



Infrastructure Growth
and the Power of Partnership

99th ANNUAL
ONTARIO ROAD
BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION

FEBRUARY 1–3, 2026
Fairmont Royal York, Toronto

99th ANNUAL ORBA CONVENTION

Dear Members and Industry Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to the **99th Annual Convention of the Ontario Road Builders' Association**, taking place **February 1–3, 2026**, at the **Fairmont Royal York** in downtown Toronto.

This year's theme, "**Connecting Ontario: Infrastructure Growth and the Power of Partnership**," highlights the strength, resilience, and innovation that emerge when industry partners come together with a shared purpose. As Ontario's infrastructure landscape continues to grow and evolve, this event offers an invaluable opportunity to collaborate, gain insight, and contribute to shaping the province's transportation future.

Our program features **two compelling keynote presentations**, each addressing the critical trends and forces influencing our sector today.

In a rapidly expanding province, the demand for efficient, sustainable, and interconnected infrastructure has never been greater. Our first keynote speaker will delve into the pivotal role of partnership—between governments, contractors, consultants, and communities—in driving successful project delivery. Learn how collaborative models, shared expertise, and unified vision can accelerate infrastructure growth and strengthen Ontario's long-term economic and social wellbeing.

Our second keynote will show how strategic resilience fuels lasting success, this presentation will provide practical insights into how your organization can adapt and thrive in an era of unprecedented change.

Together, we have the opportunity to build stronger connections—across sectors, across regions, and across our industry. Join us as we come together to learn, collaborate, and help drive the next chapter of Ontario's infrastructure development.

Sincerely,

Mark Mallett, ORBA Board Vice President



2026 ORBA CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mark Mallett	Peter Kiewit Sons ULC
Malcolm Croskery	Pioneer Construction Inc.
Kourtney Adamson	Yellowline Asphalt Products Ltd.
Cam Becker	Steed & Evans
Christopher Campbell	Imperial Oil
Richard Perzan	Brandt Tractor Ltd.
Rick Tamburro	The Miller Group, A Colas Company
Graziela Girardi	R.W. Tomlinson Limited
John Mackay	Fowler Construction
Jamie DiLaudo	Amico
Afra Shokraei	Black and McDonald Limited
Walid Abou-Hamde	ORBA

THE 2026 ORBA CONVENTION
A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

99th ANNUAL ORBA CONVENTION

This year's 99th Annual Convention of the Ontario Road Builders' Association will once again bring together the leaders, innovators, and collaborators who are driving Ontario's infrastructure forward. Connect with contractors, engineers, policy makers, and suppliers as we explore how strategic partnerships and forward-thinking investment are shaping the next era of provincial growth. Discover the trends, technologies, and collaborative models that will redefine how we build and connect communities across Ontario.

Join us for the Sunday evening Welcome Reception at Kelly's Landing, conveniently located just steps from the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Enjoy great food, reconnect with colleagues, and start the Convention with meaningful conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.

This year's program features a dynamic lineup of plenary discussions and breakout sessions led by industry experts and thought leaders. With more than 1,000 participants expected over two high-energy days, the 2026 ORBA Convention remains the industry's premier forum for networking, insight, and partnership.

Reserve your place today and be part of Ontario's next chapter.

Be part of the connection. Be part of the momentum.
Connecting Ontario Together—through Partnership and Progress.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser

Four-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame



Dan Gardner

Risk Management, Forecasting, and Big Projects, Award-Winning Journalist, Bestselling Author of How Big Things Get Done

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

INDUSTRY
MUNICIPAL
PROVINCIAL
TECHNICAL
DEVELOPERS
ACADEMIA

Contractors, Producers and Industry Suppliers
Councillors, Public Works Engineers and Designers
MTO Staff
Consultants, Engineers, Technologists, Inspectors and Contract Administrators
Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) and Residential
Students, Faculty and Researchers



Go to
<https://www.orba.org/events/99th-annual-orba-convention>
for more information
and register today!

* Please note that the program is subject to change.

SUNDAY
FEB 1

6:00–11:00 PM | WELCOME RECEPTION
Members Only
KELLY'S LANDING
123 Front St W., Toronto ON

Sponsored by **DECAST**

Monday

DAY 1
FEBRUARY 2

7:00 AM **REGISTRATION/CHECK IN**
BALLROOM FOYER

7:00 AM **WELCOME BREAKFAST BUFFET**
CONCERT HALL

Sponsored by: **HUB**

8:00 AM **WELCOME AND OFFICIAL CONVENTION OPENING**
CANADIAN ROOM

Sponsored by: **HUB**

- **Walid Abou-Hamde**, CEO, ORBA
- **Mark Mallett**, ORBA Board Vice President
- **Stephen Laforme**, Elder/Knowledge Keeper for Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations

8:40 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** CANADIAN ROOM

Sponsored by: **PLATFORM**



Dan Gardner

Risk Management, Forecasting, and Big Projects, Award-Winning Journalist, Bestselling Author of How Big Things Get Done

How Big Things Get Done – The Power of Planning and Partnerships

In this captivating keynote, Dan Gardner author of *How Big Things Get Done* reveals why most projects struggle and what sets the rare successes apart. Drawing on groundbreaking research and real-world examples, Gardner uncovers the hidden forces and partnerships that shape how we conceive, plan, and deliver big endeavors. Whether you're leading a global infrastructure build or tackling a home renovation, his insights will transform the way you think about projects — helping you plan smarter, execute better, and dramatically increase your odds of success.

