

INVITATION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF CCIL

CCIL is pleased to introduce you to the many benefits of belonging to the Canadian Council of Independent Laboratories (CCIL). Please refer to our web page for more extensive information (www.ccil.com)

CCIL is a federally incorporated non-profit organization representing independent tax-paying professional firms engaged in testing and analysis, inspection, consulting engineering, quality control and applied research. Broadly based across Canada with over 220 member laboratories, the CCIL membership comprises the vast majority of the testing and analytical labs in Canada. The two main divisions within CCIL are the

- 1) environmental/life sciences division, and
- 2) the geotechnical/construction materials division

You will no doubt be interested in just some of the specific services offered and key initiatives that CCIL has tackled as a strong, professional organization on behalf of our members of the *geotechnical and construction materials testing industry*.

- A very strong lobbying effort was largely responsible for the **closing of the Ontario MTO's regional testing laboratories** in the late 1990s. The subsequent outsourcing of this work has been highly beneficial to our member firms.
- CCIL has been highly vigilant in ensuring our industry does not encounter **tax-favored competition**. There have been many examples over the years when a letter from CCIL has blocked such unfair competition.
- Both the aggregates and asphalt **laboratory certification programs** are highly regarded by both the private and the public sectors. These programs include:
 - Asphalt Laboratory Certification Program with over 130 participants in Ontario.
 - Aggregate Laboratory Certification Program with over 220 participants in Ontario.
 - The same programs in BC and Alberta with over 45 participants – and growing each year.
 - The development and implementation for the 1999 season of an Asphalt Laboratory Technician Certification Program (in Ontario).
 - Current expansion of these programs to other provinces.
 - **Fee discounts** for lab certification are offered to members.
- The recent acquisition (JUNE 2009) of the **CSA program for concrete laboratory qualification** (see press release plus Q&A on the CCIL web page)
- The preparation of a generic Laboratory Manual to serve as a stepping stone for laboratories looking to pursue ISO Guide 17025 Accreditation.
- The preparation of a brochure that is used by members to educate clients on the benefits of independent testing.

- **Benchmark surveys** (confidential) are conducted every two years allowing members who choose to participate to benchmark key business indicators against data from other member laboratories.
- **Frequent communication** to members on matters of common interest.
- A homepage on the World Wide Web (www.ccil.com), promoting CCIL member firms. As well, a hard-copy directory is published every two years.

These are the kind of initiatives and services that are of common interest and benefit to our industry and are best handled through a well-respected professional association that speaks with a strong and collective voice.

ABOUT CCIL

CCIL holds regular meetings for members, meets regularly with applicable divisions of government and is constantly vigilant about issues that affect our membership. The organization is financially healthy and is managed in an effective and responsive manner. The national board members are highly committed to the organization and communicate regularly.

CCIL employs a full-time Office Administrator (Francine Fortier-ThéBerge) and provides a fully bilingual service out of our national office in Ottawa. The executive director is Allan Maynard who represents CCIL on some of the key advocacy issues. The program manager is Nabil Kamel.

There is no doubt that your organization will benefit from membership in CCIL. As well, we would be pleased to include you among our members. Our strength is our membership and we will continue to grow and succeed in having a healthy and well-respected industry.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours very sincerely,

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT LABORATORIES