



New West Partnership Presentation December 1, 2014

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My name is Ken Gibson and I am the Executive Director of the Alberta Construction Association.

I have been asked to present on behalf of the Saskatchewan Construction Association. I am pleased to acknowledge Grant McMillan and Cheryl Hogg on the telephone call-in. Grant and Cheryl are representing the BC Construction Association.

Together, our 3 associations represent nearly 6000 general contractors, trade contractors, and suppliers to commercial, institutional, industrial and civil markets within and beyond the New West Partnership region.

We thank the 3 Governments for this opportunity to consult. We have lobbied for reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers. More importantly, we believe in meaningful, informed, consultation prior to implementation. This consultation must involve information sharing across parties. Thus, some of the issues identified by the construction industry also impact civil construction, forestry, oil and gas, and other sectors. Similarly, issues raised by those sectors may impact construction.

Other general principles we would like to share...

1. A culture of safety requires a partnership of shared responsibility and an ongoing shared commitment by employers, individual personnel on jobsites, and provincial governments for regulatory enforcement.
2. Adoption of best practices should extend to regulatory compliance and enforcement. Regulations should be rooted in evidence and weigh benefits against costs. Enforcement needs to be consistent across officers and regions. Measures used elsewhere should be evaluated for their impact on improvements to workplace safety before being adopted. Failure of existing tools should be understood before proceeding to adoption of new tools. Adoption of new standards should be phased in to provide time for preparation.
3. Regulatory approaches that are outcome-based allow for innovation and industry-developed alternative solutions rather than a single prescriptive so-called "highest standard". ACA would prefer that regulators in any of the three provinces accept a standard approved in one of the other two provinces.



In consulting with our construction industry membership, in no particular order, a few examples (major and minor) of some of the issues are:

1. Provision of first aid services
2. First aid attendant certification
3. Excavation and trenches
4. Proximity to high voltage conductors (specifically overhead powerlines).
5. Definition of a “confined space”
6. Fall protection anchor strength requirements
7. Fall protection requirements for scissor lifts
8. Crane operator certification
9. Masonry Construction (temporary bracing while under construction)
10. Personal Protective Equipment – Hard hats
11. Concrete Formwork Inspection requirements
12. High Angle Rescue Procedures
13. Concrete Pumping operations/certification of pump operators.
14. Codes of practice (silica, asbestos, respiratory control, etc.)

In the spirit of informed consultation, much more dialogue beyond today is required. This dialogue should bring together all the issues and affected parties.

Further, we have a concern about the process of reducing barriers moving forward. Each jurisdiction has a review cycle, indeed, Alberta’s Code is undergoing review as we speak. A single discussion of reducing barriers seems at odds with ongoing regulatory review by each province, unless the approach of accepting alternative solutions is agreed upon.

The construction industry thereby recommends that panels of knowledgeable subject matter experts drawn from the affected sectors work with governments to review possible changes and adoptions of exceptions before any such changes are adopted. Our industry is prepared to volunteer such experts, and is confident other sectors will wish to as well.

Thank you again for the opportunity to engage in what we hope will be ongoing dialogue on this important matter.