnected lines and other graphic elements arranged in a way that they can be interpreted as walls, windows and other building components by the blueprint reading trained construction specialist. This blueprint reading training is also required to relate information from separate drawings and to fully understand the design intent. A BIM contains the full geometry of each component (length(s), width(s), depth(s) or thickness(es), area, volume, perimeter and other properties such as structure and finish layers, assembly tag, manufacturer, model, etc.). A Building Information Model can include as many components of the building as desired whether they are visible or not. The model can be progressively loaded with information and this information can be used for many purposes such as energy consumption analysis, acoustic performance analysis, structural design, costing, etc.

BIM modeling tools do not replace estimating tools. Component quantities can be obtained from the Building Information Model but estimators and quantity surveyors do need to use their estimating tools to attribute the cost. Major modeling tools are Revit Architecture from Autodesk (AutoCAD vendor), Bentley Architecture from Bentley Systems (MicroStation vendor), ArchiCAD and Digital project. They are likely to replace or overtake their CAD counterparts. Nowadays, there are hundreds of commercial estimating packages for construction but Excel from Microsoft is the most widely used estimating tool. There are three approaches to extract quantity information from the model, one is exporting schedules of quantities to a spreadsheet or an external database using the built in features of the modeling tool, the second is linking the modeling tool to the estimating tool and the third is using a takeoff tool compatible with BIM.

With on screen virtual takeoff, the estimator traces building components on the screen over the digital images of the plans as PDF or BMP files to get the length, area, perimeter or count of those components and feed variables on formulas set up on the estimating tool. They then calculate the quantities of single items or multiple items organized in assemblies, that is, the virtual takeoff can provide the length of the walls but it is still necessary to enter manually the height and other variables required. With BIM compatible virtual takeoff, the takeoff tool can yield more information on a single step, it can get the total area of a certain type of wall and feed the formulas without having to go through each wall and trace it. It is possible to check where the quantities are coming from and view, in 3D, the current estimate item highlighted while other building components are either transparent or hidden.

Some construction estimating software vendors are already providing ways to get the quantities out from a Building Information Model. Innovaya provides virtual takeoff compatible with BIM for ICE from MC2 and for Timberline from Sage. It has several components, one of them, the Composer, runs on Revit and generates what they call a Project Information Model on a proprietary INV file format. This format can be used for several Innovaya products such as Visual Estimating and Visual 4D Simulation for construction simulation. This approach does not add significant burden to the designer and allows other parties to use the model through their own software tools and expertise. WinEstimator has a product called DesignEst Pro that links Revit to their estimating tools to put out quantities from the model to the estimate. Either product

Some sources for getting more information about BIM are:

- bim.construction.com
- www.tfc.state.tx.us/communities/facilities/prog/construct/bim.wmv
- www.gsa.gov/bim

allows extracting summarized or detailed component quantities. Neither product intends to have the designer estimating or the estimator modeling.

The use of BIM tools and models by the construction economist varies depending on the phase of the building cycle that the project is in. During preconstruction, the best tools are the ones that can produce integrated conceptual estimates and designs. Conceptual estimates can be fed from commercial construction cost databases or proprietary cost data and are linked to the conceptual design; what is being included on the estimate can be graphically represented to check for accuracy and completeness. Any changes on the model are reflected on the estimate and more options can be covered with fewer hours of work. DProfiler from Beck Technology is software specializing in preconstruction conceptual design and estimation.

For the design phase, the collaboration opportunities increase over non-BIM processes as calculation of construction costs can be made at any point during the design process and not only when a set of drawings at a certain level of completion have been issued. Checking the estimated cost anytime without interrupting the design process can lead to better buildings as adjustments to the design can be introduced earlier to keep the building cost within the limits set in the feasibility study. At the schematic design phase, there could not be enough on the model to do a detailed estimate. As soon as the designer moves from sketches and massing studies to the design development phase and starts to lay out walls and floor on the model, progressively more accurate estimates can be done using generic wall and floor assemblies. At the construction detailing phase, the designer probably will add details as 2D drawings attached to some views within the building model rather than modeling every single element on it. The same specific assemblies used on the model should also be defined on the estimating tool. They would allow calculating that which cannot be directly extracted from the model; i.e. for a suspended acoustic ceiling, a BIM compatible virtual takeoff tool can get the total area of the ceiling, but not how many hangers and shots, which activities are involved or what equipment is necessary. This would likely be calculated using assembly formulas on the estimating tool.

Although considerable intervention of the construction economist is still necessary to take raw data from the model, analyze it and transform it in a reliable cost estimate, it is certainly a sizable improvement over redrawing the walls and floor plate perimeters done on screen takeoffs. BIM tools are most productive when they are used by construction knowledgeable users.

