



Edmonton Chapter
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the edmonton Specifier

Construction Specifications Canada is an organization representing diverse interests in the construction industry and related professions. It is dedicated to improving the quality and flow of information between these interests, whether in the form of specifications, contract administration or marketing.

JUNE 2009



JULY

**July 17, 2009 at Legends
Golf and Country Club**

SEPTEMBER

Building Tour & Presentation
Cam Munro, Clark Builders

OCTOBER

AWMAC Manual Presentation
Joe George, McMurray
Interiors

NOVEMBER

CSC/CPCI Tek Aid
Bryan Hall

DECEMBER

LEED Documentation by
Stephani Carter,
EcoAmmo/Green Alberta

2010

JANUARY

Fun Night – Tribute to F. Ross
Brown, Silent Auction, & Wine
Tasting

FEBRUARY

Building Envelope Forensics

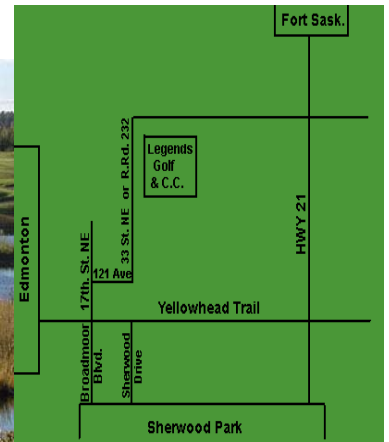
MARCH

Infonet, March 11, 2010

APRIL

Joint Chapter Meeting, Red
Deer, Flooring Presentation

Construction Specifications Canada GOLF TOURNAMENT



Date: July 17, 2009
Place: Legends Golf and Country Club; 53541 Range Road 232
Time: 2:00 P.M. Shotgun Start
Cost: \$100.00 per golfer and includes golf cart and dinner
Golf Hole Sponsorship: \$100.00
RSVP: Register online at www.cscedmonton.ca
INFO: For more information, please email Celeste Thiesen at program@cscedmonton.ca or call at 780-965-4320

VISIT YOUR WEBSITE AT

<http://www.cscedmonton.ca/>

Help us develop a website that meets your needs. Go to the "Want More Info" link on-line and let us know.

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Edmonton Chapter Executive

Elected Members

Chairman	Cam Munro	416-6519
Director	Keith Robinson	917-4690
Vice-Chairman	Darlene Rioux	619-3092
Secretary	Jennifer Cardinal	
Treasurer	Rob Galesloot	969-1511

Officers

Architect	Linda Lipinski-Olson	497-3975
Association Liaison	Jozef Urban	408-7149
Education	Betty-Jo Tell	886-0806
Engineer	Dale Wilson	452-2325
General Contractor	Bob Murray	732-8642
Interior Design		
Manufacturer/Supplier	Mike Lafontaine	447-2122
Marketing, Promotion and Infonet	David Lawrence Ad Hoc – Executive and Officers	922-2227
Membership	Donna DeVloo	984-5612
Newsletter	Len O'Connor	403 896-0728
Program	Celeste Thiesen	756-8538
Specifications	Wayne Watson	608-4632
Web Site Administrator	Garrett McCallum	
Trade Contractor	Skip Helfrich	466-3101

Advertising Rates

Business Card: April 1 to May 30

Rates covers your ad on our website 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Business card on-line:

Annual \$100 if received by May 1;

\$75 if received by August 1;

\$50 if received by November 1;

\$25 if received by February 1

Add \$50 to have a link to your company Web Site from the CSC Edmonton Chapter web page.

Chapter Sponsor

Includes Business Card On-Line, 2 Tickets to 6 Dinner Meetings

Annual \$400 if received by May 1;

\$300 if received by August 1;

\$200 if received by November 1;

\$100 if received by February 1

Student Sponsor

CSC Student Sponsorship Pays for 1 ticket to 6 Dinner Meetings for a NAIT or University Student.
Annual \$175

Dinner Sponsor

\$50 for Individual (Personal) Sponsor
\$100 for Corporate Sponsor

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact any member of the executive, attend one of our chapter meetings or send your name and address to
CSC Edmonton Chapter, c/o #361, 11215 Jasper Avenue; Edmonton, AB T5K 0L5

GOALS OF CSC

Construction Specifications Canada is a multi-disciplinary non-profit association dedicated to the improvement of communication, contract documentation, and technical information in the Construction Industry. CSC is a National association with chapters in most major Canadian Cities.

To this end, CSC pursues the study of systems and procedures that will improve the coordination and dissemination of information relevant to the construction process.

We seek to enhance the quality of the design and management aspects of the construction activity through programs of publication, education and professional development, believing that by so doing, we can contribute best to the efficiency and effectiveness of the construction industry as a whole.

