

Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association Update

March 2025

The Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association is pleased to provide an update on the state of the construction industry in our province, along with our advocacy efforts and key initiatives supporting our members. The past year has brought both challenges and opportunities, shaped by economic shifts, workforce demands, and critical infrastructure developments. Throughout these changes, NLCA has remained committed to representing and supporting our members through strategic advocacy, workforce development, and engagement with industry stakeholders.

Newfoundland and Labrador's construction industry continues to navigate a dynamic economic landscape, influenced by fluctuating material costs, labor shortages, and shifts in government procurement. Despite these challenges, the sector has demonstrated resilience, with significant projects and investment opportunities emerging. One of the most notable developments was Newfoundland and Labrador and Québec signing of an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to replace the 1969 Upper Churchill contract and pursue new projects on the Churchill River to nearly double its capacity. This is expected to create long-term benefits for the province's construction industry. It will generate opportunities for contractors, tradespeople, and suppliers, contributing to Newfoundland and Labrador's economic growth. However, ongoing concerns remain regarding rising costs, procurement challenges, and the potential introduction of a 25% tariff on imported construction materials. This proposed tariff has raised significant concerns among industry stakeholders, with potential repercussions on project budgets, timelines, and overall industry competitiveness. NLCA has been actively working with government officials and collaborating with the Canadian Construction Association to ensure that industry concerns are addressed. Advocacy efforts have been focused on trade policies that safeguard affordability and maintain stability in the construction supply chain.

Engagement with both provincial and federal policymakers has remained a priority for NLCA, with a strong focus on procurement, workforce development, and trade policies. In recent months, NLCA has participated in multiple roundtable discussions with the Premier and other stakeholders to voice opposition to the proposed tariff on imported construction materials. The association has provided critical data on the potential impacts of such a measure, emphasizing the risk of increased project costs and delays. Another significant success for NLCA has secured \$250,000 in funding from the Department of Immigration, Population Growth, and Skills to support upskilling initiatives for members. This funding allows small and medium-sized construction businesses to invest in training, ensuring that the workforce remains competitive and prepared for future industry demands. Additionally, NLCA has continued to advocate for fair and transparent procurement practices, including improvements to government contracts that support timely payments and balanced risk distribution. The association's involvement at the national level, through collaboration with the Canadian Construction Association and other provincial organizations, ensures that Newfoundland and Labrador's unique construction challenges are considered in policy discussions.

The province continues to face an acute skilled labor shortage, which poses significant challenges for the construction sector. The recently released Atlantic Construction Immigration Project report highlighted the urgent



need for 43,460 new construction workers across Atlantic Canada by 2033 to meet infrastructure and housing demands. Many firms are already struggling to take on new projects due to labor shortages. Addressing this issue requires modernized immigration policies and enhanced training programs. NLCA has been working closely with Trades NL, the Heavy Civil Association, and the Construction Labour Relations Association to support youth apprenticeship programs. Strengthening partnerships with Skills Canada Newfoundland and Labrador has also been a priority, as the association continues to promote skilled trades as a viable career path. With newly secured funding, NLCA is providing financial assistance to members for workforce training, supporting industry-wide efforts to build a sustainable and competitive workforce.

Over the past year, NLCA has expanded its member services and engagement opportunities. Industry events such as the Build 2024 Expo, the Women in Construction Forum, Golf Tournaments and the Annual Rock Awards Gala have provided valuable networking opportunities and recognition for members. Additionally, NLCA has enhanced its printing services, offering cost-effective solutions to both members and non-members. These initiatives have contributed to stronger industry connections and have positioned NLCA as a leading advocate and resource for Newfoundland and Labrador's construction sector.

Looking ahead, NLCA remains committed to supporting the industry through strategic advocacy, workforce development, and enhanced member services. Continued advocacy against the proposed tariffs will be a key focus, ensuring that policymakers fully understand the implications for Newfoundland and Labrador's construction sector. Expanding workforce solutions through immigration and training programs will also remain a priority as the province seeks long-term solutions to its labor shortage. Strengthening collaboration between industry and government will be essential in supporting infrastructure investment and ensuring fair procurement processes.

