



## Budget Recommendations 2019

- **Consistent, sustainable, predictable investment in provincial and municipal infrastructure**
- **Separate these investments from operational spending by establishing a separate Capital Account**

With the new session of the Legislature about to commence, Alberta Construction Association (ACA) believes it is a critical time for construction and for our workers. Construction has been struggling to regain its footing since the downturn.

Our member firms strive to provide quality infrastructure to meet the needs of Albertans in a cost effective, environmentally sustainable, and safe manner. Alberta's construction industry desires to enhance productivity and competitiveness of the Alberta economy. Construction is also one of Alberta's largest employers, directly accounting for approximately 240,000 jobs or one in ten working Albertans, with thousands of additional jobs in related occupations.

Whether for new schools with increased student enrolments, transit projects to reduce congestion and move goods to market, and hospitals to meet our health care needs, the Provincial Government must continue to invest in infrastructure regardless of economic circumstances. Our recommendation is that the level of investment needs to keep pace with population growth and inflation.

Jobs are a priority and keeping Albertans employed in good paying jobs is critical to the economic engine. Dramatic swings in infrastructure investment discourage young people from choosing a career in construction, discourage existing workers from remaining in construction, disrupt training of new apprentices, lead to financial hardship for companies, and reduce value for the taxpayer when industry capacity struggles to rebuild to meet periods of high demand. ACA recommends a separate Capital account that provides certainty of multi-year funding.

Alberta Construction Association speaks for over 3000 member firms across the Province, including general contractors, trade contractors, and suppliers to non-residential construction markets. Our membership features contractors of all sizes and labour affiliations. Nine associations with hundreds of contractors in their membership are associate members of ACA.

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