For the construction phase, the use of Building Information Modeling to prepare detailed estimates for design builders, general contractors or subcontractor depends on the availability of the models and the extent of the modeling done. Models can be architectural or fabrication. Architectural models would only include the assembly name and the dimension of the element, i.e. 6” fire rated interior wall, while fabrications would have modeled all the elements included in the assembly, i.e. steels studs, insulation and gypsum board panels. Having the trades bidding for a job querying the model to obtain the quantities relevant to their trade is something that is not limited by the tools but by the processes. Processes have to be adapted to move competition from having the right quantities (who does forget what) to competition about productivity, quality and service. With models that are accurate enough to consider prefabrication a viable option, variations from model quantities to built quantities should be within an acceptable range.
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Yet things have certainly gotten better than they were in the previous decade when ingenuity and programming skills where needed to get BIM functionality from non-BIM tools. I did this using blocks and AutoLISP routines in AutoCAD to calculate concrete volumes. There is still a long path to arrive at the promised land of higher productivity that all BIM adepts are aiming for. Software vendors are still trailing behind to reach the limits being pushed for from users who have increasing expectations and demands of more functionality in areas such as Facility Management and LEED compliance. Interoperability has not been solved properly and what can be put on a model is strongly limited by computer capacity. It is a work in progress.

I do not see the role of an estimator or quantity surveyor being replaced by BIM tools. Other construction specialist could get tempted to venture towards providing estimating services which rely on automatic quantity takeoffs and commercial database prices but the ultimate value that the estimator or quantity surveyor can provide is a reliable cost by surveying the quantities spit by the BIM virtual takeoff tool; looking for non-modeled items; applying appropriate waste, location, difficulty and contingency factors to the specific project; entering current prices and checking with actual costs tracked on similar projects. It is the responsibility of the estimator or quantity surveyor to know this technology and to know how it could change the way his or her work is done. More than mastering how to create a model with Revit or other modeling software, the focus should be in knowing how to get quantities from the model. Your estimating software vendor can inform you how they have integrated or are planning to integrate it to Revit or other BIM modeling tools so you can use a Building Information Model with the painstakingly created assemblies on your estimating software. Other source of training can be courses offered by local construction associations; the Grand Valley Construction Association is offering several BIM courses this spring.

It has taken two decades since CAD software use has become widespread enough to get to the point where looking for drawings on an electronic plans room is now the primary option. As it is still possible to print blueprints and create PDF files from a Building Information Model and do business as usual, I foresee BIM models coexisting with electronic and paper drawings for at least a decade more, when BIM viewers can be as common as PDF readers and electronic plans rooms could have evolved to be BIM repositories.

I would like to finish this quick introduction to the exciting world of Building Information Modeling for construction economists by saying that someone is getting value of it now, many will get it in the future, but not everyone; it is not the tools, it is the use of them which will facilitate making it valuable. Do not get too comfortable clicking on the onscreen takeoff tool; Building Information Modeling is here…finally.

Contributed by:
Andres A. Jimenez, CEC
dobleajr@hotmail.com

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The CIQS would like to welcome the following new members (including Reinstatements):

**A**
Mohamed Arsath Abdul Cader, Kalmunai, Sri Lanka
Syed Abedin, Mississauga, ON
Khalid Abouseta, Colonial Building Restoration, Ottawa, ON
Sajan Abthul Latheef Akbar, Kalmunai, Sri Lanka
Khalid Abouseta, Colonial Building Restoration, Ottawa, ON
Innocent Ariajegbe, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State

**B**
Chris Bell, Toronto, ON
Jeffrey Booton, Citta Construction Ltd., Saanichton, BC
Dai Bui, Pendlebury Cost Consultant, Hamilton, ON
Paul Butler, Cape Town, South Africa

**C**
Rui Cai, Toronto, ON

**D**
Chris Davies, Nepean, ON
Matthew Delgado, Brampton, ON
Ketan Desai, Edmonton, AB
Sridhar Devassakamani, Ultraspec Coatings Ltd., Toronto, ON
Stephen Donyinah, Kumasi, Ghana
Jason Drier, Gateman-Milloy Inc., Kitchener, ON

**E**
Ryan Eby, Cardinal Commercial Developments, Whitehorse, YT
Paul Ekberg, Stantec Consulting Ltd., Regina, SK

**F**
Declan Fitzpatrick, Vancouver, BC
Farhang Fotovat, Bedford, NS
Lindsey Froland, Advicas Group Consultants Inc., Victoria, BC

**G**
Richard Gordon, Etobicoke, ON
Aashish Gupta, BTY Group, Toronto, ON

**H**
Anthony Harron, Brampton, ON
Shawn Hickey, Black & McDonald, Ottawa, ON
Donna Hoar, Aecon Buildings Group, Eastern Passage, NS

