

July 8, 2009

Stephen Bauld leaves Ontario General Contractors Association

PATRICIA WILLIAMS, staff writer

The Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA) is gearing up to recruit a new vice-president following the recent resignation of procurement expert Stephen Bauld.

Association president Clive Thurston said interviews with potential candidates will be conducted over the summer. A new vice-president is expected to be on board by mid-September.

"The number one thing we're looking for is someone who has a passion for this industry and a knowledge of the bidding and tendering processes," he said. "Knowledge of procurement would be an asset, but not an absolute requirement."

Bauld, considered a leading expert in both public and private procurement, is co-author of The Municipal Procurement Handbook. He joined OGCA early in 2006 following a stint as purchasing manager for the city of Hamilton.



A fixture on the lecture circuit for the past 20 years, Bauld earlier this year signed up with the Canadian Association of Professional Speakers.

In an interview, Bauld said he has been juggling speaking engagements and book-writing with his responsibilities at the OGCA.

"It was almost like having two full-time jobs," he said. "Something had to go."

His latest book on government procurement is set for release late this summer.

Topics include construction industry procurement. The book is being published by

LexisNexis.

Bauld's departure was announced in a bulletin issued Tuesday to OGCA members. Thurston said Bauld was "a great asset" in dealing with municipalities on procurement issues.

"What I admired most was his sense of fairness and willingness to see issues from both sides," he said in the bulletin. "He enhanced our ability to reach more owners and continue improving the relationships between owners and contractors in the Ontario construction industry."

For his part, Bauld said working at the OGCA had been "a very positive" experience.

"For me to have an opportunity to work with contractors and understand the other side (of the procurement fence) has been a tremendous asset."

He has devoted four chapters of a soon-to-be-published book on construction procurement.

Bauld, who is on the board of directors of the Ontario Institute of the Purchasing Management Association of Canada, said he might also end up doing some consulting work for OGCA or member companies.