Despite economic uncertainties and industry challenges, Newfoundland and Labrador's construction sector remains strong and adaptive. NLCA continues to serve as the voice of the industry, advocating for fair policies, supporting workforce development, and fostering a collaborative business environment. As we move into 2025, the association looks forward to working with the Canadian Construction Association and other industry partners to ensure continued success and growth for the sector.



The PEI Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association

Report to Canadian Construction Association March 2025

Our Association is focusing on initiatives that will help build futures in our Industry.

- We are entering our third-year partnership with the Department of Education's Essential Skills Achievement Pathway (ESAP). With the ownership of the Vortex Edge Max (simulates 6 pieces of heavy machinery), our association is able to take our industry to the high schools and show students the technology and opportunities available.
- Our Education Committee has participated in Career Days at the High School Level and hope to expand on this next year.
- Our Association has participating in Job Fairs in Charlottetown and Summerside in hopes of recruiting potential workers for our membership.

The Atlantic Road Builders Association (ARBA) continues to be a valuable partnership. We continue to have bi-monthly calls to discuss challenges and triumphs our industry faces in Atlantic Canada. The PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association will be hosting the Spring and Fall ARBA meetings for 2025.

At our Fall 2024 ARBA meeting in Nova Scotia, we met with government representatives from the four the Atlantic provinces. This was the second year for such a meeting. I believe all parties benefited from this meeting and look forward to having yearly meetings with our industry.

In November, I attended the Canadian Construction Association Hill Day. I was able to meet with our local MP, Sean Casey, as well as three other Members of Parliament from Atlantic Canada. We stressed the importance of a new Infrastructure Program. We spoke of major infrastructure emergencies within our nation, water mains in Calgary breaking and leaving the city without water, bridges collapsing, etc. We need to be proactive - all infrastructure across our country is aging.

This past June we had our Lobster dinner and golf at Fox Meadows/Lone Oak. The feedback was positive and we had a great turn out. Looking forward to working with Fox Meadows and Lone Oak again in 2025 as they have recently agreed to take us back on June 11, 2025.

We are fortunate to have Steve Yeo as an ex-officio member of our Board of Directors – keeping the lines of communication open with the Department of transportation and Infrastructure.

Regards

Melissa Paquet
Executive Director of PEI Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association

CCA Provincial Report – Nova Scotia

February 2025

Submitted on behalf of Duncan Williams, President & CEO, Construction Association of Nova Scotia

Industry Overview

Investment in Nova Scotia building construction decreased by 7.1% in October 2024 to \$520.4 million. Halifax monthly building construction was down 5.6% to \$271.3 million while outside of Halifax building construction was down 8.6% to \$249.1 million. Nova Scotia's non-residential building construction grew 2.9% to \$110.2 million. In Halifax, non-residential construction was up 2.3% to \$68.4 million. Outside of Halifax, non-residential construction was up 3.9% to \$41.8 million.

Compared to January-October 2023, building construction investment was up 23.6% in Nova Scotia. Halifax construction activity was up 28.6% and outside of Halifax construction activity was up 18.6%.

Workforce & Advocacy

Through the Nova Scotia Construction Immigration Coalition, CANS is piloting a website where employers can post jobs, conduct interviews, and hire candidates locally and internationally. Despite a significant reduction in immigration allocations for Nova Scotia, CANS will continue to advocate for policies that prioritize skilled immigration, as it remains a critical solution to closing the workforce gap and supporting the construction industry's growth.

During Nova Scotia's recent provincial election, CANS ensured that our members' priorities and the construction industry's key issues were front and centre for candidates. We developed our strategies and consulted with our members on their perspectives and insights to ensure our advocacy efforts reflect the industry's priorities and needs.

Due in part due to long-term advocacy by CANS, Nova Scotia is prepared to adopt the 2020 National Building Codes on April 1, 2025. CANS, in partnership with Canadian Home Builders Association – Nova Scotia, is hosting six full-day training sessions across the province to all groups in construction.