OBJECTIVES OF CSC

To foster the interest of those who are engaged in or who are affected by the compilation or use any forms of specifications for the construction industry.

To publish literature pertaining to the construction industry.

To engage in activities to improve procedures and techniques related to the construction industry.

The Opinions and comments expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the official views of Construction Specifications Canada. Also, appearance of advertisements and new product or service information does not constitute an endorsement of those featured products or service

Chairman's Message:

Cam Munro



As I sit here to write my first chairman' report, I think of all of the people in the chapter who have made enormous contributions to make our chapter a strong & vibrant association. Over the many years that I have been involved in CSC, I have found enormous benefit in aligning myself and career with such a fantastic organization. And I am humbled to have been voted in as chairman. To paraphrase "I do stand on the shoulders of giants in our industry".

This year will be one with a varied and diverse program starting with our annual golf tournament in July, numerous educational offerings & finishing off next year with InfoNet in the spring.

The amazing programs that the CSC Edmonton chapter can do is strictly related to the enormous volunteer work done by a brilliant group of individuals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their commitment! And invite everyone in our industry to come join us this year - it's gonna be one heck of a ride!

Association News and Events

CSC Joins buildingSMART Alliance

In order to stay at the top of the oncoming BIM wave, and to support its efforts in the IFD Library open standard for BIM terminology, Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) has decided to join the buildingSMART Alliance (the North American chapter of buildingSMART International, formerly IAI). Initially, Digicon's own David Watson will serve as CSC's representative in the association. CSI (CSC's sister association in the USA) are already members.

Understanding Sustainability with CSC TEK·AID

A comprehensive TEK·AID on "Environmental/Green Supplement" will be released this year by Construction Specifications Canada (CSC). This document will be available through the Spex.ca website.

The TEK·AID explains the purpose and applications of sustainability and its options related to the specifications and contractual aspect of our industry. This document will assist industry participants to understand and specify sustainability objective criteria. The document will be presented in two parts; an explanatory digest and master specification sections.

Important URL Links

- BuildingSMART International (formerly IAI) (<http://www.buildingsmart.com>)
- Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC): (<http://www.cagbc.org>)
- Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC) – Alberta Chapter: (<http://www.cagbc/chapters/alberta/index.php>)
- Canada BIM Council (CBC) (<http://www.canbim.com>)
- CCDC Documents: (<http://www.ccdc.org/home.html>)
- Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) (<http://www.csc-dcc.ca>)
- Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) (<http://www.csinet.org>)
- IFD Library (<http://www.ifd-library.org>)
- International Construction Information Society (ICIS) (<http://www.icis.org>)
- MasterFormat 2004 (free downloadable PDF on Spex.ca Free page):
- OmniClass (<http://www.omniclass.ca> and <http://www.omniclass.org>)
- Spex.ca (<http://www.spex.ca>)

FUTURE CSC CONFERENCES:

- 2010 Saskatoon
- 2011 Montreal
- 2012 Ottawa
- 2013 Calgary
- 2014 Niagra Falls hosted by the Hamilton/Niagra, Grand Valley and Toronto Chapters.

Industry News and Events:

Canada BIM Council (CBC) is Born

On December 16, 2008 the Canada BIM Council started. Two CSC Edmonton members, David Watson and Michael Schneider, have attended an organizational meeting. The Council body has members from across Canada. Briefly, the CBC was formed to provide support to the construction industry and to advocate the use of BIM, and to recommend best BIM practices within a Canadian context.

Canada BIM Council (CBC)

The Canada BIM Council provides the Architectural, Engineering and Construction industry the nation's only self-regulating Building Information Modeling (BIM) authority. Their Mission is to provide industry stakeholders an advocacy, resource and standards council dedicated to supporting business, professionals, educators, purchasers of construction and related services in learning and applying best practices to the evolution of BIM in a Canadian context.

Their core management team has been assembled from cross-discipline leaders working throughout Canada: educators, architects, engineers, contractors, consultants and mixed trade association representatives.

CBC is committed as a group of early adopters of BIM in Canada to deliver timely, non-proprietary, relevant and accurate information, programs and services to our membership.

The Canada BIM Council is largely committee driven. They are seeking interested members to serve on committees to help shape the future of the CBC. Please email your interest in serving and express your specific area of interest from the following:

- Certification development
- Industry advocacy
- Best practices/contracts
- International relations

Canada BIM Council Management Team includes:

- R. Allan Partridge, HIP Architects, Edmonton Alberta.
- Keith Robinson, FCSC , RSW, LEED® AP, Edmonton Alberta.

For more information go to <http://www.canbim.com>.