**I**
Yousri Ibrahim, Thornhill, ON
Mihai Ion, Tiki International Inc., Calgary, AB

**J**
Shivaji Jathan, North York, ON
Przemyslaw Jaworski, London, ON
Guy Jobin, Equiluqs Ingénierie, Laval, QC

**K**
A K M Nazrul Kabir, Scarborough, ON

**L**
Louis-Yves Lebeau, Mac cope inc., Longueuil, QC
Heather Lindsay, Hanscomb Limited, Edmonton, AB
Stephen Love, Surrey, BC

**M**
Andrea MacDonald, Richmond Hill, ON
Bernard Macharia, Brampton, ON
Paul Maddaloni, St. Catharines, ON
Mathew David Maloney, Bradford, ON
Kuruparan Manikavasakar, Jaffna, Sri Lanka
Fraser McGill, Bowmanville, ON
Mike McGowan, Duncan Drywall, Minesing, ON
Spyros Minakis, North York, ON
Iris Miralles, Brampton, ON
Mateo Mirmashi, Toronto, ON
Mohammad Mostahedi Khansari, Elite P Formwork Inc., Calgary, AB
Fabrizio Montagnese, King York Paving, Concord, ON
Jason Mueller, Quantum Partnership, London, United Kingdom

**O**
Neil O’Connor Cox, Dublin, Ireland
Taiwo Odimayo, Winnipeg, MB
Craig Osmond, Constantia, South Africa

**P**
Joven Pacunan, Altus Group, Calgary, AB
Francois Paradis, Laval, QC
Chris Pazzarello, Hanscomb Limited, Halifax, NS
Issae Pfaff, Genivar, Toronto, ON
Adam Pluney, Toronto, ON
Jacques Poitras, Equiluqs Ingénierie, Laval, QC
Shanmugalingam Praveen, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom
Evan Prouse, Tillsburg, ON
Gagan Deep Puar, Woodbridge, ON

**R**
Alana Rafael, Cape Town, South Africa
Shamsheer Rahman, Canstar General Contracting and Consulting Limited, St. Catharines, ON

**S**
Noel Sanchez, Scarborough, ON
Vivek Seneviratne, Gangadawilla, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
Clement Sitima, Driver Consultant Oman LLC, Muscat, Oman
Orest Smal, Brampton, ON
Christopher Smeltzer, North America Construction (1993) Ltd., Morriston, ON
Anthony Smith, Calgary, AB
Abiodun Sorinolu, PCL Construction Management, Edmonton, AB
John Spinelli, City of Toronto, Toronto, ON
Indrajith Subasinghe, Minuwangoda, Sri Lanka
Sanjayan Subramaniam, Wolverhampton, United Kingdom
DevASENAPATHI Subramaniam, Valleau Construction Inc., Bowmanville, ON

**T**
Youset Taghipoor, Aecom, Markham, ON
Parama Tirvassen, Toronto, ON
Rye Tse, Altus Group Limited, Toronto, ON

**V**
Paul Varga, Citymark Drywall, Toronto, ON
Keshy Varghese, Brampton, ON
Giordano Vercillo, Mississauga, ON

**W**
Stephen Walo, MHPM Project Managers Inc., Markham, ON

**X**
Guangjun Xu, North York, ON

**Y**
Hong Li Yi, Carillion Construction Inc., Concord, ON

**Z**
Yingqing Zheng, Torcon Construction, North York, ON

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Question & answer with Mark Russell, PQS

How long have you been involved in quantity surveying and construction estimating?

MR: Since I left high school in 1991, so coming up on 19 years (gulp!).

What got you interested in this profession?

MR: I headed along to a construction industry open evening at a local college back in Scotland when I was in high school. I was interested in the professional side of the industry, but had no idea what path to follow. My mind was made up when I looked at the panel for the round table. I noticed that the quantity surveyor was the best dressed guy there so I figured that he must make the most money. The career path was set!

What was your background prior to working in this profession?

MR: Straight out of school, so QS all the way.

What specialized training and skills did you need?

MR: I was fortunate enough to secure a trainee position with Tarmac when I left high school. Tarmac was one of the UK’s largest contracting firms at the time so they provided all of the training required for a wet-behind-the-ears kid. The apprenticeship was a
four-year duration, which meant that I worked and went to the local college concurrently. Having the practical experience helped with my studies and I am still of the opinion that this is the best way to go. They also ensured that I had exposure to all facets of the industry and not just quantity surveying, which made me appreciate the work of other professions within the company.

CE: When did you earn your PQS designation and any others you may hold?
MR: I earned my PQS designation in the summer of 2003.

CE: How important is a designation for things such as earnings and scope of work?
MR: As an employer, a professional designation, or at least working towards a professional designation, shows that you realize the benefit and importance of expanding your knowledge base. As your knowledge and experience becomes greater, so do the responsibilities, and this is normally reflected in your remuneration. From the perspective of dollars and cents, professional designations are important.