9:40 AM **PLENARY SESSION I** CANADIAN ROOM

Building the Future—Leadership in Construction

The panel aims to generate forward-looking dialogue among industry leaders, offering both strategic vision and practical insights that can guide the construction sector into a more innovative, sustainable, and resilient future.

SPEAKERS:

- **Kieran Hawe**, President & Chief Executive Officer, EllisDon
- **Geoffrey Stephens**, Chief Executive Officer, Capital Paving & Fowler Construction Company
- **Mike McMillan**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Toromont
- **John Pontarollo**, COO, GIP

MODERATOR:

Walid Abou-Hamde, CEO, ORBA

Monday

DAY 1
FEBRUARY 2



11:00 AM **AM REFRESHMENT BREAK** CONVENTION FLOOR FOYER

Sponsored by:



11:20 AM **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

■ **SESSION A:**

It's Not Always the Binder – Discussing Alternative Solutions to Quality Roads – A Northeast Perspective

This session will explore how Ontario's extensive binder grade system compares to approaches used across the Northeast U.S. Greg Harder, P.E., NE Regional Engineer for the Asphalt Institute, will share insights on how quality roads are achieved without complex binder restrictions. Attendees will learn practical strategies for maintaining pavement performance and consistency in a post-specification-harmonization environment.

SPEAKER:

Greg Harder, P.E., *Senior Regional Engineer, Asphalt Institute*

■ **SESSION B:**

Legal Landscape 2026: Essential Updates in Construction Law, OHS, ESA, and WSIA

As Ontario's construction sector continues to navigate an evolving legislative and regulatory environment, staying current on legal obligations and risks has never been more critical. This session will provide ORBA members with a comprehensive, plain-language overview of the most significant updates to the Construction Act, including developments related to the annual release of holdback, evolving lien and trust rights, key changes to adjudication, and emerging expectations around proper invoicing. The presenters will also walk through major recent court and adjudication decisions shaping claims, contractual exposure, and industry best practices.

The session will then shift to crucial updates across workplace legislation, including the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Employment Standards Act, and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act. Attendees will gain practical insight into regulatory changes, compliance requirements, and enforcement trends that carry day-to-day operational impacts for contractors, employers, and project owners, equipping industry leaders with the knowledge needed to manage risk, strengthen compliance, and prepare their organizations for the year ahead.

12:05 PM **LUNCHEON 'CAESAR' RECEPTION** CONCERT HALL FOYER

Sponsored by:



12:35 PM **LUNCHEON** CONCERT HALL

Sponsored by:



Monday

DAY 1
FEBRUARY 2

2:05 PM **PLENARY SESSION II** CANADIAN ROOM

Fireside Chat with Metrolinx

Join us for an exclusive fireside chat with Michael Lindsay, President and CEO of Metrolinx, and Walid Abou-Hamde, CEO, ORBA. Together, they'll explore the evolving transportation landscape for 2026 and beyond, highlighting innovation, infrastructure investment, and collaboration shaping Ontario's future mobility.

SPEAKER:

Michael Lindsay, *President and CEO, Metrolinx*

MODERATOR:

Walid Abou-Hamde, *CEO, ORBA*

3:05 PM **PLENARY SESSION III** CANADIAN ROOM

The Path to Major Project Success: From Vision to Delivery, and the Value of Client-Industry Partnership

This panel will explore the challenges and opportunities involved in advancing large-scale infrastructure programs shaping Ontario. Panelists will reflect on the critical early decisions that set projects up for success, including selecting the most suitable delivery model and assembling teams with the right expertise. The discussion will trace the progression from early planning into active delivery and explore how consistent engagement between clients and industry mitigates risk and drives successful execution.

4:05 PM **PM REFRESHMENT BREAK**

Sponsored by:



4:30 PM **ORBA & OAPC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS** ONTARIO ROOM

5:30 PM **TRAVEL TIME TO CONTRACTOR'S ROUND UP**

Sponsored by:



**6:00 PM –
2:00 AM**

Contractor's Round Up – Biggest Industry Party

Offsite at Real Sports Bar & Grill – 15 York St., Toronto ON

Sponsored by:



DAY 2
FEBRUARY 3

7:00 AM **REGISTRATION/CHECK IN**
BALLROOM FOYER

7:30 AM **AWARDS BREAKFAST BUFFET**
CONCERT HALL

Sponsored by:  **HUB**

8:00 AM **ORBA AWARDS**
CONCERT HALL

Sponsored by:  **HUB**

SPEAKERS:

- **ORBA CEO**
- **ORBA Past President**
- **ORBA President**
- **OAPC Chair**
- **OAPC Past Chair**

9:00 AM **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** CANADIAN BALLROOM



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Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser

Four-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame

Partnership in Action: Resilience that Drives Ontario's Growth

In this inspiring keynote, Dr. Hayley Wickenheiser — four-time Olympic gold medalist, Toronto Maple Leafs executive, and emergency physician — shares how strategic resilience fuels lasting success. Drawing on her remarkable journey from the ice rink to the ER, she reveals why true resilience isn't about "toughing it out" but mastering the deliberate skills to thrive under pressure. With evidence-based strategies and powerful stories, Wickenheiser equips audiences in every field to perform at their best, recover from setbacks, and sustain excellence without compromising mental health or well-being.