Membership & Industry Resources

CANS Education engaged 330 learners between November 1 – February 1, with 52 programs left to run. In December, one of our member companies participated in private training on our new course, *Solid Foundations: Workplace Wellbeing, Masculinity, and Leadership in Construction*. This interactive course is designed to address the unique challenges of working in male-dominated industries, equipping participants with practical tools to foster healthier, more inclusive workplace environments.

CANS hosted two Member Mixers so far this year, bringing industry professionals together in Kentville and Sydney. We also held our third annual Job Fair, featuring over 30 exhibitors and welcoming a strong turnout of over 1,100 job seekers, highlighting our commitment to connecting employers with skilled talent.

The CANS Emerging Leaders Group hosted a successful Networking Night in November, bringing together young professionals from across all areas of the construction industry to build connections and strengthen relationships. Looking ahead, we are excited to host our upcoming Speaker Series, which will highlight an impactful project in HRM. Through events like these, we aim to empower emerging professionals with the tools, knowledge, and networks they need to thrive in the construction sector.

In honour of Black History Month, CANS recognizes the profound contributions of Black Nova Scotians to the construction industry. From skilled tradespeople to innovators and leaders, Black Nova Scotians have played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of our communities and driving progress in the sector.

CANS is proud to celebrate this rich history and acknowledge the unique impact of Black Nova Scotian workers and entrepreneurs who continue to inspire future generations. By fostering inclusivity and equity, we aim to create a construction industry where all individuals can thrive and make their mark.



Association Priorities for 2025

CANS will continue to focus on key priority areas as identified in its Strategic Plan: Government and Industry Relations, Workforce Development, Industry Education and Training, and Innovation and Technology.

Member engagement will be a priority in the coming months to ensure alignment with strategic priorities and to gauge satisfaction for informing future directions. CANS will begin to develop a new strategic plan this year.

Nova Scotia Provincial Update – March 2025

We are in the early stages of dealing with a new Government following the decisive win by the Progressive Conservatives in the election late last fall. They now have a large majority, which will allow them to pursue whatever plan they choose.

With this victory we have had a change in the Minister of Public Works (our key Department to deal with) as well as in the office of Deputy Minister. Early thoughts/expectations are that the new Minister and staff will be good to work with. However, as always with a new minister the learning curve for that person is very steep. Good communication with the new Minister and staff will be a large focus for us.

Early indications are that the budget for the Province will be in same range as last year, in the \$500M range. We had a down year in asphalt tonnage last year, currently they are saying it will be similar this year and we will thus be working to bring that up as the year unfolds.

We once again expect the budgets for the major municipalities in the Province to be substantial. The housing demand, expanding populations and Halifax getting more gridlock like everyday demand much new civil infrastructure work must be done. The Premier has broadly alluded to this near the end of last year and we hope to see words move to actions sooner than later.

We will closely watch the labour market for our Industry this year. It appeared to be slightly improving last year. We will be once again putting on our RB 101 training program to attempt to bring new workers into our Industry.

Our joint meetings between Atlantic Road Builders Association members and senior bureaucrats from Atlantic Departments of Transportation are going well and we expect to continue to build on those efforts this year.

Immigration will be an interesting file this year with the decrease approach by the Feds. We participate in both Provincial and Atlantic initiatives on this topic, but continue to deal with the challenge of the Fed requirement of fulltime employment.

We went through a new Strategic Planning process this past Fall to guide the Association into the future. A major outcome was to put significant focus upon raising our profile with the Public and Governments. We are in the early stages of making that happen.

Construction Association of New Brunswick

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Prompt Payment: It has been 600+ days since Prompt Payment recent Royal Assent but we still do not have legislation in force. As of mid June, the Attorney General's office is currently undertaking a comprehensive jurisdictional review of P.P. and is conducting consultation with government partners, with specific intention to inform next steps as it relates to completing the drafting of regulations. We had a fall election, and a new Liberal government was sworn in December. We were promised movement on this file but we still have not a copy of the draft regulations. We continue to push to ensure all construction contracts in NB are subject to the legislation.

