

## 9.0 Program and Education

### 9.1 Face to Face Events 2024

For information: The Eastern Regional Event is open and registration is at 58 so far. We expect to see about 100-120 attending. Local MeetUps have started 5 locations hosting. We have only delivered one meetup so far, but look forward to seeing how successful the others are and they are proving to be valuable outreach.

#### Background:

##### Regional Event - Quebec 2024

- We have 58 registered and counting, expect to see about 100-120 (50/50 manufacturers to suppliers – need more manufacturers to register!!)
- Sponsorship going well, have sold most items, just transportation left to sell
- Thanks to Chris Havey for rounding up a few sponsors again!
- Spoke with Alain Ouzilleau at Cabico he is very excited to host and will speak at the dinner (like Stan Pauls did), Stan has registered to attend
- Have met with panelists for Chinese imports discussion, now waiting to hear if speaker from Shelly Automation (on robotics) will be speaking (it looks very promising). Thanks to Luke Elias for helping to set up the tech session.

##### National Forum 2024

- Program development in progress
- Spoke to CFIB and they can do an economic update and will ask CME as well.
- Superior Cabinets has a new showroom in Winnipeg, possibility of going there for a reception

##### Local Meetups – 2024

- Board proposed a template be created for local meetups to keep scope of work to a minimum and ensure events were free.
- [Click this link](#) to view details and see promo flyers for events – this has become the template.
- We have 5 locations as follows:
  - Alberta – Edmonton, Calgary
  - Ontario – Kapuskasing, Oakville
  - BC – Coquitlam
- We will be able to fully assess the success of this initiative after delivering several MeetUps.
- This is excellent outreach and allows CKCA to promote to members that we are “accessible at a local level”
- Also a great way to engage with members keen to have something in their backyard.
- Template ensures some consistency and some individuality.

## 9.2 Face to Face Events 2025

For information: Dates previously approved by the Board need to be updated to April 28 – April 30 (was previously April 30 – May 2) just to keep regional format a Mon-Wed (the National is Wed-Friday). Waiting to hear from Laurysen if minor date change works for them. Have reached out to Norelco and Westwood Cabinetry about dates for Fall 2025, no response from either yet, so cannot confirm dates and location of National Forum 2025 yet.

### Background:

#### Regional Event 2025

- Once revised dates are a go, will start to nail down tours.
- Also looking at tour of Lee Valley Tours who have an advanced distribution centre
- No response from Potvin or Deslaurier yet on dates – have asked them both.

#### National Forum 2025

- Waiting to hear from our Okanagan region members if they can host, if we don't hear in next few months, will need to look at either Vancouver Island or back into Vancouver (mainland) area instead.

## 9.3 WTD Woodworking Technology Days

For information and discussion: WTD is an annual event seeking support from CKCA (use our logo, help to promote etc.). Board previously agreed to support this event each year. CKCA staff met with them recently, they want industry to recognize this event is “as good as Ligna (albeit not on the total scale of Ligna) and easier to get to”. They want this event to attract a national audience. Participating machinery companies are investing more in their showrooms. CKCA does not gain anything from supporting this event, but we have identified technology as a strategic priority, how can we help drive the message about the value of this show? Could we have a program to send a group to this show? Should we engage the Program and Education Committee to work on this?

Note: This event conflicts with Kitchen & Bath Canada Expo which we have not decided if we want to support or not.

### Background:

- Canadian Woodworking Machinery Distributors Association is behind the WTD event
- Dates are October 22-25, 2024 in Toronto area (8 companies participate, they are investing more into their showrooms and can do this far more successfully than at WMS which is cost prohibitive).
- Biesse, Homag, Normand, SCM, Taurus Craco, Weinig Holzher, Felder, Akhurst
- [Here is a link](#) to their promotion
- Technology was identified as a strategic priority for CKCA, is there interest in leveraging this

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event to help deliver more education/value to our members? If yes, we can engage the Program and Education Committee to brainstorm on how we can accomplish that.

