



Alberta Construction Association

May 8, 2019
Honorable Tanya Fir
Minister of Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism
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Dear Minister Fir:

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. We appreciate the Government's commitment to playing a role in fostering innovation, particularly through ensuring Albertans receive proper training. Indeed, ACA is currently partnering with the Ministry of Labour in the development of a construction industry strategy to upskill our workforce for emerging digital and other technologies. ACA is already in discussion with your Ministry about potential initiatives to foster innovation in construction and look forward to further partnership to accomplish this.

Our association supports the Government's commitment to seek to form federal and provincial agreement on resource corridors to expedite major resource project approvals. ACA supports the concept of the Northern Corridor. Along with a letter of support from ACA, we were successful in coordinating letters of support from the BC and Saskatchewan Construction Associations for several proposed projects of the Government of Northwest Territories that align with the concept of the Northern Corridor. I understand that ACA's advocacy had prompted your predecessor to also draft a letter in support of the GNWT applications to Transport Canada. ACA urges your Government to send a supportive letter as a concrete gesture of good will in promoting resource corridors.

Our association supports continued expansion of opportunities under the New West Partnership Agreement, having successfully advocated for the inclusion of Manitoba.

Our industry appreciates the Government's recognition of the need to ensure regulation does not become overly burdened by red tape. The majority of our member firms are mid to small employers, often lacking deep resources to respond to excessive regulation.

Serving Members of:



75
YEARS





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 revisiting regulations that maintain fairness and other public policy outcomes, while better reflecting the unique project-based nature of construction work. ACA's Executive Director Ken Gibson (ken.gibson@albertaconstruction.net) can assist with coordinating follow-up.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Reid".

Ian Reid, Chair

cc. Regional Construction Associations, Associates