Joint Industry and Government: On December 4th, we held our bi-annual JIG meeting in Fredericton. This important event in our advocacy calendar brought together over 50 people representing senior leaders from 20 industry associations and government departments. The post survey results spoke highly of the content, the benefit in attending the event as well as the networking opportunities to meet with senior staff from four different government departments. Our keynote speaker was Patrick Brannon, Senior Researcher from the Atlantic Economic Council and spoke on "Economic and Construction Outlook for New Brunswick".

100 Day Challenge: The largest project ever undertaken by CANB and the final report was shared in December. This project aimed at finding innovative pathways for immigration into the NB construction industry brought together industry, settlement services and government like never before. Seven tested prototype recommendations came from the report.

- Shared HR resource
- Immigration Training & Learning Module for HR
- Employers Digital Roadmap
- Credential Pre-Assessments
- Policy Change for Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition
- Employer Skills Gap Assessment
- Credential Recognition for institutions outside of Canada.

CANB has applied for further funding to finalize the development of the top three prototypes while GNB is working on implementing the other four

Skilled Trades Consortium: The consortium concept came from research commissioned by CANB and Skilled Trades NB to identify gaps in the promotion and access of five underrepresented groups into the skilled trades in the province. The provincial government choose CANB to house the consortium for the skilled trades. Started on September 9th, we have hired two new employees to help ensure the success of the project. Dr Francis Bennett as a Senior Director of Workforce Development and Tara Cranna (Phd candidate) for as the Policy and Legislation coordinator. Tara has produced an industry leading jurisdictional scan of national and international efforts on the topic and we have brought together over 30 members of industry and government to create the consortium. We believe this to be another first for the country and it shows how our small association can be national leaders in driving change.



Winter 2025

2025 Capital Budget

The 2025 Capital Budget was released in December and all indications point to another strong construction season. Government investment remains consistent, which is something our association has been advocating for. On top of the provincial budget, the twin highway between Fredericton and Moncton will see the highway begin a complete overhaul, with the entire highway being repaved, bridges and overpasses upgraded. This must be completed by 2027. This is a significant project. One area of concern has been the lack of bridge work, which is strange given the current condition of our bridges. The provincial 3-year plan is calling for more bridge work in 2025. Hopefully this will happen.

Mobile Simulator Training Trailer Project

Our simulator trailer is at Sugarloaf High School for the winter semester with 12 students taking the program. The program continues to receive positive results from high schools and demand is increasing. It is our hope this increased interest will result in our youth entering the road building industry.

Labour shortage

This continues to be a serious issue. On top of our simulator program, we have joined forces with other Construction and Road Building associations in Atlantic Canada to bring attention to the labour shortage and how it is affecting productivity.

Highway Safety

Speeding and distracted drivers continues to be a serious issue. In 2024, we saw a significant increase in near miss incidents in our work zones. Along with our Department of Transportation, we will be meeting with the Department of Public Safety, requesting to have increased police enforcement in work zones.

2025 Annual General Meeting

Our 2025 AGM was held in Fredericton on January 14th & 15th with over 500 members and guests attending.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom McGinn, Executive Director



ASSOCIATION DE LA
CONSTRUCTION DU QUÉBEC

CCA Partner Associations Report - February 2025 Association de la construction du Québec

Bill 79

On December 5, the [Association de la construction du Québec \(ACQ\)](#) presented its [brief](#) as part of the special consultations on Bill 79, *An Act respecting contracts entered into by municipal bodies and amending various provisions principally to reduce the administrative burden on municipal bodies*. The ACQ welcomed this bill, which is in line with the demands of the construction industry for more efficient processes that are better adapted to the realities of contractors.

Bill 79 will also speed up the construction of housing by giving municipalities the power to authorise real estate projects that are primarily for residential use and that do not comply with town planning regulations. The bill is currently being studied in detail by the National Assembly.