June 9-11

CaGBC National Summit – Every Building Can Be Green

Canada Green Building Council
Montreal, Quebec

www.everybuildingcanbegreen.ca

June 16

Next Gen Pecha Kucha Call for Presenters

Next Gen is looking for presenters for Pecha Kucha Night v.4 happening Tuesday, June 16 as part of the ICLEI World Congress - Local Governments on Sustainability. If you're interested in sharing your design ideas in 20 sec X 20 slides , please email: nextgen@edmonton.ca for more info. Deadline for entry is May 15. Tickets to attend the event will be available at a later date, with a larger venue more seats will be available, but make sure to buy your tickets early as they sell out quickly. For more info on Pecha Kucha Night in Edmonton visit: <http://www.pecha-kucha.org/cities/edmonton>

June 16–19

CONSTRUCT2009 & the CSI Annual Convention Hanley Wood/Construction Specifications Institute Indianapolis, Ind. Indiana Convention Center www.constructshow.com

June 17–19

CISC Annual Convention Canadian Institute of Steel Construction Winnipeg, Man. Fort Garry Hotel www.cisc-icca.ca

June 17–20

Festival of Architecture and Forum Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Montreal, Que. Hilton Montreal Bonaventure www.festival2009.raic.org

June 24–25

Managing Risk at the Pre-tender Stages of Your Construction Project,
The Canadian Institute; Calgary, Alta.
TELUS Convention Centre
www.canadianinstitute.com

June 24–25

The Future of Canada's Infrastructure
The Strategy Institute
Toronto, ON
The Holiday Inn Select
www.strategyinstitute.com

May 7 - July 7, 2009

Glass Soul

Join **Manola Borrajo-Giner May 28th** between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm to celebrate and view her most recent works at the opening reception.

About the Artist

She tries to manipulate the glass like wood, her other favored medium, stretching the boundaries between drama and romanticism. Glass and Manola are a special mix. Manola's participation in group and solo shows continues to expand. Her work is rapidly gaining recognition. Her work is enjoyed in Boston, Los Angeles, Madrid, Halifax, New York, Cleveland, Ottawa by families who have Manola's art pieces in their houses.

Locally her work has been exhibited in Front Gallery and Panache. She has also been engaged in numerous private commissions.

Steppes Galleries 1253 & 1259 91 Street Edmonton, Alberta www.manola-art.com

New LEED AP Exam Fee as of January 16th 2009

Please note, as of January 16th 2009 the LEED AP exam fee will change in Canada. The exam fees are being changed to bring them inline with the pricing introduced by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI) and reflects the ongoing investment being made in the LEED AP program.

As of January 16th the following fees will apply to take the LEED AP Exam in Canada:

- \$300 US for CaGBC members
- \$450 US for non-members

To schedule your exam at the 2008 fees, you will need to register for your exam before the 16th January AND write your exam before the 1st of March. If you schedule your exam on or after the 17th January, then you will be charged the new fees. The GBCI was created by the USGBC to administer the LEED AP credentialing program internationally.
www.gbci.org

LEED Workshops

September 16, 2009

LEED for New Construction
Edmonton, AB
Registration opening soon

September 17, 2009

LEED for Construction
Edmonton, AB
Registration opening soon

November 2, 2009

Policy Development
Edmonton, AB
Registration opening soon

November 24, 2009

LEED for Commercial Interiors
Edmonton, AB
Registration opening soon

CaGBC @ NAIT

'**Building Green with LEED®**' is the only post-secondary course in Canada sanctioned by the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) and NAIT was recently sanctioned as an approved provider of the LEED Canada-NC course.

Fee: \$995

June 20 to July 14/09 | Tuesdays | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
and Saturdays 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

OR

October 13 to December 1/09 | Tuesdays | 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
and Saturdays 8:30 am – 5:00 pm
(No class November 10/09)

For detailed information, please see attached pdf, which you are encouraged to share with others who may be interested in this unique training opportunity.

Register: 780.471.6248, toll-free 1.877.333.NAIT or online www.nait.ca/continuingeducation

People and Places

David Watson, College of Fellows



In February of this year the CSC Edmonton Chapter David Watson's name to the call for nominations to the College of Fellows. In April CSC's Executive Director, Nick Franjic, called David Watson to advise of his acceptance into the CSC College of Fellows.

To be inducted as a fellow is one of the highest honours that CSC can bestow on a member. David was inducted into the College at the CSC national convention in London, Ontario, May 2009

Occupation:

David writes master specifications for various commercial enterprises, writes program code for automated specification word processing programs, and is a source of pertinent specification related information and technologies. He owns and operates Digicon Information Inc. in partnership with his father; Mr. Wayne Watson (College of Fellows 1976), and has been providing specification related services since 1986. Digicon was incorporated as a company in 1995, and he has expanded his services ever since – becoming a highly recognized individual across Canada and the United States of America.

