



Alberta Construction Association

May 8, 2019
Honorable Demetrios Nicolaides
Minister of Advanced Education
ae.minister@gov.ab.ca

18004-107 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5S 2J5
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Dear Minister Nicolaides:

Congratulations on your recent election victory and appointment to Cabinet. Thank you for your Government's commitment to getting Albertans back to work.

Alberta's construction industry employs 240,000 Albertans directly in the field, one in ten working Albertans. The industry employs thousands of additional Albertans in human resources, finance, IT, and so on. Thousands more are employed in manufacturing concrete, wood, steel and other products used in construction, and in related professions such as architecture and engineering.

The Alberta Construction Association represents 3000 member firms belonging to one of eight regional construction associations across Alberta. Beyond ACA's membership, we have strong partnerships with nine associations representing hundreds of additional firms with a specific labour affiliation or a specific trade focus.

Skilled, engaged, and safe employees are the key to our industry's success. Hence, many of the statutory responsibilities of your Ministry are of utmost importance to our member firms.

Our industry appreciates the Government's commitments to:

- Expand the reach of and funding for CAREERS: Next Generation
- Fund additional trades scholarships
- Reinvent the vocational high school
- Reform teacher certification to enable qualified tradespeople to teach
- Appoint a Skills for Jobs Task Force (ACA would welcome an opportunity to serve on the Task Force)
- Increase the support for Skills Canada Alberta and Women Building Futures
- Create a Premier's Council of vocational education

ACA would also like to discuss balanced representation on the Alberta Apprenticeship Board and the need for public funding of apprenticeship delivery to remain with Alberta's public technical institutes and colleges as measures critical to maintain a world class system.

ACA and our partner associations offer expert professionals that volunteer from the member firms to serve the industry. We would be pleased to utilize such volunteers to assist the Government in achieving these commitments. ACA's Executive Director Ken Gibson (ken.gibson@albertaconstruction.net) can assist with coordinating follow-up.

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Alberta Construction Association

Sincerely,

Ian Reid, Chair

cc. Regional Construction Associations, Associates

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