

Toronto 2025

2025 Conference CUPGA Workshops

Back to Basics: From the bottom up

Sunday, November 16, 2025 (PM) - Pre-Conference Workshop

Part 1: Back to Basics - A Discussion by the CTAA Directors

Connect with CTAA directors from across Canada as they discuss the subject of local focus toward quality in their area. New doesn't always mean better, what parts of Canada are focusing on new and emerging technology and what areas are taking a step back to the basics?

In recent years, the CTAA Directors have focused heavily on net zero goals, sustainability, and performance-driven quality. With new technologies and initiatives shaping the conversations of late, it's time to take a step back and revisit the fundamentals of asphalt and pavement design.

This discussion will explore how asphalt practices have evolved—or in some cases, regressed—over the last decade. Directors will share insights on what new technologies have delivered real results and which ones have fallen short. They'll examine whether regions are returning to core fundamentals and how training strategies are bridging gaps in knowledge, staffing, and experience.

Part 2: Mind the Gap: Age, Experience & the Future of Work in the Asphalt Industry

Join us for an engaging panel featuring well-known professionals and familiar faces in CTAA, each at different stages of their career. Through short, non-technical elevator pitches, they'll share their unique journeys, from first steps in the industry to the lessons that shaped their paths.

But this isn't just a storytelling session—it's a conversation. After the brief presentations, we'll open the floor for an interactive Q&A, allowing panelists and attendees to discuss the industry's growing staffing challenges. Expect insightful discussions on attracting and retaining talent, supporting career growth at all levels, and helping newer professionals successfully navigate the current market.

Come ready to share, learn, and collaborate in shaping the future of our industry!

Part 3: CTAA Ask the Expert

From Blueprint to Blacktop: The Wild Journey of Your Asphalt Mix Design– Interactive Discussion led by Domenic Passalacqua

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What happens at the plant when they have to make the design you created in the lab? Or the pavement design you have proposed on paper for your project? What happens when a single plant is manufacturing mixes for several different municipalities? An in-depth discussion on plant operations and how the process happens from design, to plant mixing, to placement.

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (PM) - Contractor's Workshop

Part 1: Paving the Way: What P3 projects can teach us about C3's - An interactive session on collaboration, communication, and construction excellence

P3's have revolutionized project delivery, offering valuable insights into collaboration, communication, and construction excellence. But how can these lessons be applied to conventional construction projects.

In this interactive session, industry experts will explore the strategies that make P3 projects successful—from stakeholder alignment to risk management—and discuss how these principles can enhance project efficiency. Attendees will gain practical takeaways on fostering teamwork, streamlining communication, and driving construction excellence, ensuring that cooperation leads to better results for everyone involved.

Come ready to engage, ask questions, and discover new ways to optimize project success through collaboration!

Part 2: Return of Construction Scene Investigation: Pavement Investigation Interactive Session

By popular demand from 2024 CUPGA returns with an all new interactive Slido Presentation of pavement failures and we as the audience: What caused the pavement failure?

A review of asphalt pavement failures, potential causes, and solutions (5-7 case studies to be presented). The audience is given various details from a pavement failure or issue through the stages of the investigation and is given the opportunity to try to determine the cause.

Part 3: The Road to Success is Always Under Construction.

Join a conversation with experienced industry leaders as they reflect on the challenges we face today and share insights from their journeys. Through open discussion, they'll offer thoughtful perspectives on how to navigate obstacles, ensuring that past mistakes become valuable lessons rather than repeated missteps.

As some of our most experienced professionals prepare for retirement, this is a rare and valuable chance to gain insights directly from them. Join us in learning from their wisdom, ensuring their hard-earned knowledge continues to shape the future of our industry. Don't miss this chance to learn from their experiences before they pass the torch to the next generation.

**Canadian Technical
Asphalt Association**



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Conference attendees will have an opportunity BEFORE the session to submit questions, specific problems or issues that will be brought to the panel to kickstart the discussion. Attendees will be able to vote or bump up questions or provide comments with challenges that will be presented by a moderator to the panel of experts.

Confirmed experts include Susan Tighe and Art Johnston.