

MEA QUARTERLY UPDATE



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Picture Credits: Bridge 2 and 3 Replacement | The Town of The Blue Mountains

The View from Here

It is a privilege to serve as Executive Director of the Municipal Engineers Association. Throughout my municipal engineering career, the MEA has been a valued source of knowledge, professional development, and collaboration. Having benefited from the Association's work for many years, I am honoured to now support municipal engineers across Ontario as they deliver the infrastructure and services that build strong, resilient communities.

One of my priorities is maintaining a strong connection with our membership. Through The View from Here, I will share updates on Association activities, emerging issues, and key initiatives affecting our association.

I would also like to thank Dan Cozzi, P.Eng., for his guidance and support during the leadership transition. His dedication has helped establish a strong foundation for the MEA, and I am grateful for the opportunity to build upon that success.

The MEA continues to be a trusted voice within the municipal engineering sector, providing technical expertise and advocacy that supports informed decision-making at both the municipal and provincial levels. As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering value to our members and strengthening the Association's impact. Important initiatives currently underway include proposed changes affecting OPSS.MUNI standards and the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process. Updates on these and other priorities are included throughout this newsletter.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead and at our Annual Conference in Vaughan this November.

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MEA CONFERENCE 2026

MEA 2026 Conference & AGM- Registrations Open

Registration for the MEA's 2026 Conference & AGM is now open!

This year's annual Conference will be hosted by the City of Vaughan at Universal Eventspace from November 10 - 13, 2026.

This year's conference theme is:
Building a World Class City.

Hotel reservations is currently live on the conference homepage on the MEA website.



Summary of the Conference Program:

- 36+ Technical Presentations (2 concurrent sessions, Wed-Fri)
- Tradeshow (Wed.-Thurs.): featuring 50+ product/equipment/engineering vendors,
- Tradeshow Launch Event (Tues. evening)
- MEA's Awards Luncheon (Wed.)
- MEA's Annual General Meeting (Thurs morning)
- 3 Tours to choose from (Thurs afternoon)
- Annual Steve Carroll East-West Hockey Classic (Thurs afternoon)
- President's Gala (Thurs evening)

MEA CONFERENCE 2026

MEA 2026 Conference & AGM- Registrations Open (Continued)

- Hospitality Networking Events
- Wednesday Evening Social Event at Canada's Wonderland with access to the park rides, games, a caricature artist, a fire pit for smores, and more.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register for the Conference and for information on hotel reservations.

Attending the MEA Conference can be applied toward the PEO's mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program. Full conference attendance would represent up to 14 CPD hours. Single day attendance would represent up to 7 CPD hours (Wed); 3.5 hours (Thurs) and 3.5 hours (Fri).

The MEA has made arrangements with 3 hotels adjacent to Universal Event Space. All are offering group rates starting at \$209 per night (plus taxes) and they include a complimentary breakfast.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's conference!

2026 MEA Awards Program

The MEA recognizes its members through an annual awards program and is actively seeking nominations for the 2026 “MEA Award” which recognizes an Engineer or Engineers forming a Project Team who have provided outstanding service to society and the community, been recognized for work related accomplishments in an engineering project of above average merit, and/or have a record of long-term service.

Nominations can be made online or by completing the PDF form and emailing it to admin@municipalengineers.on.ca

The nomination deadline is Friday September 11, 2026.

Please consider nominating an MEA member from your municipality.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

MEA Receives Host in Vaughan Grant Support for MEA Conference 2026

The MEA is pleased to announce that it has been approved to receive funding through the Host in Vaughan Grant Program in support of the MEA Conference 2026, which will be held in the City of Vaughan.

Paul Acquaah, P. Eng. – Second Vice President of the MEA recently attended a presentation at Vaughan City Hall, where the organization was recognized by Mayor Steven Del Duca and the City of Vaughan for bringing one of Ontario’s premier municipal engineering events to the community.

MEA extends its sincere appreciation to the City of Vaughan and Tourism Vaughan for their support and looks forward to welcoming delegates to Vaughan in November 2026.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full article.

Free Webinar by ACEC- Ontario

In partnership with McMillan LLP, ACEC- Ontario is hosting a virtual session titled Navigating Non-Payment: Strategic Use of Legal Tools While Preserving Client Relationships. While the session is framed from the consulting engineering perspective, we believe it offers valuable insight for clients as well, particularly in understanding how industry partners approach payment challenges, risk, and dispute resolution under Ontario's Construction Act, including adjudication and prompt payment requirements. The discussion will provide a practical overview of how these tools are applied in practice, how disputes can escalate, and, importantly, how they can often be managed collaboratively to preserve long-term working relationships.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Highlight your Project

Send us your project picture to highlight on the MEA newsletter cover. This edition showcases Bridge 2 and 3 Replacement from the Town of The Blue Mountains.

