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ONTARIO CONTRACTORS' INSIGHT ON THE ICI CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

In addition to the business outlook, the survey updates much of the data captured by the OCS through the pandemic

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Toronto, ON. – For the past fifteen years, the Ontario Construction Secretariat's (OCS) Contractor Survey has captured the industry's business outlook for the coming year while monitoring critical issues affecting the industry. This year's Contractor Survey polls Ontario's ICI contractors to gauge their business expectations for the year ahead and captures their views on salient issues in the industry.

The *2021 Contractor Survey* is released as part of the 21st Annual State of the Industry and Outlook Conference, being held virtually today. This informative and well-attended half-day conference hosted, by the OCS, is where industry experts unravel economic indicators, construction indicators that illustrate how Ontario fared in 2020, and give insight on where the construction industry is headed in 2021.

The Contractor Survey updates much of the data captured at regular intervals by the OCS through the pandemic in the Coronavirus Contractor Survey Series. In addition to the annual business outlook, the survey also goes into greater detail examining the impact of the pandemic on health and safety practices and how there is an opportunity to create lasting positive change.

According to Katherine Jacobs, OCS Director of Research, "Contractors are optimistic about their prospects for the coming year, however there is still a great deal of uncertainty. Government investment in infrastructure and shovel-ready projects will allay some of that uncertainty by creating immediate job opportunities while also addressing Ontario's infrastructure needs."

Delivering the economic address, CIBC's Deputy Chief Economist Benjamin Tal back for the second year in a row, discussed the state of the current economic climate, possible outcomes as we continue to live with COVID-19 and shared insights on what the financial future holds for 2021.

Known as one of the most influential political analysts of our time, David Frum, delivering the keynote address, helped shed light on the current political climate and possible post-pandemic realities stating, "...nobody has thought to make a political issue out of the science of fighting pandemics."

In addition to presentations by Benjamin Tal and David Frum, other conference speakers included:

- Stephen Callender, Bass Installation, Afro Canadian Contractors Association (ACCA)

- Enzo Garritano, Infrastructure Health and Safety Association
- Katherine Jacobs, Ontario Construction Secretariat
- Ron Kelusky, Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development
- Erin Oliver, Modern Niagara
- Carmine Tiano, Provincial Building & Construction Trades Council of Ontario

To view the full agenda and learn more about the Conference, visit www.iciconstruction.com.

About the Ontario Construction Secretariat (OCS)

The OCS was formed in 1993 as a joint labour and management organization representing 25 unionized construction trades and their contractor partners in Ontario’s industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) construction sector. Its mandate is to enhance Ontario’s ICI construction industry by developing relationships, facilitating dialogue, providing value-added research, disseminating important information to client groups and promoting the value of ICI unionized construction across Ontario.

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