David is a Certified Engineering Technologist through the Alberta Society of Engineering Technologists (ASET) since 1984, and has applied to the CSC in 2000 for a Registered Specification Writer certificate. David completed his education at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and obtained a diploma in Air Conditioning Engineering technology in 1984; earning

two distinctive awards, the Louise McKinney Scholarship (awarded to student having highest marks) and a Certificate of Merit awarded by the Minister of Advanced Education, Alberta (also for highest marks).

Offices and Appointments held in CSC:

David has been actively involved with CSC at the Chapter level for a full two years before becoming a member in 1987 by acting as the Editor for the CSC Edmonton Chapter Specifier. David moved to Toronto in 1989 and became an active participant in the Chapter Executive, which continued on when he moved to Calgary in 1992. He continued on in various roles such as Specifier Editor, Treasurer, Vice-Chairman, Chairman, Director and SpecNet Committees. He was also an active participant in the Conference 2002 Committee that saw the first international joint CSC/CSI conference in Banff.

He has participated at the national CSC level with the Technical Studies Committee since the late 1980's, throughout the 1990's and into the new century. He has been Chairman of the Electronic Documents Subcommittee and helped with the re-establishment of the TSC in 2008. David is the originating author of the CSC Electronic Style Guide, which forms a part of the core documentation for Construction Specifications Canada.

David worked on the Development Committee for the PCD Online Course and has helped to develop many of the other education programs offered by CSC. In addition to his core CSC involvement, he also participates in a number of international associations, representing CSC in International Framework for Dictionaries (IFD) developing standardized construction language, as a developer member of the International Construction Information Society as secretary (with Mary Friesen as CSC representative), as Canadian member of the International Standards Organization representing the Standards Council of Canada since 1999 participating in two Work Groups ISO TC59/SC13 WG6 and WG8 relating to development of ISO 12006-3 for object oriented standards (using OmniClass and IFD) and Information Delivery Manuals that enable the exchange of construction process information. Both of these committees have now published international standards.

Other notable CSC achievements that David has to his credit include; but in no way are limited to, the following:

- Issued first electronic newsletter while editor in Calgary (approximately 1994).
- Created first CSC chapter web site (Calgary, approximately 1994).
- Helped organize the first CSC "networking" event instead of a trade show (Calgary, Sept 1996 – a few months before the first Winnipeg Connections Café).
- Participated with W2 Consultants Ltd on development and editing of CSC Level 1 Course

(preceding PCD), Specifiers 1 and 2 (2008), Construction Contract Administrator (2006), and Certified Technical Representative (2008).

- As President of Digicon, formed alliance with CSC in 2002 to develop and operate the SPEX.CA internet storefront, the source location for distribution of CSC documentation and master specifications.

David has also contributed to the quality of specifications writing outside of his direct involvement with CSC by participating in the following activities:

- Participated in aecXML (now defunct, developing national XML standard for exchange of specifications).
- Developed Autospec, a leading edge "smart" specification software in 1980s to automate the preparation of project specifications from the MiniSPEC master specification, using a question/answer interface; based on WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS.
- Developed and now supports current specification software (SpecMacros and Specnique - both are currently being used by Spex.ca subscribers across Canada) in the following applications
- SpecMacros for Microsoft Word and WordPerfect software, in English and French.
- Specnique, a proprietary database software product pioneered in Norway and adapted translated into English for Canadian use.

Awards from CSC:

- David was awarded two CSC National Awards of Merit in 2007 and 2008 for his participation in the International Framework for Dictionaries, which creates the ontology for use in interoperable computer software and applications in construction, and his work helping to develop the OmniClass construction classification system between 2002 and 2004.
- He has also been awarded four CSC Program Director's Awards for his work with the Technical Studies Committee in 1994, 1999, 2000, and 2008 and his participation in development of Tek-Aids and other CSC documentation.

Reasons for Considering David Watson as a Candidate for Fellowship:

David is a heck of a resource to bounce ideas off of, and to obtain technical solutions to common specification writing problems. He is more than willing to give of his time, energy and knowledge to help out any specification writer (registered or not) with just a simple telephone call or e-mail, usually responding within a couple hours even when he is overseas attending an ICIS or IFD function.

David's growth within CSC makes David the poster child of what achievements can be had through membership and participation at both the chapter and national levels.

In addition, David is also one of the most productive members when it comes to getting CSC documentation published. His ability to work with others has led to improvements in the RSW program, the education programs and helped many of those that know him out of a tight spot or two.

On behalf of all CSC members, congratulations David.

Professional Pillar:

The benefits of master specifications

*by Sarah Delany BTech (Hons) MCIBSE
CEng Technical author, NBS, Newcastle upon Tyne, England and Michael J. King FCSI CCS Director of Engineering Specifications, ARCOM, Salt Lake City, Utah*

Summary

Specification is an essential part of the design process. Unfortunately, for most engineers, it is the least enjoyed task. This often results in specifications of inferior quality. If a specification is written badly it can cause major problems for every member of the construction team, and can cost the client a great deal of money. If the specification is well written it can enhance project delivery for the whole construction team while saving everyone money.