Email to admin@municipalengineers.on.ca

Nominations for MEA- Board of Directors

Are you interested in helping the MEA shape municipal engineering in Ontario? You can contribute by serving on the MEA's Board of Directors. The MEA Nominating Committee is currently addressing how many vacancies will exist at the end of the current Board term and will be searching for eligible candidates to fill these spots. To be considered by the MEA's Nominating Committee for election to the MEA Board of Director at the 2026 AGM on November 12, 2026, Section 6.04 of the MEA Constitution/By-Law specifically states the following:

Additional candidates for the vacant positions on the Board may be nominated but such additional candidates must be Voting Members (excluding Life Members) nominated by their fellow Voting Members. Such nominations shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Director, comprised of the signatures of five (5) other Voting Members, representing five (5) separate municipalities, at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Members. Such nomination and sponsorship must be in writing and filed with such officer as the Board shall direct and within the time period therein prescribed. In the event the Nominating person is a Life Member and is retired, the requirement that a Nominator represent a municipality is waived.

Nominations **must** follow the above requirements to be considered eligible. **The deadline to submit nominations for the 2026/2027 Board term is midnight, Friday August 28, 2026** (at least 75 days prior to the AGM). Please submit nominations to admin@municipalengineers.on.ca



Thanks to our **Platinum Sponsor**
2026 MEA Conference & AGM



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Business Areas



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ENGINEERED PRECAST



CONCRETE PRESSURE PIPE



BRIDGES & GIRDERS



TUNNELING

MEA Committee Volunteers Needed

The MEA currently needs to fill vacancies on the following Committees:

- MEA Climate Change Committee (2)
- MEA Connected Cities Committee (2)
- OPS Grading Committee (1)

If you are interested in participating in one of the above committees, please contact rsharma@municipalengineers.on.ca.

If you are interested in volunteering for other MEA committees, [submit an application to MEA.](#) *(you will need to log-in)*

For a complete listing of all MEA Committees, [CLICK HERE](#)



MEA Employment Ads

The Go-To Place for Engineering Career Opportunities

With MEA's membership growing strong to over 1,200 professional engineers province-wide, who are employed by Ontario municipalities and provincial/federal agencies, the MEA's Careers Page has become the go-to resource for technical job advertisement in the public sector in Ontario.

in the 12-month period ending August 31, 2024, MEA had over 32,000+ unique visitors to its Careers Page of the the MEA website who viewed 255 job postings.

You can also join over 450 subscribers to the MEA's week career opportunities email.

To view career opportunities or to subscribe:

[**CLICK HERE**](#)





Thanks to our Gold Sponsors

2026 MEA Conference & AGM



MEA TRAINING & EVENTS

OPS 101 (Intro to OPS) October 14-15, 2026



The MEA is offering a OPS 101 course (webinar) on Ontario Provincial Standards (OPS). It will be delivered in 1 session at approximately 3.5-hours. This course/webinar represents 3.5 CPD/CEU hours.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

Introduction to MCEA Webinar June 9-11, 2026

Learn what the Class EA process is all about from an instructor who has conducted many such planning exercises since the inception of the Municipal Class EA over 35 years ago. This course/webinar qualifies for 7.5 CPD/CEU hours. More details about this course will be provided in the winter of 2026 – stay tuned!

OPS 201 (Planning and GC) October 21-22, 2026



The MEA is offering a OPS 201 webinar about Ontario Provincial Standards. It will be delivered in 2 modules over 2 days at approximately 3-hours per day. This course/webinar represents 6 CPD/CEU hours.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more info.

Municipal Infrastructure Training

The **MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING** program is a series of courses on the design, construction, maintenance, and inspection of a wide range of infrastructure assets.

MIT program formally recognizes the amalgamated training efforts of individuals in a number of categories which are highly valued by municipal infrastructure professionals.

Certifications are offered for the following specializations:

- **Construction Materials**
- **Inspection**
- **Road Design**
- **Buried Infrastructure**
- **Generalist**

For more information

[CLICK HERE!](#)



MEA TRAINING & EVENTS

Planning 101 for Municipal Engineers September 22, 2026

The MEA is pleased to announce its inaugural offering of the new course- Planning 101 for Municipal Engineers. This course will provide an overview of land use planning and will enhance understanding between engineering and planning fields. Attendees will be introduced to the Planning Act and related requirements, terms and tools. As well, attendees will learn about the role of municipal engineering as it relates to development and growth. This course is intended for engineers involved in development review and planning future infrastructure.

Course Instructor: Karen Whitney is the recently retired Director, Development Services for the Region of York who spent her entire career in municipal planning.

Date: September 22, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Where: Virtually via Zoom

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register.

MEA WEBINARS



MUNICIPAL
ENGINEERS
ASSOCIATION



Webinar Library

MEA FREE Webinars | Stay Connected

To see/view recordings of past webinars,
[CLICK HERE!](#)



Municipal Class EA

MCEA REFORM UPDATE

In 2023, the Ministry proposed replacing the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) with a new Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP). In February 2024, MECP confirmed its intent to move forward with the new regulation, which would apply only to 17 higher-risk water and wastewater projects, while exempting all other municipal projects from the Environmental Assessment Act. MEA supported this streamlined approach.

