

## **CHAIR'S REPORT 2021**

**Trevor Hildebrand**

**May 2021**

### ***Leading the Change***

If 2020 has shown us anything it has reinforced the need for our provincial trade association. In close collaboration with 20 other provincial and regional construction associations, the mechanical contracting industry in BC proved that it could deliver excellence in a demanding, challenging and changing environment that required new protocols and adherence to the strictest of standards. As a result of these efforts and the collective commitment of the construction industry, we continue to be defined as essential during the pandemic. Most important going forward is that we maintain COVID-19 vigilance, continuously assessing and improving our practices and demonstrating exemplary leadership.

Of MCABC's six pillars, Leadership was and continues in 2021 to be the primary pillar of focus for the Board of Directors and Association staff. The theme of our two-day conference is *Leading the Change* – signifying the transition from the industry, as we knew it, to the potential for an industry recognized as an influencer that is shaping the way forward. We are forging new relationships while collaborating closely with stakeholders to ensure that mechanical contractors – new construction and service – are enablers of carbon reduction and electrification; we have embraced and are proponents of advanced technology such as BIM; advocates for issues, such as the introduction of prompt payment legislation; and the resource for professional development customized for mechanical contractors in BC. We are focused on these priorities while maintaining a commitment to learning how we can generate increased diversity, attract broader geographical representation, and deliver value that is measured equally as important to dedicated service contractors as it is to the new construction contractors.

From an administrative perspective, MCABC's Board of Directors has been focused on building a governance model that can sustain an evolving and strengthened industry. We have formalized an ambitious five-year plan – a balanced scorecard that is driven by the six pillars of Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Collaboration, Skilled Trades and Innovation. The key elements of our plan will be a reference point that members and stakeholders can access on our Web site in the near future. While good governance has been a priority, how that plan is executed is key. I am very pleased with the progress being made at the Association level to align expertise with the expectations of our members.

My term as Chair started almost one year ago, during the pandemic and shortly after the Board of Directors committed to initiating and leading the change for mechanical contractors in BC. Our foot is on the pedal. We continue to push forward and while the pandemic has changed how we do business, we have not slowed down; in fact, we've accelerated our focus on delivering value. More than any other time, what the past year has reinforced, is that the mechanical contracting industry is stronger together.

Thank you to MCABC's Board of Directors for their strategic insight, passion for and commitment to our industry, to Association staff for their drive and determination, and to all MCABC members for your support, vigilance, and belief that together we can lead the drive for necessary change.

Finally, I would like to thank Henry DeJong who has served on the Board of Directors for five years, half of that time as one of the Vice chairs. Henry will be retiring from the Board of Directors at the end of this AGM. During his time on the Board, Henry has been on the bylaws, covenant, nominations, CEO search and executive committees. He has been a great asset and advocate for the board, and I personally have enjoyed sitting on the board and working with Henry. We wish him all the best.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor Hildebrand  
Chairman of the Board