CE: What do you feel is the most important role that a quantity surveyor portrays in a construction project?
MR: I am biased, obviously, but for me the critical items in any project are time and budget. No matter whether you are looking at media reports on a project, discussing projects with colleagues or industry members, most often it comes down to time and budget. So it is not a singular important role, but two.

CE: What other professions does a quantity surveyor interact with on a regular basis?
MR: We have the unique position of not only dealing with all industry professionals such as architects, engineers and designers, but also working with lawyers, appraisers and financiers on a sometimes daily basis. We certainly get around.

CE: How has the industry changed since you first became involved?
MR: When I started working in the early '90s, we were on a hybrid system of part manual takeoff and part computerized takeoffs. Some of the elder statesmen were intent on maintaining their manual ways but the younger staff could see the benefit of the computer. The change in the interim period to dedicated computerized working is hugely significant but I am sure that this is the same for most professions.

CE: How has the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors evolved over the years?
MR: The Institute has grown considerably since I became a member in the late '90s. We have increased membership numbers, expanded the profession within the industry, made extensive international contacts, signed various reciprocity agreements, secured trademarks and have established or are in the process of establishing various degree programs across the country – all within the past 10 years or so. You only need to look at ConEcon as an example of how things have changed. When you think about it, it is quite the list of achievements in such a short space of time. What is great about this is that we are not content to stand still. The Institute will continue to grow, specifically in education, and this will be to the benefit of the entire profession.

CE: What challenges did you face when becoming involved in the quantity surveying profession?
MR: The challenges that I faced when I became involved are the self same challenges we face today – time and budget. These constraints never waver and it is part of the job. It does not matter whether you are dealing with a $100K project or a $100M project, the same challenges apply.

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What challenges do you see facing quantity surveyors today?

Time and budget! I am half joking. We need to be more prominent in project leadership. Professional quantity surveyors should be the driving force and managers in all project teams but wrestling this position from other professions will be a challenge. Given our training and expertise, this is the role which we should fulfill.

What are some of the more interesting projects you have worked on?

I have worked on a variety of projects over the years as I worked for developers, a civil contractor and a construction management company before I worked in private practice so there are a few to chose from. I was fortunate enough to be involved in the pre-construction side of the 2010 Winter Olympics project in the Callaghan Valley, which is the site of the Biathlon and Cross Country events, and that was a great project to deal with. I still think that the small health centre that I was project manager on was the most unique. It had horrendous budget challenges due to lack of funding and it was very remote. The site was a three-hour drive from semi-civilization so you could not drive down to the hardware store to pick up a box of screws if you were short. The logistics of looking at alternate construction solutions, scope changes, juggling the budget and working with largely inexperienced local labour kept us busy. Also, working on the BC coast has meant that long drives, large planes, small planes and float planes have become part of my regular monthly travels. I have been fortunate to have had projects in some beautiful places in the province and have probably seen more of BC than your average immigrant.

In your opinion, how are quantity surveyors and construction estimators viewed generally within the construction industry, from a government or legal perspective and in the eyes of the general public?

Knowledgeable members of the industry know who we are, what benefits we provide and what we bring to the table and the same can be said for most of the government and the legal profession. Speaking for the quantity surveyors in BC, I think that the members do a great job of promoting the profession. We tend to struggle more with the general public’s lack of insight into what we do so we have to improve on that. We regularly get calls asking for us to come and carry out surveys on properties and I end up putting them on to the land surveyors in our building. I should start charging referral fees.

What are some of the highlights/drawbacks to this type of work?

The highlights are that you are not tied to a desk or a jobsite full time. The role of a QS is pretty flexible when it comes down to it. Then only drawbacks are when you have a deadline, such as working late on a cost plan or a tender, but these can be controlled and managed somewhat.

Where do you see the profession heading in the future?

Looking at the work we are doing across the country with the post-secondary educational facilities, I think that we will see greater knowledge of what work a QS does within the next generation of industry professionals. Even if a student follows a different path, they will at least have had the exposure at college or university level to who we are and what we do, meaning that when they meet a QS at their first ever design meeting we will not have to explain that we are not the guys who look through a theodolite.

It is with regret that we announce the passing of one of our long standing members, Rheal Dignard of Ottawa, Ontario. Rheal started his career in 1940 as a teacher and principal in eastern and northern Ontario. He then started work for Eugene Daoust & Son, General Contractor in 1947 where he assumed many duties. In 1951, the partnership of Eugene Daoust & Sons was dissolved and Paul Daoust formed his company Daoust Construction (later named Paul Daoust Construction Ltd.). Rheal was first appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the company in 1955 where he remained for the next 30+ years. The firm grew from a very small firm to become one of the major construction companies in Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. While at Paul Daoust Construction, Rheal obtained his Bachelor of Commerce in 1963. In 1981, he obtained a new position as Cost Consultant with the Health Facilities Branch of Health and Welfare Canada where he remained until 1989. He then worked as a consultant for a few years before his retirement in 1992. We extend our condolences to his family.
The Quantity Surveyors Society of British Columbia are pleased to host the CIQS 51st AGM. The event will be held at the Westin Resort and Spa in Whistler, BC (www.westinwhistler.com) from Thursday June 17, 2010 to Sunday June 20, 2010.

