



Alberta Construction Association

May 8, 2019
Honorable Jason Copping
Minister of Labour & Immigration
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Dear Minister Copping:

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. Indeed, ACA is currently partnering with your Ministry in the development of a construction industry strategy to upskill our workforce for emerging digital and other technologies. Hence, many of the statutory responsibilities of your Ministry are of utmost importance to our member firms. The majority of our member firms are mid to small employers, often lacking deep resources to respond to excessive regulation.

Our industry appreciates the Government's recognition of the need to ensure regulation does not become overly burdened by red tape, and we support the campaign platform commitment to reverse the change in 2018 to employment standards that eliminated the option for workers and employers to develop straight-time banked hours arrangements.

ACA also appreciates the platform commitment to move from a process to outcome-based regulatory approach. We are seeking an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss Bill 30 changes to occupational health and safety that do not improve safety, and to the Workers Compensation system that impact the actuarial soundness of the Accident Fund and the principle of no fault insurance.

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.

Serving Members of:



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YEARS





Sincerely,

Ian Reid, Chair

cc. Regional Construction Associations, Associates

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YEARS