25% Tariffs

Like the industry as a whole, the ACQ is concerned about the impact that a tariff war with the United States would have on supply chains and the cost of materials. If retaliatory measures were to be implemented by Canada, the ACQ urges the federal government to precisely target the products targeted by countermeasures, in order to minimize the impact on Quebec construction companies.

To assist contractors in this uncertain and rapidly changing context, the ACQ created a [section on its website about the impact of tariffs](#), which will be updated on an ongoing basis. This platform will provide detailed information on tariffs and their impact on current and future contracts.

Negotiation of the 2025-2029 collective agreements

On January 28, the ACQ and the Alliance syndicale jointly submitted a request to the Minister of Labour to appoint a conciliator. The purpose of conciliation is, with the help of a specialist from the Ministry of Labour, to encourage the pursuit of constructive discussions so that negotiations can progress while respecting the issues and problems presented by the parties at the bargaining table.

In the ACQ's view, the collective agreements need to be modernized, with particular emphasis on the industry's competitiveness and attractiveness, greater flexibility in the industry to meet strong demand, and improved provisions to promote work-life balance.

Construction Trades Camps

Association de la construction du Québec

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ASSOCIATION DE LA
CONSTRUCTION DU QUÉBEC

On February 9, the ACQ concluded its tour of the Construction Trades Camps. Over the past few months, over 1,500 people have taken part in one of the 12 stops on the tour, all over Quebec. This unique initiative, developed by the ACQ thanks to a \$1.3 million investment from the Quebec government, is designed to attract a new generation of workers to the construction industry.

New ACQ Network and Industry Relations Director

The ACQ recently welcomed Frédéric Houde as its new Director of ACQ Network and Industry Relations. He will be at the heart of the ACQ network's efforts and the development of relations with the industry.

The ACQ launches its new employer brand: become an ACQ fan!

Promoting the employer brand is crucial to stand out as an employer. That is why the ACQ launched its new employer brand in February: become an ACQ fan!

The employer brand aims to attract, recruit, and retain talent by promoting this image to current and potential employees. With 4 core values: boldness, excellence, simplicity, and openness, the ACQ presents 6 passionate people who represent these values and show that the ACQ offers its employees a stimulating and enjoyable working environment.

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Association
des constructeurs
de routes
et grands travaux
du Québec



ACRGTQ

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**Succinct provincial report to the
Canadian Construction Association**

by
**Association des constructeurs de routes
et grands travaux du Québec**

February 2025

ACRGQTQ

The 23rd “Construire l’espoir” evening was held on November 28, 2024 at the cabaret of the Montreal Casino. This year, the chair of the Board, Marc Joncas, and the executive director of the ACRGTQ, Gisèle Bourque, esq., handed over a \$55,000 cheque to make a difference in the lives of children with cancer and their families. [See the event's webpage >](#)

- The ACRGTQ’s annual conference was held from January 21 to 23, 2025 at the Fairmont Le Château Frontenac in Québec City. The conference’s theme was Networking to better Collaborate. Over 1,000 people attended. [See the conference’s webpage >](#).

Provincial Policy

- 8 novembre 2024 : Jean Boulet, Minister of Labour and Minister responsible for the Mauricie, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec regions, has announced a consultation on the future of workplaces in the digital age.

Bills

- Assent to Bills 61 and 62: The ACRGTQ was pleased that *An Act to enact the Act respecting Mobilité Infra Québec and to amend certain provisions respecting public transit* (Bill 61, assented to on December 5) and *An Act to diversify the procurement strategies of public bodies and provide them with greater flexibility in carrying out their infrastructure projects* (Bill 62, assented to on October 9) were assented to.
- November 7, 2024: the Quebec government tabled Bill 79, *An Act to enact the Act respecting contracts entered into by municipal bodies*, which also aims to amend various provisions mainly to reduce the administrative burden on municipal bodies.
- November 20, 2024: The provincial government tabled Bill 81, which aims to improve the environmental impact assessment and review procedure, among other things, and to strengthen the conservation of natural environments.
- December 5, 2024: The ACRGTQ submitted its [brief on Bill 79](#), *An Act to enact the Act respecting contracts entered into by municipal bodies and to amend various provisions principally to reduce the administrative burden on municipal bodies* (PL-79).