The itinerary is as shown below:

**Thursday June 17, 2010**
5:00pm to 8:30pm  
Welcome cocktail reception in the Callaghan Room

**Friday June 18, 2010**
8:30am to 9:00am  
Continental breakfast

9:00am to 11:45am  
Three Technical Sessions in the Alpine Room (Please see page 21 for details)

12:00pm to 1:30pm  
Lunch with keynote speaker in the Alpine Room

1:30pm to 3:30pm  
2010 Winter Olympic venue visit - Whistler Sliding Centre  
Optional activities including ziptreking, ATVs, optional golf, tour of Whistler, downhill mountain biking, bungee jumping, sightseeing/hiking & white water rafting

**Saturday June 19, 2010**
8:00am to 12:00pm  
CIQS AGM (with continental breakfast) in the Alpine Room

Mid-Afternoon  
West Coast BBQ

**Sunday June 20, 2010**
8:00am to 10:00am  
Farewell breakfast in the Callaghan Room

10:00am  
CIQS Golf Tournament at the Whistler Golf Course including green fees, power cart, sleeve of Nike balls and BBQ buffet at the 19th hole

**Accommodations**

The Westin Resort & Spa carried out a $10M renovation to all of their guest rooms prior to the 2010 Olympics, so we can be assured of excellent accommodations for our stay at the Resort.

The preferred rates for the accommodation are as follows:
- Studio Junior Suite - $189/night
- One Bedroom Suite - $219/night
- Two Bedroom Suite - $379/night
- Mountain Suite - $995/night
The Westin have also held the group rates for 3 days prior and 3 days following the event for members wishing to extend their stay in the resort.

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• 4 spots at the Lunch/Keynote Speaker
• 4 passes to the Sliding Centre
• 4 spots at the Saturday Dinner
• A foursome at the Sunday Golf
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Gold - $5,000
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• 2 spots at the Lunch/Keynote Speaker
• 2 passes to the Sliding Centre
• 2 spots at the Saturday Dinner
• A twosome at the Sunday Golf
• Corporate Logo on all literature
• Recognition at Presentations & Dinner
• Longest Drive Sponsor & Nearest The Pin

Silver - $2,000
• 1 spot at the Technical Seminars
• 1 spot at the Lunch/Keynote Speaker
• 1 pass to the Sliding Centre
• 1 spot at the Saturday Dinner
• 1 spot at the Sunday Golf
• Corporate Logo on all literature
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To order your copy, please visit our online store at www.ciqs.org or contact CIQS at 905-477-0008 or toll free at 866-345-1168. The book is available for the special anniversary price of $50.00 plus shipping and handling and GST. Available while supplies last.

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9:15am to 9:45am
(30 minutes including 10-15 minutes of Q+A)

WHISTLER SLIDING CENTRE

The Whistler Sliding Centre is one of the most exciting projects of 2010 Winter Olympic venues.

“With exacting design of curve geometry in three dimensions, construction crews of the Whistler Sliding Centre won a 2008 BC Ready-Mixed Concrete Association (BCRMCA) Award for Excellence in Concrete Construction (CONNIE Award). The Century Award that was given to VANOC and the project team for: “The technically staggering Whistler Sliding Centre; an engineering achievement that, according to the judges, only comes along every one hundred years.” (Source: Vancouver 2010)

Speaker: Laurenz Kosichek, Stantec Inc

10:00am to 10:30am
(30 minutes including 10-15 minutes of Q+A)

WHISTLER NORDIC COMPETITION VENUE

Whistler Nordic Centre will be the site of the cross-country skiing, ski jumping, biathlon and other Nordic-combined competitions during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The project required ‘progressive thinking and innovation to address the challenging elements of site topography, climatic conditions, environmental concerns, unique structural requirements and site accessibility.’

(Source: www.cornerstonewallsolution.com)

Speaker: Sean Rodrigues, VANOC Project Manager – Venues Construction

10:45am to 11:15am
(30 minutes including 10-15 minutes of Q+A)

PEAK TO PEAK CONSTRUCTION

Spanning the distance between Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains, the new world record-breaking PEAK 2 PEAK Gondola is a breathtaking, 4.4-kilometre journey to infinite possibilities. Redefining the Whistler summer experience by creating limitless new ways to get up-close-and-personal with the mountains, this engineering marvel breaks three world records:

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- Completes the longest continuous lift system on the globe

(Source: www.peak2peakgondola.com)

Speaker: TO BE CONFIRMED
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*Updated information will appear on the QSBC and CIQS websites (www.qsbc.ca and www.ciqs.org)

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The following are briefs compiled by the Editor, from the Affiliate Reports presented March 12 at the Council meeting in Montreal. These briefs do not represent the original report presented; they are highlights and have been edited for this publication. To read the original reports, please visit www.ciqs.com and go to Council Meeting reports.