- Here's an example of what you see at this event:

- Flexstore ELR and Cabsort Robotic Cell, 3-axis automatic storage solution, featuring cabinet sorting automation, streamlining nesting and sizing processes (SCM Canada)
- A robotic production cell including an integrated storage system, a CNC nesting, an automated robot, a drill-inserter and an edgebander with return conveyor. Controlled by a single operator! (Homag Canada)
- Format4 kappa 550 premium sliding table panel saw is the world's first sliding table saw with award winning Preventive Contact System PCS® (Felder Canada)
- PowerPin 7605, compact dowel drilling-inserting with revolutionary hold down system, eliminating the need for constant clamp movements (Holz-Her / Weinig)
- Edda CORBOX - cardboard processing machine, over 50 pre-programmed box types with capability to produce up to 300 boxes per hour (Taurus Craco)
- Brema Eko 2.1 vertical CNC machining center for high productivity with a small footprint, designed for batch one production and zero setup (Biesse Canada)
- Omnirobotic Panel Sanding assistant; solving the issue of skilled labour; once panels are on the table, 3D cameras determine the orientation and type and scans both the shape and depth (Akhurst)
- Novimat R edgebander, for materials like high gloss, super matt, textured melamine with live demos with PUR glue (IMA Schelling Canada)
- the Pillar MMTJ is a 3-axis CNC machining center producing high-quality miter joints for cabinet doors; cap.between 175 and 200 doors per 8-hour shift, with a single operator (Normand)

#### 9.4 CKCA Webinars

For information: Have delivered one webinar (Closet Gold) so far, was well received. Still looking to reschedule one on AI as well as looking at one on Outdoor Kitchens, Design Trends, Financials and Technology Series.

##### **Background:**

- Closet Gold – had about 40 register (about 20 attended), Eric Marshall feels we haven't even scratched the surface of what's available for closet business – [link to webinar here](#)
- Outdoor Kitchens – have asked Outdoor Kitchen designer at Rosehill Woodcraft (in Manitoba) if they would be willing to speak, Garnica interested in participating (but they have to be a member first since they're a supplier), possibly Hettich for hardware – all depends on whether Rosehill is willing to speak
- Financials – we know companies are struggling, still think we could do a session from MNP (Tommy Gagnon) on this topic – will be discussing with him further (i.e. Ellis Creek in Penticton has closed its doors as they didn't have enough business on the books for 2024 and couldn't financially carry the company for a year – so companies are feeling the squeeze with interest

rates etc.)

- Trends – As it's a Eurocucina year, good to talk about trends from that event. Premoule has recommended a presenter, we are currently investigating possibility, might have them speak at a local MeetUp and/or possible webinar.
- Tech Series – Still on the radar to get back to this to develop the series, find the industry experts and get this up and running.
- Will engage Program and Education Committee to further refine educational offerings, this committee has not met in a long time.

### 9.5 Technology Peer Group

**For information:** CKCA have met with Chris Leonard who has been working to prepare a draft document outlining the purpose, goals and scope/background of this peer group. This document will be presented to the working group for review before we initiate the peer group.

#### Background:

- Working group is comprised of Luke Elias, Chris Leonard, Tommy Gagnon (Automa Robotik), Joerg Brauns, Sandra Wood (CKCA Staff).
- Group has been focused on two streams a) development of a technology webinar series to education industry on the steps to take to adopt technology and further automate their shop and b) technology peer group focused on R&D to seek new solutions to address the needs of the kitchen cabinet industry.
- The peer group's purpose will be to "Foster collaboration and innovation in addressing technological and automation challenges within the kitchen cabinet industry. The group's purpose is to serve as a platform for CKCA members to collectively explore, develop, and implement solutions that enhance operational efficiency, quality, and competitiveness across the country."
- Some members have already expressed interest in participating in this peer group.
- We will get this initiative off the ground before our event in May and can announce to the industry at that time that the peer group is forming and members seriously committed to advancing this agenda can participate.