The use of an office Master Specification ensures improved development efficiency and content quality for every project specification. By using a well defined structure and clear, concise language the resulting project specification will be comprehensive and unambiguous.

A commercial Master Specification brings further advantages. Master Specification clauses are written by experts, dedicated to researching and monitoring the latest construction methods, standards and legislation. This makes commercial Master Specifications a current and authoritative source of text, information and guidance.

1 Specifications

Specifications are an important part of the design and construction process. Specifications are a valuable tool during the design stage, are part of the contract documentation, and have a key role in the efficiency of project fulfilment.

A specification is:

1. A tool for conveying the required quality of products (both fabric and services) and their installation for a particular project; and
2. A means of drawing together all the relevant information and standards that apply to the work to be constructed.

The specification is a set of instructions from owner/client to constructors, prepared by designers, and should be written in a form that is easily understood. Specifications must be arranged in a clear structure so specific information is easy to find. The language must be clear, concise, complete, and correct. The writing style should be unambiguous with minimal legal phraseology or stilted formal terms. The content must be current and authoritative. The best guarantee that the project specification will meet these high standards is to base it on a sound master specification.

2 Benefits of using office master specification Improved efficiency in specifying

Using an office master specification saves project specification preparation time. A comprehensive master contains descriptions of most of the required products in a concisely written, well-organized, finished form, allowing the specifier to quickly delete products not applicable to the project. A small amount of work is then needed to add products unique to the project but not in the master. Changes noted from site observations can be made to the office master easily and efficiently for the benefit of succeeding projects.

Expanded decision-making capability

A comprehensive office master includes a wide range of options from which to choose. The master specification becomes the corporate memory of the design firm, taking advantage of the expertise of all firm members and consultants. Policy decisions can be annotated in master specifications to benefit project specification development. This collective decision-making capability can be applied at times other than the last-minute crunch time for finishing a project specification.

Avoidance of delays in project development

Because office master specifications can be made available to the design team early in the design phase, project specifications can be developed concurrently with drawings. Annotations can be made to the master specifications to guide the product-selection and design-decision processes at the most appropriate time. This allows drawing details and associated specifications to occur simultaneously. Too often, specification development is left till last, when production time and resources are limited, allowing little time for coordination.

Minimize repetitive work

A comprehensive office master specification frees design professionals from the drudgery of creating project specifications from scratch or from previous project specifications. Design professionals have more time to design and coordinate their designs.

Reduce errors and omissions

An office master specification becomes a project checklist to assist in considering the many issues and choices to be made during design.

Errors and omissions can be minimized because the amount of new text generated is minimized. Tried and tested specification clauses can provide some assurance of completeness and correctness. Specification errors discovered in the field can be annotated and corrected in master specifications for the benefit of future projects.

Reduce exposure to liability

By reducing errors and omissions, office master specifications minimize the potential for litigation.

Unified office terminology

Use of an office master specification helps standardize terminology for the firm. Terminology from project to project can be made consistent for the benefit of designers and contractors alike. Use of proven products and applications can be standardized within the firm and problematic products and applications can be annotated for avoidance in future projects. The master specification becomes the repository for corporate design policy.

Stabilized office practice

Office master specifications, as a source of information, can be used to train inexperienced design personnel. The process of developing and maintaining master specifications can be an educational experience and activity. The process of using master specifications for projects can standardize project production procedures.

Easier updating of specification data

Products and standards are constantly changing. Using an office master specification, a firm can incorporate these industry changes as they occur for the benefit of future projects. Systematic review of masters in general, and products and standards in particular, can be done at off-peak production times.

3 Benefits of using commercial master specifications

Commercial master specification systems permit the benefits of office masters to be applied nationally, with more rigour and efficiency.

Focused preparation benefits content, format, and writing quality

Companies dedicated to the process, and focused on quality of content, organization, style, and format, produce commercial master specifications. Greater amounts of time and resources are brought to bear on the development of commercial master specifications making them more comprehensive and consistent than office masters could ever be. Coordination among specification work sections, both fabric and services, and with other construction documents, is a benefit.

Designed to accommodate a wide variety of applications

Commercial master specifications are written for virtually all types of projects and include most of the traditionally specified construction products and activities. They are written for a wide variety of project delivery processes. These commercial masters can be easily adapted to office practices. Commercial master specifications include guidance notes about application of choices, and automated features for choice selection.

Content peer reviewed for accuracy, comprehensiveness, and appropriateness

Professional associations often endorse selected commercial master specifications. This endorsement is usually in exchange for a peer review of the content by representatives of those endorsing organizations. These representatives are often practicing design professionals who use the commercial master for their projects. This gives them familiarity with the commercial master and guarantees their interest in its quality.

