



October 19, 2018

Western Economic Diversification Canada  
c/o: Western Canada Growth Strategy Engagement  
Submitted via email: [wd.engages-mobilisation.deo@canada.ca](mailto:wd.engages-mobilisation.deo@canada.ca)

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**RE: Towards a Western Canada Growth Strategy**

The Alberta Construction Association appreciates the opportunity to submit input to the Government of Canada for a Western Canada Growth Strategy. ACA represents 3000 member firms, contractors, and suppliers, operating in an economic sector employing one in nine working Albertans. The activities of our member firms help contribute to nearly 9% of Alberta's GDP. Our responses to the 5 questions raised in the Engagement Paper follow:

1. What does a stronger western Canadian economy look like 10 years from now?
  - Timely resource development project approvals
  - The West able to ship resources to export markets beyond just the U.S.
  - Greater automation to replace potential shortages of skilled workers
  - Rapid upskilling and redeployment of workers to align skills demand and supply
2. What are the best ways to spur new growth in western Canada?
  - Improved transparency in who funds advocacy groups
  - Evidence-based project approval process with certainty for project proponent
  - Northern corridor utility / transportation corridor approved and operating
  - More rapid adoption of new skills and technologies to improve productivity and value for clients
  - Tax system encourages innovation and technology adoption while competitive with that of trading partners
  - More flexible temporary immigration programs to facilitate rapid adoption of skills
3. What will help the Indigenous economy continue to grow?
  - Continue to build on best practices developed by companies and the Indigenous community
4. How can we improve economic participation in the west of under-represented groups, including women, youth, and new immigrants?
  - For construction, more prefabrication and fewer personnel on site. Challenges for women to work in remote or itinerant jobsites if they are the householder responsible for dropoff and pickup for child care



5. How can governments, industry, and western Canadians work together to grow the regional economy?
- Strategic partnerships in fostering technology development and adoption for construction
  - Support creation and implementation of industry-wide workforce development strategies

Sincerely,

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

Paul Heyens, Chairman