Hydro-Québec

- 4 novembre 2024 : Hydro-Québec has unveiled a major upgrade and reinforcement of its 735 kV network, the backbone of its electricity transmission system, a key initiative to support Quebec’s energy transition. This announcement is part of the 2035 Action Plan and aims to meet the growing demand for clean, renewable electricity. This is the largest electricity transmission project in recent decades.
- December 12, 2024: A new energy partnership for Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec. Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec have signed an important agreement in principle regarding hydroelectric generation in Labrador. The proposed partnership will deliver significant and immediate value to Newfoundland and Labrador, while making a major contribution to Quebec’s energy security.
- January 10: the agreement in principle between Hydro-Québec and Churchill Falls was approved by the Newfoundland and Labrador House of Assembly.
- January 16: after months of waiting, Hydro-Québec finally unveiled the route for its new 230 kV power line, which will run partly through the town of Granby.

- 29 janvier : Québec Premier François Legault, the Chief of the Essipit Innu First Nation Martin Dufour, the Prefect of the Fjord-du-Saguenay RCM Gérald Savard, and President and Chief Executive Officer of Hydro-Québec Michael Sabia were proud to announce the signing of a partnership with the Essipit Innu First Nation, the Fjord-du-Saguenay RCM and Hydro-Québec for the development of wind power in the Nutinamu-Chauvin area of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, which could accommodate up to 1,000 MW by 2035.

Infrastructure

- 27 novembre 2024 : 23 companies submitted eligible proposals following the international call for interest issued by the Quebec government for the third link project in October 2024.
- December 16, 2024: The Quebec government, Quebec City and CDPQ Infra announced the signing of agreements sealing the partnership for the planning of the tramway component of phase 1 of the CITÉ Plan. The partners also announced that the project would be officially named TramCité.

Transportation

- 14 janvier : In May 2023, Quebec City and Ottawa announced investments of \$1.1 billion and \$780 million respectively to acquire 1,229 electric buses, built by Nova Bus of Saint-Eustache, for the province's various public transit authorities. [...] Environment Minister Benoit Charette has indicated that the first of these 1,229 buses would "be delivered in 2025."
- 14 janvier : A \$13 million locomotive has been unveiled by EXO to attract new riders. The aim is to offer greater comfort and improved reliability, while reducing noise and greenhouse gas emissions, EXO promises. With the capacity to pull up to 10 cars, this locomotive will increase transport capacity, offering more seats for passengers.

Construction Industry

- November 13, 2024: the Commission de la construction du Québec (CCQ), alongside First Nations and Inuit and industry partners, launched a Construction Industry Action Plan for the Inclusion of First Nations and Inuit as part of the 5th Regional Economic Circle of Quebec and Indigenous Peoples.

OGCA Report to the
Canadian Construction Association (CCA)
March 2025

US Tariffs Trade War

On February 1, 2025, the U.S. announced that it would be imposing tariffs of 25 per cent on Canadian goods, and a tariff of 10 per cent on energy exports from Canada, imported into the U.S. from Canada effective February 4, 2025. The two countries share one of the world's most significant trading relationships, with total trade in goods and services estimated at \$968 billion annually in 2023. The imposition of tariffs by the United States and countermeasures by Canada have raised concerns about construction cost escalations, material delays, supply chain disruptions, cost overruns, and project delays. These developments highlight the volatility of the Canada-U.S. trade relationship and its significance to industries on both sides of the border.

In 2023, Canada's exports to the United States accounted for approximately 77% of its total exports, while imports from the United States represented over 50% of its total imports, according to Statistics Canada. The U.S. and Canadian construction sectors are deeply intertwined through the supply chain across the border, which includes expertise, labour, and materials. Key components of the construction supply chain include: softwood lumber; steel and aluminum; cement and concrete products; machinery and equipment; and appliances, tools, and fixtures.

