



Calgary
Construction
Association

ALBERTA PROVINCIAL PLATFORM

BUILDING A BETTER CALGARY



Introduction:

Ahead of this Spring's Provincial Election, the Calgary Construction Association is proud to release our provincial policy platform. Titled, "***Building A Better Calgary***", the following platform highlights challenges and opportunities for provincial policymakers as they contemplate the role Calgary's construction industry has in building a better City and Province.

Through consultation with our community, and input from our Board of Directors, the plan is divided into three sections and specific calls to action for delivering construction in Calgary.

About the Calgary Construction Association:

Formed in 1944, the Calgary Construction Association (CCA) is a professional association of over 850 member companies throughout the Calgary region. Through our partnerships with the residential and commercial construction industry, we represent over 80,000 Calgarians and their families. As an advocate for the construction industry, our mission is to help our members thrive now and into the future.



**WE'RE ENGAGING
OUR COMMUNITY
TO BUILD BETTER!**





Construction in Alberta, and Calgary:

Construction plays a significant role in Calgary and Alberta's economy. According to Statistics Canada, about 222,000 Albertans were employed in the construction industry - or roughly one in ten workers province-wide. Further, the industry accounted for \$23.8B of the Province's GDP in 2021. Moreover, according to Statistics Canada, in August 2022, during the peak of the summer season, over 83,000 Calgarians were employed in the construction industry.

In 2021, 27 percent of all construction workers were self-employed. Moreover, Indigenous people in Alberta are more likely to join a career in construction, with 13.5 percent employed in a career in construction, compared to 9.8 of employed non-Indigenous Canadians. According to Statistics Canada, immigrants also make up a significant share of the construction workforce, accounting for 18.5 percent of employment in 2021, representing a 6.9 percentage point increase over the past decade.

Priority #1: Supporting A Strong Construction Workforce in Alberta:

The shortage of skilled construction workers is causing concerns about potential delays and increased costs in the local construction industry. Despite a growing demand for new homes and infrastructure projects, exasperated by record migration to the Calgary region, both commercial and residential builders are struggling to find enough workers to keep up with the pace of development.

The shortage is attributed to several factors, including strong demand for record migration to the region, an aging workforce, and a lack of young people entering the industry. Many experienced construction workers are retiring or are leaving the industry, causing a gap in the labour market.

The Calgary Construction Association estimates that there are between 3,000-4,000 construction job vacancies in the Calgary region. Nationally, the number of construction job vacancies is estimated at over 90,000.

Policy Proposals:

- Protect and increase funding for increased apprentice enrollment at post-secondary institutions and associated capital and operational needs.
- Implement recommendations of the Career Education Task Force to support the development of skilled trades interests among junior and senior-high school-aged students.
- Build on the Alberta is Calling campaign to attract women and workers from underrepresented groups, such as Indigenous people and newcomers, to skilled trades professions in Alberta.
- Work with the Government of Canada to expand the Provincial Nominee Program, ensuring that an adequate amount of skilled labour is selected and fast-tracked into Alberta's construction industry.



Priority #2: Addressing Issues Around Public Procurement and Risk

Existing procurement practices have resulted in costly interruptions to capital projects and the adoption of increasingly untenable risk profiles for the industry. In Calgary, this was exasperated and made apparent by the cancellation of the Deertfoot Trail Upgrades procurement in August 2022.

There is a need for continued improvement in relationships between the industry and the Government of Alberta to ensure procurement processes are transparent and equitable and contribute to competitiveness and growth in Alberta's construction industry.

Policy Proposals:

- Improve alignment between IA, AT, AHS and Alberta Education procurement practices.
- Build on departmental rounds table discussing risk assessment by appointing a ministerial task force with representation from the Calgary Construction Association and Edmonton Construction Association to discuss implementation.





Priority #3: Supporting Calgary Through Strong Infrastructure

The City of Calgary continues to grow at a rapid rate. As a result, the Calgary Construction Association believes that the time is now to continue to invest in critical infrastructure. Whether it be roads, public transportation or civic amenities, there is a role for the government of Alberta to play in procuring construction projects that will improve the quality of life of Calgarians.

Policy Proposals:

- The Calgary Construction Association and its members have been engaging directly in dialogue regarding the Green Line Project with the City of Calgary and Alberta

Transportation on behalf of industry and Calgarians for over three years. We categorically support this project as a major element in Calgary's continued growth and a stimulus for local industry firms.

Given that Phase 1 of the Project is well underway, the future connectivity of the line will likely be considered in the near future. ***We call on the Government of Alberta to partner with the City of Calgary to secure funding to build Phase 2 of the project - down to the South Calgary Health Campus in Seton as a priority, and north to the community of Carrington.***

- In Budget 2023, the Government of Alberta committed \$5M dollars to complete engineering work and explore the feasibility of extending the Blue Line LRT to Calgary International Airport. ***We call on the Government of Alberta to commit to funding the International Airport link as a matter of priority.***
- The Calgary Construction Association is thrilled to welcome the announcement of a new event centre agreement in Calgary. This exciting new development will not only enhance the entertainment options in the area but also provide significant economic benefits for the construction industry through jobs and follow-on investment in the Rivers' District.

The construction industry is poised to play a major role in bringing this new facility to life, and we are proud to support this project. Our Association is committed to working closely with all stakeholders as an advisor to ensure that this project is delivered on time, within budget, and to the highest level of quality.

We call on all political parties seeking election to support the build-out of the event centre and River's District and honour the agreement reached between stakeholders in April, 2023.

- Downtown is the cultural and economic heart of Calgary. We support Calgary's Greater Downtown Plan to attract vibrancy and investment in our downtown core through incentives for office-to-residential conversion projects, capital projects to improve the vibrancy of downtown and large-scale projects. ***We call on the Government of Alberta to further fund the Downtown Strategy and partner with the City of Calgary on Downtown Revitalization efforts.***





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