Currency of the master

A major benefit of commercial masters is that they are maintained by the developing organization. Work sections are continuously and/or regularly updated to incorporate construction industry trends, changes in products and manufacturers, changes in referenced standards, and changes in construction processes.

This is both a benefit and a liability. The benefit is obvious in that masters are maintained current with the industry. The liability, which is not so obvious, is that if you modify a commercial master for office practices, each subsequent update requires reviewing and editing for corporate policy changes. This liability can be minimized by proper techniques for annotating corporate policy issues and with commercially available software for automation. The benefit of currency far outweighs the liability of the work effort to maintain the derived office master. Using commercial master specifications as the basis of office masters brings the benefits of both approaches to the preparation of project specifications.

Commercial master specification companies spend literally thousands of hours annually in researching legislation, standards, and new developments in methods and products, to maintain their commercial master specifications. This is many more hours than most design firms can afford in the pursuit of current office masters.

Automation

Master specifications provide an opportunity for automated production. Many repetitive tasks can be automated by the computer, but automation can only be employed with a well-coordinated, consistently formatted master specification.

Many commercial master specifications automate searching and replacing, page formatting features, report generation and creation of tables of contents. Many of these automated features can be applied to entire project specifications as well as to individual work sections.

4 Using a master to create a project specification

Always use the master

The first rule of project specification development is to always begin with the master. The urge to use the last most similar project specification is great, but should be resisted. Projects are like people - no two are identical. This is true no matter how similar the projects, even if the project is for the same client. Project specifications were created with particular project requirements in mind. Many of the wide variety of choices have been eliminated and therefore are not present for consideration. Problems from previous projects can be repeated on subsequent projects. Existing project specifications do not have the benefit of the currency of master specifications.

Editing the master specification

The second rule of project specification development is to edit the project specification specifically for the project. Do not retain products and activities that do not apply to the project. One way to undermine confidence in a project specification is to include a requirement that does not apply to the project. This puts the whole document into doubt. To be enforceable as a contract document, project specifications must be clear, concise, correct, and complete.

Using a master for a checklist for product selection

A master specification can be a useful tool as a checklist for project requirements. The master table of contents can be used to consider which work sections are needed. Work sections from the master specification can be used as a checklist to consider which products and activities are required for the project. The work section can also be used for a checklist during product selection. Master specification work sections can be annotated with guidance notes about product selection and application. Additional resource materials can be attached to work section masters for use in editing guidance and product selection and application.

5 The way forward

In this day and age it is vital for any organization to operate as efficiently as possible and to deliver maximum value to its clients. Master specifications are an essential part of delivering these aims by minimizing costs, giving maximum time for design and coordination, and limiting the potential for errors and omissions.

Specifier's Humour:

The Salary Theorem

The Salary Theorem states that "Engineers and scientists can never earn as much as business executives and sales people."

This theorem can now be supported by a mathematical equation based on the following two postulates:

Knowledge is Power

Time is Money

Every Engineer knows: $Power = Work / Time$ Since:

$Knowledge = Power$ And: $Time = Money$,

Then: $Knowledge = Work / Money$

Solving for Money, we get: $Money = Work / Knowledge$

Thus, as $Knowledge$ approaches zero, $Money$ approaches infinity, regardless of the amount of work done.

Conclusion: The less you know, the more you make.

Myths and Facts:

Idling Myths and Facts

MYTH #1: In the winter, vehicles must be warmed up for a few minutes before they are driven.

FACT: Modern vehicle engines do not need to be warmed in the winter before they are driven. Ever since electronics were introduced to control engines, the need to warm up a vehicle before driving it has been eliminated. So now, sitting in your car in the winter waiting for it to warm up is a waste of time and gas, increases pollution, and does not protect your engine at all. To make matters worse, emissions from an idling vehicle in winter conditions are more than double the normal level immediately after a "cold start".

MYTH #2: It takes more gas to stop and restart an engine than it does to idle it.

FACT: Ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it. So if you are stopping for more than 10 seconds – except in traffic, turn off the engine.

MYTH #3: Idling the engine for a few minutes warms up the vehicle.

FACT: Warming up the vehicle means more than warming the engine. The tires, transmission, wheel bearings and other moving parts also need to be warm for the vehicle to perform well. Most of these parts don't begin to warm up until you drive the vehicle away. The catalytic converter – the device that cleans pollutants from the vehicle's exhaust – doesn't function at its peak until it reaches between 400°C and 800°C. The best way to warm the converter is to drive the vehicle.

Driving a vehicle cuts warm-up times in half. This reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

MYTH #4: Restarting a vehicle is hard on the engine and starter.