On February 3, 2025 President Trump agreed to pause tariffs on Canada for 30 days, after Trudeau agreed to border security measures. A \$1.3-billion border security plan which includes "reinforcing the border with new choppers, technology and personnel, enhanced coordination with our American partners, and increased resources to stop the flow of fentanyl." Trudeau added Canada will invest another \$200 million to back "a new intelligence directive on organized crime and fentanyl," appoint a "fentanyl czar," list drug cartels as terrorist organizations, and launch a new Canada-U.S. joint strike force to combat fentanyl, organized crime and money laundering.

OGCA believes that although Canada and the US have agreed to a 30-day reprieve from the potential impacts of US imposed tariffs, the OGCA strongly recommends that Canada utilize all of its retaliatory strength to fight these outlandish and destructive tariffs. It is clear that the US President is creating a position in which the US has more leverage in our relationship with them, this is a typical negotiation tactic. The issue arises when the US launch "across the board" tariffs that will not only disrupt but destroy multiple sectors and affect hundreds of thousands of people.

For the construction sector these tariffs equate to: construction cost escalations; material delays; supply chain disruptions; cost overruns; and project delays. In short, these tariffs completely disrupt the already fragile supply chain that is still trying to correct itself from the

impacts of the global pandemic. These tariffs will not yield the outcome the US believes it will. The OGCA strongly recommends that the US President eliminate this unilateral “bargaining chip” and re-establish the flow of products that our two countries share. The US must realize that they are jeopardizing one of the world’s most significant trading relationships!

The OGCA strongly supports the construction industry, our province and our country in pushing back against any and all unilaterally imposed tariffs that directly upset the balance of trade, that has existed for decades, between Canada and the U.S.

Ontario Provincial Government Election

On January 28, 2025, Premier Doug Ford confirmed that the Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, accepted the premier's advice to sign a proclamation dissolving the 43rd Parliament of the Province of Ontario. Pursuant to the provisions of the Election Act, the Lieutenant Governor also called for the issuance of writs for the general election to be issued January 29, 2025, and named February 27, 2025, as the date of Ontario's next general election.

Ministry of Finance Pre-Budget Consultation Submission

Prior to the election proclamation, the Ontario government prepared for the 2025 Ontario Budget, and stakeholders were invited to share ideas on the key issues that need to be addressed in the next budget. The OGCA prepared a submission and the Pre-Budget Consultation Submission included the following recommendations:

- Provide the Office of the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) with the necessary funding and resources to develop and deliver an awareness program/training to address workplace safety culture and environment.
- Significantly reduce the “red tape” that surrounds public project construction and remove overly burdensome contract conditions in public sector and broader public sector project procurement.
- That this Government continue investing in construction workforce development through the Skills Development Fund (SDF).
- That this Government, through Skilled Trades Ontario, expand the existing STEP to Construction program to more school boards across Ontario - allowing more students exposure and access to the skilled trades.

Due to the government declaring a snap election, and potentially problematic circumstances with the United States, the government may ask for resubmissions once the election has been concluded. Should that be the case, the OGCA may re-prioritize or add to the existing recommendations to ensure the needs of our members are being properly addressed

Please contact me if anyone needs further clarification on any of the tabled items.

Sincerely,



Giovanni Cautillo
President
Ontario General Contractors Association

OSWCA Industry Update January 2025

Industry Overview

Concerns are growing about a lack of work being tendered. The upcoming provincial election in February and a prospective federal election in May, coupled with the ongoing discussion of border tariffs for goods flowing between Canada and the USA, have many concerned over the prospects for work in 2025 (typically municipal project tendering is slow during election cycles). Overall hours worked in the industry across the province in 2024 were down almost 20% year-over-year.