Quantity Surveyors of British Columbia (QSBC)
As always, the board members continue to be busy with the 2010 CIQS AGM and the BCIT Degree Course/BCIT Liaison. The AGM Committee has been busy making progress and Andrew Collins has been working tirelessly with the BCIT focus group on the Degree Program. Mark Russell has been invited to and will attend the BCIT BTech Construction Management and PQS requirement review on March 23. The purpose of this meeting is to bring together a focus group from the industry to provide feedback on proposed courses. The QSBC side of the focus group has been well represented by Even Stregger, PQS (F) and Adam Cheung, PQS. Contracting (VRCA) has been represented by QSBC members Darren Rae, PQS and David Ngai, PQS.

The dinner meeting on Thursday December 3, 2010 ended up better than expected. Fred Cumming of Translink carried out a presentation on the recent and upcoming transportation infrastructure in the Lower Mainland, with great focus on the Golden Ears Bridge Project and the new Canada line. Fred’s presentation is available on the QSBC website.

QSBC thanks both Bruno Pilieci and Chris Reinert for taking time out of their busy business and personal schedules to visit QSBC on December 17, 2009 and meeting some of the members.

In the next issue, Mark will report on the dinner meeting held on March 18, 2010, where Jake Fry of Small Works made a presentation on the laneway housing project in the City of Vancouver. Jake’s mantra is ‘Build, Build Sustainable.’

In an effort to promote cross provincial networking, QSBC published in its newsletter, AQSA Life Cycle Costing Seminar in Calgary. This event was a pitch by Chris Reinert.

A BCIT student roundtable session has been scheduled for April to discuss ‘The Role of the PQS/CEC in Industry.’ This event is open to all members, students and other industry leaders.

Mark Russell, PQS, Ross Templeton, PQS and Lou Caron, CEC attended the BCIT Industry/Student mixture at BCIT in January on behalf of the QSBC Board. Also in attendance was John Hiebert, PQS (F), Clark Campbell, PQS (F), Darren Rae, PQS, Bob Matula, PQS and Debbie MacKay, PQS. This was a great event that fosters a great relationship between BCIT and QSBC.

Source: Mark Russell, PQS, President of QSBC.

Association of Quantity Surveyors of Alberta (AQSA)
Chris Reinert, PQS, the President of AQSA, reported that they have launched their newly redesigned website. The address is www.aqs.ca. Currently, there are four job vacancies posted on the website. Plans are underway to continue this effort in order to help job hunters gain information on open vacancies across Alberta.

Last month the AQSA in conjunction with the CIOB hosted a career day lunch seminar, with pizza, to interested students at Red River College in Winnipeg. This College is planning to offer a Construction degree with first student intake of students planned for this September. Chris and Norm Lux made a presentation on the Professional Quantity Surveyor and its importance to the construction industry.

Source: Chris Reinert, PQS, President of AQSA.

Ontario Institute of Quantity Surveyors (OIQS)
OIQS’s AGM will be hosted by the Hamilton Chapter and held in Niagara Falls on Saturday, May 29, 2010. Following the AGM, members will sit down for a luncheon with Keynote speaker Alistair Mackenzie, PQS. A wine tour is planned for Saturday afternoon with a ‘Murder Mystery Dinner’ in the evening.

The Greater Toronto Area and the Hamilton chapters held a joint Christmas Dinner in Milton which was extremely well attended.

The Greater Toronto Area chapter has held two events for New Canadians, one at the end of last year and other was held in February. Both events were well received, hosted and attended. This outreach to New Canadians has been a well supported event for numerous years.

OIQS continues to support student activities through the chapters. Students from Humber student’s chapter and the Ryerson student chapter will attend a pub night meet and greet with Institute and Industry members. For more details about this event, please visit the OIQS website.

Source: Bruno Pilieci, PQS, President of OIQS.

Association of Estimators and Quantity Surveyors of Quebec (AEQSQ)
The AEQSQ AGM will be held in Quebec City on May 28-29. Some conferences will be offered and this includes a presentation by a UNTEC (Association of QS of France) lecturer. This presentation will focus on cost planning and project control and also highlight differences between France practice and that of other European countries.

AEQSQ held TPE exams on February 25 at the ETS, Montreal and Quebec City. Four members took the examination. The next examination will be held on May 29 at the AGM.

