



David W. Wilson
Wilcraft Concrete Services

“It’s been a great industry and I’ve enjoyed the hell out of it!”

David Wilson was only a week into his job as Project Manager at a pulp mill when his career unexpectedly changed course. The catalyst, a 21” high, 106” long wall, which came crashing onto a neighbouring building’s roof.

The repairs ended up being a \$2.5 million job that introduced Wilson to concrete restoration and the rest, as they say, is history. Now, with more than 40 years’ experience in Atlantic Canada’s Construction Industry, David Wilson of Wilcraft Concrete Services is a fitting recipient of CANS Honourary Lifetime Membership.

If you know Wilson, you know that he comes by his entrepreneurial spirit honestly. One of five children, Wilson isn’t the only entrepreneur in the family. “We’re all oriented that way. My dad’s the incubator of it all, at the age of 40 he started and developed his own business,” shared Wilson.

“My dad actually gave me a great piece of advice. At one point I was trying to run two or three different entities, and none of them were getting enough [of my] time. He looked at me and he said, ‘Dave, stick to your nitty. Pick one and work it.’ So, that’s what I did.”

Throughout his career, Wilson has been struck by the dedication of people in construction. “There’s a lot of respect in the industry for folks who work hard. We celebrate success,” said Wilson, “As Keith McRae said — when he received [his HLM] award a few years ago, ‘If you’re lazy, you’re stupid.’”

It’s this bluntness, a unique mix of competitive edge, paired with a spirit of comradery that Wilson loves about this industry. “One of the things I like best about construction are the people in it, no-nonsense, hard-working decision-makers, you know?”

To that end, Wilson cannot underestimate the value of getting involved. “If you’re new to this industry, meet the people, enjoy the people, build your networks. It’s hard to be all things to all people, therefore, know some people who know some stuff!

“I’ve had a lot of great years at the Construction Association. Learned a lot, laughed a lot, and met so many great folks,” explained Wilson.

With his keen spirit and strong, entrepreneurial attitude it’s unlikely Wilson will embrace retirement anytime soon. “I’ll probably take a step back... we’ll see how it rolls,” he said with a smirk, when asked about the next five, ten years.

The future looks bright to Wilson, who believes that the industry is building on its successes.

“The industry is improving with knowledge, people, products and technology. All of those pieces are really coming together. Twenty years ago, you never would have found a GPS on a bulldozer.” That said, there are still some key factors to prepare for in the next few years.

“There’s going to be a bottleneck on people. Even with the science and technology that’s involved you’re still gonna need a guy to grab a shovel,” predicted Wilson.

“It’s about getting and finding the right people. People that A, want to be there and B, want to contribute. Whenever you have generation differences, you’ve got the possibility for misunderstandings, but when everybody’s doing their job that disappears and the re-spect builds.”

“It’s a great industry with great people, that is a wonderful thing. When you have good people, good things happen.”

David Wilson is President of Wilcraft Concrete Services. He was CANS Chairman in 2001 and sat on CANS Board for several years. We are proud to welcome him as a Honourary Lifetime Member.



Mary Van Buren
President

**Canadian
 Construction
 Association**



The Power of the Industry in Influencing the Government

#Construction4CDNs

I encourage you to visit construction4cdns.ca and join us in our campaign to build a better Canada. There is strength in numbers and the more letters received; the more our voice is heard.

With the federal election taking place next month, CCA is building on the momentum from last year’s Hill Day with a website dedicated to advocate our issues directly to members of parliament (MP) and election candidates.

The website, launched June 20, champions national issues that matter to our members around strengthening investor confidence, long-term infrastructure planning, supporting innovation and attracting a skilled and diverse workforce. It also includes an online advocacy tool whereby members can easily send a pre-populated letter to their local MP or election candidate to push our agenda forward with government.

Hill at Home

We also organized a Hill at Home day whereby CCA set up meetings for chief operating officers (COOs) of local associations, our board and corporate members to meet with their local MP to discuss the issues we want to advance during the election and beyond. Over 60 meetings were held with many MP’s expressing support for the industry.

Prompt Payment

CCA advocated for a consultative process prior to finalizing legislation on federal payment. The government agreed to run this process through the services of the Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel law firm. Following their report in June 2018, which addressed CCA’s concerns and recommendations, prompt payment legislation was announced as part of the federal government’s fall economic statement on November 21, 2018 and officially introduced on April 8, 2019 as the Federal Prompt Payment for Construction Work Act, a sub-section of Bill C-97, the Budget Implementation Act of 2019. We are proud to announce that the Federal Prompt Payment for Construction Work Act received royal assent on June 21, 2019. The date of its official enactment remains undetermined, but, according to various related documents, is designated to come into force “on a day to be fixed by order of the governor-in-council.” CCA will be working with the government on the development of policies that would make the legislation as efficient as possible.