



May 7, 2018

Honorable David Eggen
Minister of Education
Transmitted via email: education.minister@gov.ab.ca

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

Dear Minister Eggen:

RE: Support for Apprenticeship through Dual-Credit Programming in Alberta High Schools

The Alberta Construction Association represents 3000 member firms serving civil and non-residential building markets across Alberta and beyond. Our member firms employ many of the 250,000 Albertans, one in nine working Albertans, employed in construction.

ACA acknowledges the numerous initiatives undertaken by your Government to support apprentice completion, including establishing the Apprentice Training Award and including apprentices as a condition of contract in procurements by Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Transportation. Under your leadership, progress has been made with dual-credit programs, including the Alberta Dual Credit Framework. Dual-credit accelerates initiation of apprenticeship through earning post-secondary credits while in high school.

The attached recent review by ACA indicates the need for more districts to offer construction trades dual-credit options, and to provide more visibility for the options that do exist.

ACA urges your consideration of the following recommendations:

1. Add specific criteria for establishment and maintenance of dual-credit programs as a pillar within the Accountability Framework. Specifically, ACA would welcome a new measure of the growth in student enrolment in construction trades-related dual credit programs.
2. Dedicate funding to enhance the Teacher Bridging Programs to encourage teachers to pursue their apprenticeship training, and to encourage tradespeople to pursue their teacher certification. This may be an area to encourage industry participation in joint fundraising for scholarships and / or bursaries.
3. Encourage partnerships with industry to support the school district with resources and to support RAP placements for students enrolled in these programs.

ACA would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our recommendations with you. Please contact ACA Executive Director Ken Gibson (ken.gibson@albertaconstruction.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul H".

Paul Heyens, Chairman
cc. Local Construction Associations
attachment