



Alberta Construction Association

September 23, 2015

Honourable Shannon Phillips
MLA for Lethbridge West
402 - 8 Street South
Lethbridge, AB
Canada T1J 2J7

18004-107 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 2J5
t:780.455.1122/f:451.2152
www.albertaconstruction.net
info@albertaconstruction.net

Dear Minister Phillips:

The Alberta Construction Association is pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Climate Leadership Discussion Document on behalf of our 3000 member companies.

The Government of Alberta's action plan on climate change must take into account differing circumstances of various sectors, and use a variety of approaches to achieve the most cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases. Emissions produced by the construction sector contributed a relatively small amount of Alberta's total emissions (1MT or 0.36% of Alberta's 2013 emissions). However, emissions during the construction of a building make up only a small part of the total emissions produced during that building's life cycle. An opportunity exists to reduce far greater amounts of GHG emissions by incentivizing construction of more efficient buildings. The most effective emission reduction strategy may not necessarily involve reductions during the actual construction process.

We believe that the Government of Alberta can best advance emissions-reducing innovation and technology in the construction sector through the following:

1. Partner with and support industry-led organizations promoting adoption of innovative technologies such as the Alberta Centre of Excellence for Building Information Modeling (aceBIM) and the Canadian Construction Association Lean Construction Institute.
2. Work with the post-secondary institutions to ensure that training places are available and reflect emerging industry skill requirements such as energy modeling.
3. Continue to drive increased building performance through energy efficiency requirements in the Alberta Building Code. Changes to the Building Code are preferable to procurement requirements that use a third-party standard, as a third-party certifications can create significant compliance costs and administrative burdens that may exclude small and medium sized entities from being able to compete.
4. Provide financial support to offset the high upfront costs of remodeling the existing building stock for energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Ken Gibson
Executive Director
Alberta Construction Association

Serving Members in:

Calgary Edmonton Fort McMurray Grande Prairie Lethbridge Lloydminster Medicine Hat Peace River Red Deer