



BuildStrong by CIRP

NEWS RELEASE

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BuildStrong by CIRP appoints construction industry veteran Brooks Patterson as new Chief Executive Officer

BURNABY – The Board of Directors of BuildStrong by CIRP [formerly the Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan] is pleased to announce the appointment of Brooks Patterson, a construction industry veteran, as Chief Executive Officer of the Plan.

Patterson has an extensive background in the construction industry, health and wellness for over 30 years. He has been a Trustee of the Plan for over 24 years as well as being a Director of the BC Construction Safety Alliance for 15 years, Vice-Chair of the Council of Construction Associations since 2014, a Director and Human Resources Committee Chair of WorkSafeBC for six years, Secretary/Treasurer of SkillPlan since 2010 and is currently a Governor of the BC Institute of Technology Board.

“I could not be more pleased than to become the CEO of an organization I not only highly respect but one I’ve dedicated 24 years of service on its Board to,” said Patterson. “The work BuildStrong does to help construction workers overcome injuries and illnesses and mental health and addiction challenges is simply phenomenal and admired around the world for breaking new ground and improving lives.”

BuildStrong Co-Chairs Lee Loftus and Ken McCormack said they were extremely grateful to have Patterson bring his enormous experience and commitment to the organization.

“Brooks Patterson has been on our team for over 24 years as a key Trustee, coming from wide experience in the construction industry as an executive, and in health and safety and worker rehabilitation,” said McCormack, CEO of the Construction Labour Relations Association.

“Brooks takes over as our first-ever CEO at a critical time when workers face more mental health and addiction issues than ever before — his knowledge and energy will help us meet those challenges.”

Add Loftus, a former Business Agent for the BC Insulators Union: “Brooks Patterson is simply the best possible choice to lead BuildStrong thanks to his balanced background working with both construction labour unions and the industry as a strong advocate for health and safety and wellness of the workforce. His ability to understand both employer and worker issues based on his immense experience is fantastic.”



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Patterson said the fentanyl and tainted drug crisis of the past several years has impacted the construction industry deeply and the need for more rehabilitation services for workers is a priority for both employers and unions in the sector.

“Our intake for help with mental health and addiction issues is extremely challenging and the demand for BuildStrong services is huge - we are assisting about 1,000 workers a year,” Patterson said. “And despite significant efforts by government, labour and employers, we are still facing an unprecedented situation and my role is to get all hands on deck to meet this crisis and help save lives and families.”

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