10:00 AM **AM REFRESHMENT BREAK** CONVENTION FLOOR FOYER

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DAY 2
FEBRUARY 3

10:20 AM **PLENARY SESSION IV** CANADIAN ROOM

Asphalt 4.0: Driving Innovation Toward a Sustainable Future

Discover how *Asphalt 4.0*, developed by the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA), is transforming one of the construction sector's biggest challenges—low productivity—through innovation, digitalization, and automation. By embracing smart technologies and data-driven solutions, Asphalt 4.0 paves the way for a more efficient, sustainable, and resilient industry.

Ontario and Canada face many of the same challenges and opportunities. Insights from Asphalt 4.0 will help ORBA and its members shape a sustainability action plan that supports the transition to a climate-neutral, circular economy and advances the Government's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050.

SPEAKER:

Dr. Carsten Karcher, *Secretary General, European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA)*

11:30 AM **LUNCHEON 'CAESAR' RECEPTION** CONCERT HALL FOYER

Sponsored by:



12:00 PM **LUNCHEON** CONCERT HALL

2:15 PM **PLENARY SESSION V** CANADIAN ROOM

Ministry of Transportation : Looking Ahead to 2026

Join Executive leaders from the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) to hear updates on MTO's major infrastructure projects, maintenance updates, the importance of positive relationships and collaboration driving success and insight into what's to come in 2026.

SPEAKERS:

- **Eric Doidge**, *Assistant Deputy Minister, Transportation Infrastructure Management Division*
- **Alain Beaulieu**, *Chief Engineer, Transportation Infrastructure Management Division*
- **Jason Ranger**, *Director, Operations Division*
- **Michelle McGrath**, *Director, Capital Program Delivery Branch*

3:15 PM **PM REFRESHMENT BREAK**

Sponsored by:



3:35 PM **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

MUNICIPAL PLANS & PROJECTS

■ **SESSION D:**

Municipal Session: Northern & Eastern Regions

- **Bruce Kenny**, *Director, Infrastructure Services, City of Ottawa*
- **Joe Reid**, *Director of Transportation and Operations, City of Belleville*
- **David Shelsted**, *Director of Engineering Services, City of Greater Sudbury*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE →

DAY 2
FEBRUARY 3

■ **SESSION E:**

Municipal Session: Southwest & GTA Regions

- **Salim Alibhai**, *Director, Capital Delivery-Transportation, Capital Infrastructure Services Public Works, York Region*
- **Emma Calvert**, *Director Infrastructure Planning & Engineering Services, City of Mississauga*
- **Jennie Dann**, *Director, Construction & Infrastructure Services, Environment & Infrastructure, City of London*
- **Jennifer Graham Harkness**, *Chief Engineer & Executive Director, ECS, City of Toronto*
- **Graeme Guthrie**, *Associate Director, Transportation Engineering Public Works, Niagara Region*
- **Janet Mosher**, *Senior Project Manager, Works Department, Transportation Infrastructure Management, The Regional Municipality of Durham*

4:30 PM **PLENARY SESSION VI** CANADIAN ROOM

How U.S–Canada Relations Are Reshaping the Construction Industry in Ontario

Canada and the United States share a deeply integrated economic and political relationship that has long shaped North American trade and infrastructure. Today, tariffs and shifting policies are disrupting supply chains, raising costs, and creating uncertainty for Canadian construction firms. This session will examine the historical context, current trade dynamics, and industry strategies to mitigate risks—from legal and procurement practices to interprovincial trade opportunities. We'll highlight supply chain challenges such as rising material costs and customs delays, while exploring practical solutions like tariff indexing, cost escalators, and improved planning. The goal is to equip the construction sector with insights to adapt, advocate, and thrive amid evolving US–Canada relations.

SPEAKERS:

- **Doug Porter**, *Chief Economist, BMO Financial Group*
- **Jamie Tronnes**, *Executive Director, Center for North American Prosperity and Security*

MODERATOR:

Catherine Clark, *President, Catherine Clark Communications Inc.*

5:30 PM **PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION** BALLROOM

Sponsored by:



6:30 PM **PRESIDENT'S DINNER** CANADIAN BALLROOM

- President's Inaugural Address
- Hall of Fame Awards & Inductions Ceremony
- Guess the Gross Prize Draw



9:00 PM **AFTER DINNER NIGHT CAP** ONTARIO ROOM

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