MECP also received input from others and in December 2025, MECP posted revisions to their new plans for EA reform. The Ministry's new 2025 proposal continued to include revoking the MCEA and replacing it with the MPAP. However, the new 2025 proposal also included a new Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP). The MPAP would still be required for the 17 higher risk water and wastewater projects (Schedule C water/wastewater projects from the MCEA) while the AAP would be required for reduced risk projects (Schedule B water/wastewater projects and Schedule B & C road projects from the MCEA).

The MPAP is viewed as a reasonable replacement for the MCEA Schedule C process – similar in complexity and effort. However, the AAP is an entirely new process. The AAP, as currently proposed by MECP, only requires consideration of the impacts on archaeological resources and only Indigenous Communities (IC) are required to be consulted. The MEA recognizes that IC's and other stakeholders are interested in topics beyond only archaeological resources and proponents will need to address other issues, such as environmental impacts, in addition to archaeological resources.

Municipal Class EA

MCEA REFORM UPDATE- Continued

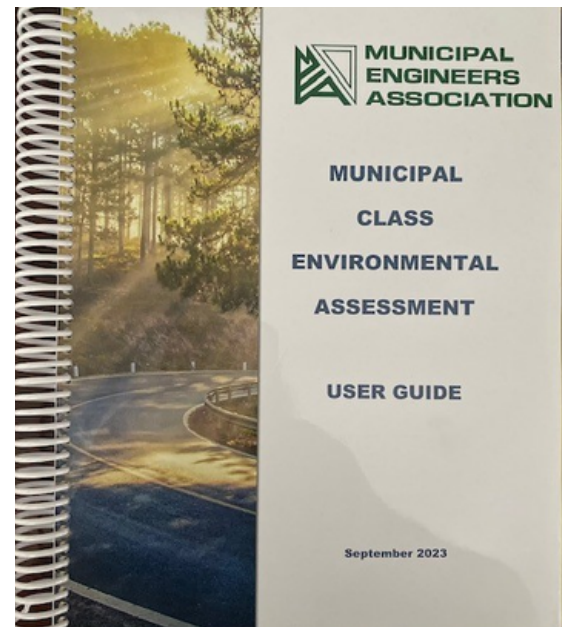
The MEA has been in regular contact with the MECP and understands that the regulation to revoke the MCEA and enact the MPAP/AAP is pending. To ensure the MEA is ready to support our membership and practitioners delivering quality projects across the province, the MEA has established a Working Committee of subject matter experts and retained a consulting firm to prepare guidance documentation and training materials to be ready for rollout in early 2027 if not sooner.

MCEA USER GUIDE

While the MECP is planning to revoke the MCEA, until the new MPAP Regulation is approved, the current MCEA process still applies. The MEA continues to offer its *MCEA User Guide (September 2023)* publication for proponents. It is currently available for purchase in hard copy format only.

To order the hardcopy version, [CLICK HERE](#).

Note: Once the MECP finalizes its implementation of the new MPAP Regulation, MEA plans to develop a new publication to replace the current *MCEA User Guide*.



2025 MCEA Monitoring Report

The MEA has submitted its annual Municipal Class EA Monitoring Report to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the 2025 MCEA Monitoring Report.

OPS Updates

The provincial government has introduced Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025, Supporting the Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards. As part of that regulation the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act (PTHIA) was amended to support the harmonization of municipal road construction standards. A new Minister's regulation is being proposed to make Ontario Provincial Standards for Municipal Road Construction (OPSS.MUNI) mandatory for municipalities with respect to many standards including asphalt, aggregates, drainage, concrete, and general conditions of contract. The proposed regulation would also include provisions for a transition period, a process for exemptions, and reporting requirements for municipalities.

The MEA is undertaking consultation with representatives of the MTO and coordinating concerns regarding these proposed regulations with our municipal and industry partners. Many share similar concerns regarding the scope of the regulation and the uncertainty of how exemptions will be granted and what reporting will be required. The regulation is intended to support the government's goal of building more homes faster but is more likely to negatively impact Ontarians by increasing construction costs, reducing the quality of infrastructure, adding levels of bureaucracy, inducing severe limitations on innovation and likely to increase the time to complete projects across the province.

The MEA Board of Directors recognizes the critical role that OPSS.MUNI specifications play in the effective delivery of municipal infrastructure and the need for focused attention to support their ongoing development and implementation. To advance this priority, the MEA has established a

OPS Updates- Continued

dedicated OPS Advisor position. Chris Traini, Past President of both MEA and OGRA, has generously volunteered to serve in this role and will lead the Association's efforts in this important area.

If the regulation is passed there is a monumental hurdle in reviewing and revising over 60 OPSS.MUNIs and developing an exemption and reporting process before the intended implementation date of July 1, 2027. MEA will be coordinating with our existing team of volunteers and reaching out for new volunteers to assist with this task. Please watch your email inbox for more details in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or comments in the meantime please feel free to reach out to Chris directly at:

Chris Traini, P.Eng.

Ontario Provincial Standards Coordinator and Advisor

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**IF YOU HAVE IDEAS OR
CONTENT** OR WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE
CONTACT US @
info@municipalengineers.on.ca



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