



Construction is critical to Alberta's economy...

Whether it's a new school, factory, or road, the men and women of Alberta's construction industry build safe, quality structures that benefit us all.

Alberta's construction industry generates more than \$33 billion a year in economic activity and employs 170,000 Albertans.

ACA's Role...

Alberta's general contractors, trade contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and professionals work together through their Local, Alberta, and Canadian Construction Associations to strengthen industry partnerships and promote the construction industry.

1200 + industry leaders belong to the Alberta Construction Association (ACA). Other construction industry and trade associations also belong as associate members.

The ACA was created to facilitate joint action at the provincial level on behalf of its members. The ACA also serves the industry in responding to national issues through membership in the Canadian Construction Association.

ACA leads Alberta's construction industry through **government advocacy, industry practices, and promotion of careers in construction** (see ACA Accomplishments on reverse).

ACA communicates to industry through its monthly newsletter, the Provincial, our website, [www.abconst.org](http://www.abconst.org), and through the Alberta Construction Magazine.

How does industry get involved?

ACA efforts rely on the expertise of numerous industry volunteers. If you would like to serve the industry by volunteering for the ACA Board of Directors or one of the ACA Committees, please contact the Chief Operating Officer of your Local Construction Association. (Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat, Peace River, Red Deer)

For contact information for Local Construction Associations, consult the links on the ACA website. [www.abconst.org](http://www.abconst.org)

## ACA ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Government Advocacy

Apprenticeship, builders' liens, employment standards, occupational health and safety, tendering regulations, and the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) are just some of the many provincial government activities that impact Alberta's construction industry.

ACA advocacy has:

- Led to establishment of the provincial government capital fund to finance infrastructure. Government investments to the Capital Fund exceed \$4 billion since 2003.
- Kept the cost of apprentice tuitions affordable to both the apprentice and the employer, in recognition of their contributions to the cost of workplace training
- Reduced the holdback from 15% to 10% under the Builders' Lien Act
- Established a joint industry/ government committee to assist planning
- Developed a toolkit to assist industry to comply with privacy legislation
- Supported workplace safety over inappropriate application of Human Rights Legislation and rulings regarding drug and alcohol testing.
- Separated industry pooling of WCB premiums so that higher risk industries are not shielded from the true costs of their WCB coverage
- Deferred the Government's decision to proceed with potentially expensive Long Standing Contentious WCB Claims
- Encouraged the use of properly qualified contractors selected through open and transparent bidding for publicly funded projects

### Industry Practices

ACA and its members developed and operate a number of business tools to promote uniform standards of bidding and contractual practices, and to improve industry productivity and competition.

**COOLNet Alberta**, the electronic plan room, provides 24 hour a day access to construction procurement opportunities at [www.coolnet.ab.ca](http://www.coolnet.ab.ca)

**Standard construction documents and guides**, developed in cooperation with design professionals and owners, reduce the potential for costly mistakes and disputes. ACA Subcontract Form A and the Plain Language Guides (Bonding, Construction Insurance, and the Alberta Builders' Lien Act) are widely used throughout the industry.

**Law and the Construction Industry** educational course.

### Market Information

Searchable **Member Directories** for Alberta at [www.abconst.org](http://www.abconst.org) and across Canada at [www.ccaacc.com/directories/directories.html](http://www.ccaacc.com/directories/directories.html)

### Promotion of Careers in Construction

ACA led members, industry and government to create the **Trade-Up** CD-Rom and companion website [www.careersconstruction.com](http://www.careersconstruction.com) to promote careers in construction. Since January 2001 there have been over 100,000 CDs distributed to students, teachers, and the public. The website has received over 13 million "hits". ACA and its partners have also invested in newspaper & television advertising to promote **Trade-Up**.

ACA spearheaded an industry government partnership program to provide matched funding for **apprentice scholarships**. As a result, nearly 200 annual scholarships, of \$1,000 each, have been created in perpetuity for Alberta apprentices.

#### ALBERTA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

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