FACT: Restarting a car many times has little impact on engine components such as the battery and the starter motor. The wear on parts that restarting the engine causes adds about \$10 a year to the cost of driving – money that you'll likely recover several times over in fuel savings.

Masterformat

Revisions for MasterFormat

Constructions Specifications Canada (CSC) and its U.S. sister organization, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), have introduced a new annual revision process for maintaining and updating *MasterFormat*.

The reasons for establishing defined periodic updates include: • greater predictability for numbers and titles (as there will be a limited, grouped set of revisions released at a set time each year); • more certainty about when submitted proposals will be resolved; and • improved capacity to keep pace with the volume of submitted proposals.

Already received proposals will be eligible for consideration during the 2009 revision cycle. Proposals submitted as of May 1 will be candidates for the 2010 revision cycle.

The MasterFormat Maintenance Task Team (MFMTT), a group comprising volunteers from CSC, CSI, and sponsors, will continue to oversee changes in the resource. The task team's annual revision review workshop is scheduled for late July—results will be announced in September.

MasterFormat updates since the release of the 2004 edition can be found at www.masterformat.org/revisions.

For more information on the revisions, see the interview with MFMTT member **Keith Robinson**, FCSC, RSW, LEED AP, in the May/June issue of *Construction Canada*.

Mastering MasterFormat Numbers and Titles

Note below the change in name and number



05 51 36 - Metal Walkways *
05 51 36.13 Metal Catwalks

Legal Matters

FOR SUBCONTRACT BID AWARDS, BE FAIR AND TRADITIONAL

By Bill Preston, April 2009 (reprinted with permission)

Since the 2001 decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *Naylor v. Ellis-Don*, judges have become much quicker to second guess a general contractor's award of a subcontract and to award damages where the general has chosen to use a subcontractor other than that which it listed on the owner's bid form. The only exception appears to be where the listed subcontractor can't be reasonably expected to meet the owner's construction requirements regarding schedule and/or workmanship. But, what about the situation where the owner/general process goes to post tender closing bidding? The recent Ontario case of *G & S Electric v. Devlan Construction Ltd.* gives a hint.

In this case, the Town of Tillson publically issued a competitive bid Invitation to select a general contractor to renovate its community centre. Of the many bids received, Devlan was the lowest compliant, and it listed G & S as its electrician. Devlan had sought prices from a number of electricians, and G & S was the lowest compliant. Nonetheless, Devlan's price was 30% above the Town's budget. Thus, the Town changed the scope of Work, including the electrical, and by a Post Tender Addendum sought revised bids from the three lowest compliant generals. In turn, Devlan sought re-pricing from G & S; and, without warning G & S, it also sought re-pricing from Prouse, a competitor who had offered a price for the initial bid call. Sounds fair, right?

Wrong! The Court concluded that Devlan had a duty to treat G & S fairly, consistently, and equally, and that Devlan had failed this duty; thus, it awarded G & S 130% of its notional net profit on its re-bid price, together with interest and costs! How come? Here are the facts which led the Court to this result:

1. Devlan learned before receiving back the electrical re-bid pricing that the other two low generals had refused the opportunity to re-bid;

2. Yet, Devlan chose not to advise G & S that it was in a competitive bid process with Prouse;

3. Prouse's re-bid price came in 6% (\$31,000) below G & S, and Devlan used Prouse's price and listed Prouse on its re-bid form, to effect a total saving of 22% (\$92,252) to the owner; and,

4. As a consequence, Devlan was awarded the job using Prouse, not G & S, as its electrician;

5. But, at the trial, G & S called an expert witness on "standard tendering practice for contractors" who testified:

"...the construction industry, for a number of years...followed informal guidelines issued by the Canadian Construction Association. These guidelines provide, in part, that if the project is over budget, the owner should negotiate with the low bidder, which should cascade down to the low subcontractor. In the event negotiations between owner and low general contractor should fail to produce a contract, bid requests could then be enlarged to the three low bidders from the general contractor level down to the subcontractors."

This expert impressed the trial judge, who concluded that Devlan's decision to not initially negotiate with G & S and to not warn G & S that Prouse was also invited to proffer a re-bid price, failed the smell test, and Devlan should, therefore, pay big time. He rationalized:

6. Having listed G & S on its initial bid, Devlan owed G & S a Contract A duty to treat G & S equally, consistently and fairly.

7. This duty continued during the period of the Town's Post Tender Addendum (not the same as cancellation and re-bid).

8. And, during this period, given there were no Invitation terms clearly prescribing otherwise, Devlan's Contract A duties obliged it to follow the informal guidelines opined by the expert

– negotiate with G & S, and if this fails, then announce a three low bidders' competitive bid process.

9. In the result, Devlan was found liable for G & S's notional net profit loss on its re-bid price together with an additional 30% reflecting G & S's lost opportunity to earn profits on Change Orders during the job.

