



# BULLETIN

BC Construction Association

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## Waste Management Act Under Review

The members of BCCA have often indicated that the *Waste Management Act* is a piece of legislation in need of a significant overhaul. It was in fact one of the recommendations put forward by BCCA in their submission to the Minister of State for Deregulation. We are therefore pleased by the recent announcement from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection that a comprehensive review of the Act was under way.

This will be the first comprehensive review of the *Waste Management Act* since its creation 20 years ago. The Act is a regulatory behemoth, accounting for about 40% of the Ministry's total regulatory requirements, all stemming from its basic premise of prohibiting the introduction of waste into the environment. As industrial activity changed over the past 20 years the government responded by creating regulation to fit the circumstances resulting in a morass of policies, protocols, regulations and site-specific permits.

The current review has stated that its goal is to ensure:

- That British Columbia has effective waste management and pollution legislation that will protect human health and the environment; and
- That efficiency and effectiveness are increased by reducing government costs, reducing the costs of those that must meet environ-

mental standards, reducing conflict and litigation, eliminating service backlogs, providing incentives to best practices and focusing efforts in areas where there is the greatest risk to the environment.

The Ministry will be taking a hard look at the process currently in place for obtaining authorization under the Act, that is, getting a permit or site-specific approval. They recognize that too much time and expense is used up in applying and achieving approvals, and they are examining ways to improve this situation. In particular they recognize that the approval process has resulted in long delays waiting for responses and back-logs have been created. They hope to correct this problem. The appeal process is also to be reviewed and a new and improved contaminated sites administration process is being developed.

The Ministry wants to encourage new innovative practices and the use of modern environmental management tools. They are looking to develop a framework that is responsive and employs new thinking. Under consideration are:

- performance based standards;
- risk-based classification system for discharges to the environment;
- possibly introducing financial incentives, area based plans, environmental contracts and covenants;
- increased reliance on non-governmental professionals; and
- web based client services.

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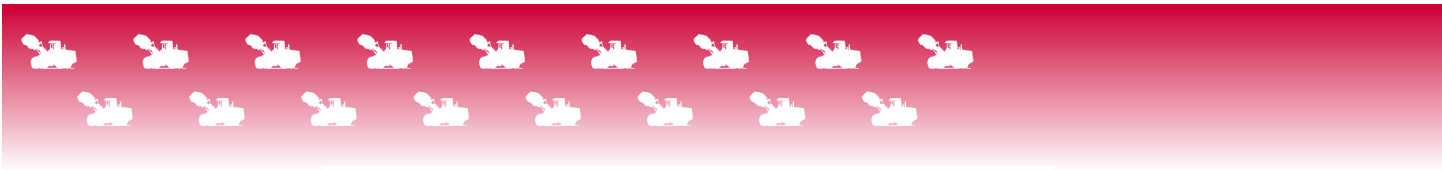
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## Waste Management Act Under Review (cont')

All of this is potentially good news for the construction industry. The Ministry is looking for input from interested parties and three discussion papers will be available on-line over the next few months at [http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/waste\\_mgt\\_review/index.html](http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/epd/waste_mgt_review/index.html). The first paper on Authorizations is already available at that website.

The review will be a lengthy process and is expected to take about 18 months to complete. Some short-term measures may be identified and implemented during that time. For those interested, regular updates will be posted on the above mentioned website.

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## ITAC Launches Pilot E-Learning Project

The Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission (ITAC) recently launched an exciting and innovative trades training pilot that workers can access over the internet. Developed with the support of Federal Government of Canada's Office of Learning Technologies (OLT), this pilot seeks to discover how e-Learning can best be used to support new models of trades training in the workplace.

"Introduction to Industrial Hydraulics" covers Industrial Hydraulics basics and features colourful animations, detailed graphics and online quizzes to present some of the best examples of entertaining and effective online learning. The course is free of charge, does not require the purchase of software, takes 2 to 4 hours to complete and includes instructor support by phone and email. Initial trials are showing a high level of satisfaction with the course, even from those students who do

not have computer experience.

A key component of the project is getting substantial feedback from all participating employers and employees. Together with their partners British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and TransTech Interactive, an e-Learning company, ITAC is looking for ways to improve access to training and provide flexibility and options for apprentices across the province.

For workers interested in enrolling, more information is available on the Web at [HTTP://online.bcit.ca/hydr](http://online.bcit.ca/hydr) or by contacting Vivian Husbands at BCIT (Tel: 604-451-6868 or [Vivian\\_Husbands@bcit.ca](mailto:Vivian_Husbands@bcit.ca)).

For companies interested in setting up their own pilot, please contact Dave Arnatt, project manager (Tel: 250-514-4261 or [dave.arnatt@mobiugroup.com](mailto:dave.arnatt@mobiugroup.com)).

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**REMINDER:** *The BCCA 200 Standard Form of Construction Contract between the Prime Contractor and the Subcontractor has been discontinued. In its place we are pleased to offer the new CCA 1 Subcontract which can be purchased at your Regional Construction Association.*

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The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of and service to British Columbia's construction industry