The AEQSQ website has been revamped to expand the ‘member services’ to allow online renewal and registration of new members with a credit card payment. Architects and Engineer firms made several inquiries about PQS RFP for cost planning and project control.

Source: Herve Couture, PQS, President of AEQSQ.

Nova Scotia Association of Quantity Surveyors (NSAQS)
NSAQS held its annual Christmas party on December 4, 2009. This event was hosted by past President Brian Chappell. It was a well attended event.

The next AGM for NSAQS will be held on September 10, 2010. The program will include a 9-hole golf tournament as part of the AGM afternoon.

Wanda Smith, NSAQS Vice President and Mark Gardin, President, met with the Head Instructor of the Construction Management Technology program administered at the NSCC Waterfront Campus. The main purpose is to develop partnership between NSAQS and NSCC. This endeavor will enhance syllabus reviews and increase teaching services by PQS members, especially the Quantities and Cost Planning modules that are scheduled for next year.

Source: Mark Gardin, PQS, President of NSAQS.
Congratulations to the following members who have qualified as a PQS or CEC:

**CIQS**
- Emmanuel Mtize, PQS

**AEQSQ**
- Liliane Bedard, CEC
- Linda Ouallouche, CEC

**NSAQS**
- Robert Scammell, CEC

**QSBC**
- Allan Bolos, CEC
- Robert Matula, PQS
- Darren Rae, PQS
- Glenn Wilson, PQS
- Jacky Hau Ming Yim, PQS

**OIQS**
- Muhammad Abbas, CEC
- Andrew Bifolchi, CEC
- Attila Bogdan, CEC
- Jason Drier, CEC
- Walter Dupuis, PQS
- Fares M. Farah, CEC
- Ronald Fernandes, CEC
- Ashish Gandhi, PQS
- Ted Lourenco, CEC
- Christopher Matz, CEC
- Michelle McCollum, PQS
- Johnny Mfaofo-M’Carthy, PQS
- Krystyna Nawara, CEC
- Priyesh Patel, PQS
- Sethuram Pydiah, CEC

**PQS**
- Noel Sanchez, CEC
- John Gregory Spinelli, CEC
- Paul Stephenson, CEC
- Kannan Subbiah, CEC
- Abirami Veeramaheswaran, CEC
- Bhola Singh Verma, PQS
- Francis Wong, CEC
- Hong Li Yi, CEC
- Gang Zhao, CEC
- Hua Zheng, PQS
Who contributes information on the Construction Cost Index (CCI) and Building Cost Index (BCI)?

Construction Economist magazine is run by unpaid volunteers and does not have a budget for researchers or writers. Articles published are obtained from generous authors. Because we get this information for free, some authors agree to have their names published but some just want to contribute without taking credit. We continue to welcome new contributors, so if you are interested, please email conecon@ciqs.org. Thanks.

How accurate are the indexes published in the winter issue? What is the difference between a ‘nominal’ price escalation and ‘real’ price escalation? Which one is the correct index to publish?

There is no black and white answer to Construction Indexes, thus the reason why there are wide discrepancies between indexes published by different companies. However, there are two basic types of escalations. One is called ‘real time’ escalation and is the most widely used among commodity exchanges and currency exchange, however, in order to compare prices between date A and date B, inflation is a factor that is a big consideration, especially commodities that depends on oil. For short term spikes, the real price index still applies.

For example, given an inflation rate, I, of 4.0% and a nominal escalation rate, E, of 5.0%, the real price, e, is computed as 0.96%, or more precisely:

\[ e = 1 + \frac{0.05}{1 + 0.04} - 1 \approx 0.009615 \]

Similarly, a nominal price escalation of 6.1% is equal to 0.0608 (real rate of escalation).

So, do you see why it is so confusing?

What is the difference between Construction Cost Index and Building Cost Index?

The difference is in the labour computations. The CCI uses more common labour hours than the BCI. The BCI uses 75.4 hours of skilled labor, multiplied by the wage fringe averages for three skilled labour trades - bricklayers, carpenters and structural steel workers. For the materials component, they both use standard steel weighted average price, amount of Portland cement priced regionally and number of board ft of 2x4 lumber priced locally. The indexes compare the difference in costs between purchasing this scenario and how much it was in the in the base year.

What type of construction are these indexes applicable?

General construction costs. The BCI is more suitable to building structures. The CCI is suitable on projects that involve a higher labour proportion of total costs.

Are material prices averaged?

Yes, actual indexes are dependent upon the competitiveness of the market and local contract procurement methods. This method allows for a most up to date indicator of prices that may affect bidding in progress.

Do the city indexes have different weightings?

Yes. Each city uses different weight for the labour and materials components as the national average index. Therefore these indexes measure trends in an individual city. When doing comparisons, the variations between two cities reflects the differences in common labour productivity and the impact of local governments on projects.

What does Base = 1974 means?