Conclusion

This was only a trial decision, which has not been appealed. Nonetheless, there are some lessons, which I have taken from this decision:

10. Where the owner does not cancel the initial bid call, everyone (owners and generals) should realize that their Contract A duties persist during the post tender call process.

11. And, if there are no rules of behaviour clearly prescribing otherwise, then everyone should abide by the guidelines of CCDC 23.

12. Otherwise, the penalty price could be 130% of the disappointed bidder's notional profit plus interest, plus the bidder's court costs, plus your legal costs.

Looking Back

Genesis 1954 – 1963

Reprinted from Construction Specifications Canada – "Fifty Years of Serving the Construction Industry," 2005

A.W. Harper, SWA (Specification Writers Association) President, 1954-1955

"The forming of the Association was primarily to provide a liaison Group between general contractors, sub-contractors, specification writers and their employers, for the better understanding and co-ordination of effort, to produce the utmost in fulfillment of most satisfactory construction ... In my opinion, a day in a conscientious specification writer's life is lost, unless during that day has had learned something to further the betterment of building construction."

Governance

In 1951 an aspiring specification writer by the name of Denis Brough, FCSC, RSW, discovered a publication, *Construction Specifier*, which concerned itself with specification writing. Being impressed with its publisher, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), he joined the U.S.-based association. It occurred to Denis that if there were a common interest in Toronto on the subject of specification writing, a group could be formed without becoming a chapter of CSI. He explored this avenue in January 1953 by sending a letter to 20 architects and engineers to gauge interest.

An informal meeting at the old John B. Parkin office on Church Street in Toronto, on March 10, 1953 drew 10 architects, engineers and specification writers. The idea of an association similar to CSI met with general approval. A committee consisting of Denis Brough, FCSC, Art Harper and Max Bennet, FCSC was struck to discuss the development of better specifications and to pursue the establishment of an association. *Daily Commercial News*, a Toronto-based construction trade newspaper, published a brief report on the Committee's first meeting held April 20, 1953. A second meeting on September 20 set the ground work for an organizing meeting November 12 at the King Edward Hotel. With 50 interested persons in attendance, the association was conceived and an organizing committee was formed. The first Board of Directors was elected on April 12, 1954 with Art W. Harper as president. The Board met during the summer to mount a membership campaign. By August there were 101 paid-up members (at \$10 per annum) showing that there was indeed a need for an association dedicated to the improvement of specifications and drawings, with members drawn from all disciplines associated with construction.

A members' meeting was held October 20, 1954 at the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) headquarters in Toronto. There, the Specification Writers Association of Canada (SWAC) was born. The Association's first annual meeting was held April 27, 1955. Denis Brough assumed the presidency for a one-year term. He was followed by Orton Letherland, FCSC, and Stuart Frost, FCSC, RSW, in 1956 and 1957 respectively. During these years the Association gathered momentum and on June 30, 1958, a Federal Charter, or Coat of Arms, was granted to the Specifications Writers Association of Canada. There was also growing interest throughout the country and the granting of the Federal Charter was followed by the birth of long discussed chapters in Montreal and Ottawa. The Technical Committee was also formed in 1958, its prime function was to be the "scheduling, co-ordination and processing of all standard basic specifications within the association."

Coat of Arms

Below are excerpts from the original charter, or coat of arms as it was known, incorporating the Specification Writers Association of Canada on June 30, 1958.

Coat of Arms Canada By the Honourable Henri Courtemanche Secretary of State of Canada

*To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern,
Greeting:*

Whereas Robert Edward Briggs, Claude Stephan Jarrett, and Eric Braithwaite, Architects, Lionel Stuart Frost and Thomas Stanley Wallis, Specification Writers, Lorne Maxwell Bennett and John Knight McBride, Professional Engineers, Bertie Alexander, Estimator, and Russell William Cornell, Waterproofing Contractor, all of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, and Robert Victor Fernandez, of the Township of Scarborough in the said Province of Ontario, Specification Writer, have made application for a charter under the said Act, constituting them and such others as may become members in the corporation thereby created a body corporate and politic under the name of

Specification Writers Association of Canada

With all the rights and powers conferred by the said Act, and for the following purposes and objectives, namely:

- (a) To promote improved specification writing practices by means of standardization and uniformity throughout the building industry;*
- (b) To foster and promote the interests of those who are engaged in or who are directly or indirectly affected by the preparation, compilation or utilization of specifications for building construction;*
- (c) For the objects aforesaid to carry on printing and publishing and to sell and distribute literature pertaining to specifications for building construction.*

*The operations of the Corporation may be carried on throughout Canada and elsewhere.
The head office of the Corporation will be situated at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario. Given under my seal of office at Ottawa this thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight.*

Alex Cattanach
For the Secretary of State