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Canadian Building Trades Monument - Public Art Competition **Winning Design Team Announced**

www.canadianbuildingtradesmonument.ca

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Canada's Building Trades Unions is pleased to announce the design team for the Canadian Building Trades Monument, to be built in Major's Hill Park, in Canada's Capital. A jury of experts selected the successful design team from 40 submissions received in response to a national Request for Qualifications. Four design teams were shortlisted and invited to develop proposals in June 2015.

The successful design team, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, consists of sculptor *John Greer* and architect *Brian MacKay-Lyons*
www.artistjohngreer.com + www.mlsarchitects.ca

John Greer has exhibited internationally and taught sculpture at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design for 26 years. Greer was the recipient of the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2009. Brian MacKay-Lyons, co-founder of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects, has practiced architecture for more than 30 years, and was awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Gold Medal in 2015. MacKay-Lyons was recently named the recipient of one of 9 international fellowships awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects. The Canadian Building Trades Monument will mark their first collaboration.

The Canadian Building Trades Monument will be located across from Parliament in Major's Hill Park, on a prominent site overlooking the Ottawa River. The site will be a place to celebrate the great achievements of this nation's many skilled building tradesmen and women - stonemasons, mechanical trades, carpenters, ironworkers, construction labourers, and others.

"This special monument will be a tribute to the men and women who work so hard to create safe and beautiful environments where we live, work and play," said the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage. "National memorials are important because they reflect the rich and diverse history and accomplishments of Canada's people. These tributes create a sense of belonging and pride and unite us as Canadians."

The Government of Canada, through the Department of Canadian Heritage and the National Capital Commission, is providing the site and facilitating the development of the new monument.

The monument, which is slated for installation in 2017, will be built in Canada with Cambrian black granite, quarried in Quebec. Its most prominent feature will be a pair of oversized *plumb bobs*, which are amongst the oldest building tools known to humankind. It will also feature 14 tools, to be chosen by the 14 different trade unions sponsoring the monument, each of which will choose the tool that is iconic for their membership.

In describing their proposal, the design team said:

“Building is the most optimistic of human acts. This monument celebrates and honours the Canadian building tradesmen and women who construct the world around us. As you enter this place, you are invited to reflect on their accomplishments and on your role as a participant.”

The Canadian Building Trades Monument will be an inspiring place for workers and their families to gather and reflect, as well as commemorating the tragic losses workers have endured in carrying out their work.

Robert Blakely, Canadian Operating Officer of Canada’s Building Trades Unions (CBTU), explains, “CBTU is proud to offer this monument as a gift to all Canadians. Choosing one team from so many excellent submissions was difficult, but we believed deeply in the winning team’s skill as craftsmen, the sculpture’s exceptional quality and its layers of meaning, which will be symbolic of the foundational nature of our work, our sacrifices, and our strengths as builders. It will be built to last.”

The Canadian Building Trades Monument will be completed by 2017 in Major’s Hill Park in Ottawa, a location steeped in Canada’s built history with striking views of Parliament, the Rideau Canal and Canada’s Capital Region. The competition to design, fabricate, and install the monument, which has a budget of \$660,000, was open to Canadian artists and designers.

The 5-member jury for this public art competition consisted of Gérald Lajeunesse (landscape architect); John McEwen (artist); Marie-Jeanne Musiol (artist); David Frank (labour historian) and Robert Blakely (union representative). The public viewing of the finalist proposals in December 2015 (at Ottawa’s Bytown Museum and online) generated comments that informed the jury’s deliberations.

The Canadian Building Trades Monument is being built by CBTU in partnership with their fair employers, and in collaboration with the Department of Canadian Heritage and the National Capital Commission.

For more information about the project, visit: www.canadianbuildingtradesmonument.ca or contact:

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About CBTU

Canada’s Building Trades Unions (CBTU) is the national voice of over half a million Canadian construction workers - members of 14 international unions who work in more than 60 different trades and occupations, and generate 14 percent of this country’s GDP. CBTU’s mission is to represent all workers in the building, construction, fabrication and maintenance industry and support efforts to improve working conditions and our quality of life. In pursuit of these goals, CBTU continuously seeks to build the workforce and strengthen the industry. For more information visit: www.buildingtrades.ca