The base is a point of reference for the indexes for computations purposes. It acts as a level plain field to fluctuations in costs. Computations are not a straight mathematical black and white formula as these indexes are seasonally adjusted. Common labour wages fluctuate once or twice per year and wages are the most important component the indexes. Cement prices are another volatile factor that fluctuates seasonally. Some materials are more commonly seen as monthly variations; these materials include lumber, structural steel and copper.
Congratulations are extended to Ms. Alice Kung who was awarded the 2009 Frank Helyar Memorial Award for achieving the highest mark in Subject 302 Measurement of Construction Works – Practical Examination. Alice is employed by the Altus Group in Vancouver and is a member of the Quantity Surveyors of British Columbia.

Mark Russell, President of QSBC presenting Alice Kung with her award at the March QSBC dinner meeting

MEMORIAL AWARDS

FRANK HELYAR MEMORIAL AWARD

Congratulations are extended to Ms. Alice Kung who was awarded the 2009 Frank Helyar Memorial Award for achieving the highest mark in Subject 302 Measurement of Construction Works – Practical Examination. Alice is employed by the Altus Group in Vancouver and is a member of the Quantity Surveyors of British Columbia.

BUSTER VERMEULEN MEMORIAL AWARD

Congratulations to Harshadkumar Patel who was awarded the 2009 Buster Vermeulen Memorial Award for achieving the highest mark in Subject 308 Cost Planning. Harshadkumar is employed by Daraban Holdings Ltd. in Brampton and is a member of the Ontario Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

ABOUT THE AWARDS

CIQS Council established the Frank Helyar Memorial Award in 1990 when Frank returned his honourium for setting and marking examinations to the Institute requesting that it be put towards education. This award is given to the candidate with the highest mark in Subject 302 Measurement of Construction Works Practical Examination. In 2003, the Buster Vermeulen Memorial Award was added for the candidate achieving the highest mark in Subject 308 Cost Planning.

Both recipients receive $500.00 plus a certificate of achievement.

The award continues to grow due to the generosity of members and firms. To make a donation to the award fund please contact Lois Metcalfe, Executive Director.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD WINNERS!
If you have not gotten on the Social Media Marketing (SMM) bandwagon yet because you think it is just a fad with no real bottom line benefit, think again. One professional speaker has been using SMM for less than six months and has received two book contracts with mainstream publishers, has contracted four full-fee speaking engagements, has secured a keynote for a large international convention, has been contracted for a monthly column in a large distribution magazine, has received a consulting deal in a new niche market and has contracted with two foreign governments for consulting services; all because of social media marketing.

“But that is just a fluke,” you may say. Not so, the fact is for those who do SMM regularly, these kinds of results are more common than you would think!

If you are ready to receive some serious benefits from your SMM campaign, adhere to the following dos and don’ts.

Don’t be unpredictable
You want people to know that they are going to get a message from you every Monday, Wednesday and Friday (or whatever days you decide). So pick a distribution schedule and stick with it. If necessary, put reminders in your calendar so you remember to post your microblogs on those days.

Don’t abandon your traditional PR
Do not assume that you can abandon everything outside of the social media marketing realm once you start having some success. SMM is just one part of the funnel that brings people to your product funnel. It is a useful and cheap part, but you also need the credibility and marketing from other traditional publicity tools, such as print publicity, radio interviews and television appearances. In addition, some online reputation sites will give you a lower ranking if you do not have anything in the ‘real world.’ Just remember, you still need media exposure and a physical presence, in addition to your online presence. Acclaimed financial expert Suze Orman is at the top of her game because you see her name everywhere – she is interviewed in magazines and newspapers, is seen on TV and heard over the radio. That is why so many of us rely on her advice; she is seen as the financial expert because she is all over the media. So, be sure to keep getting publicity in print and other traditional media, in addition to generating attention with SMM.

Don’t be negative
Unless your image or brand has something to do with complaining, do not do it. Only complain if complaining is what you are known for. It is better to give positive reinforcement in your microblogs because people are bombarded with negative messages every day. You do not want your message to be lost among the other negative ones. You want to be the one positive thing in a person’s day. You want them to look forward to the next time they get your message.

Do follow the right format for your microblogs
Be sure that your microblogs include helpful advice, insightful tips or unique trends that your followers will learn from; this kind of information will grab their
At the March 2010 CIQS Council meeting in Montreal, Council elected six new Fellows. Congratulations to:

– GRAEME ALSTON from Alberta
– MICHAEL GARRETT from British Columbia
– NAREN CHANDE, IAN DUNCAN, GRAHAM RANDALL and FRANK WATT from Ontario

Fellowship is an honour bestowed upon members for serving the Institute and their affiliated association in a meritorious capacity and contributing to the prestige and advancement of the profession through outstanding service and achievements.

All members will be presented with their Fellowship certificate at the CIQS AGM in Whistler in June.
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