OSWCA Update – Open Board Meeting in Hamilton

- The GTSWCA's **contract and procurement legal support program** was 'soft-launched' on January 1st. The program has been extended to OSWCA members for 2025 and will allow members to submit tender inquiries, document review, specification questions, and requests for information on Construction Act. An online portal will be attached to the OSWCA website, but for the time being it can be accessed from the GTSWCA website (www.gtswca.org) under the sub-heading "Legal Hub." The program allows members to access free legal support, feedback, and communications materials related to municipal contract and tendering. The communications launch is presently under development.
- OSWCA's work to develop **promotional material and a HUB website with BuildWitt** is now complete. The campaign social media has been launched. Campaign material can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn by searching "**Ontario Water Careers.**" We encourage everyone to follow these pages on your social media accounts and encourage others to follow to help get more eyes on information about the industry, its companies, and job opportunities in your regional area.
- **OSWCA will be hosting a Queen's Park Lobby Day** and reception in 2025 (date TBD). The goal is to increase the Association's 'brand awareness' following a provincial election. The lobbying effort will focus on the need for long-term sustainable investment in municipal infrastructure (provincially mandated full cost pricing for water and wastewater), as well as workforce development needs for the industry. OSWCA will be inviting members to attend a reception and to participate in the lobbying meetings with MPPs.
- The Board engaged in a spirited debate on whether to make a **public endorsement to the PC Party of Ontario for the upcoming election**. The Party approached the Association and requested an endorsement. Members were divided on the subject and after lengthy discussion, required that the vote go to anonymous ballot. Ultimately the vote failed to pass. It was an important discussion for the Board to have, as it, once again, helped to centre the Association on the path expected of it by members.
- The Board is striking a **Sustainable Financing sub-committee** to address the long-term sustainability of OSWCA's funding mechanisms.
- OSWCA hosted its **Annual AGM** in Nashville, Jan 22-25. The event attracted 170 attendees. The 2026 Convention will be hosting back in Niagara Falls in January.
- Executive Director Patrick McManus appeared on TVO's *The Agenda* on Jan 22nd to discuss sustainable funding for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure. The full episode can be found at <https://www.tvo.org/video/is-water-infrastructure-for-rural-ontario-a-pipe-dream>.



MANITOBA HEAVY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION (MHCA)
Unit #3-1680 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3H 0Z2

February, 2025

REPORT TO THE CCA - ADVOCACY UPDATE FROM THE MHCA CHAIR

The following are highlights of the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association's (MHCA) policy and advocacy activity.

CANADA

- Prepared a one-pager, with coalition of business organizations (incl CCA), advocating for Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan for use in pressing federal government and federal parties for a focus on 'growing the economy'. Urging federal government to
 - o launch initial steps towards a Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan (CTIP), in Budget 2025
 - o strike a resourced working group of federal, provincial, and private-sector representatives to guide implementation of a CTIP, which would coordinate federal/provincial trade infrastructure investment
- Met November 18, '24, Privy Council Office senior officials -- Gerard Peets, ADM Strategic Policy; Jay Barber, Director Internal Trade; Jean-Sebastien Langelier, Director Strategic Policy -- along with CCA and Canadian Chamber of Commerce regarding need to harness investment in trade (CTIP).
- Participated with national business organizations in Conference Board of Canada roundtable on trade transportation investment/strategy (October, 2024)
 - o Findings feed into a CBoC's National Transformative Trade Infrastructure Research Initiative (funded by Canada Infra Bank and Transport Canada); CBoC circulated CTIP one-pager to participants

WESTERN CANADA

- Western Canada Roadbuilders & Heavy Construction Association conference in Maui, Hawaii in Feb. 2-7, 2025.

MANITOBA

- Established a program/tendering review working group with Manitoba Transportation & Infrastructure to accelerate and coordinate tendering, allowing for early design engineering assignment; goal is for 80% of construction tenders advertised to industry by February of each program year
- Engaged with MTI re impact of potential tariffs with US, in event of retaliation

WINNIPEG

- Working with Winnipeg's Public Works department to: accelerate the process for tendering construction projects early; review proposed roadbuilding specifications; review budget model for local and regional streets
- Worked with Winnipeg on social procurement to ensure requirements in construction contracts reflect industry realities and construction project practicalities
 - o City has proposed, and MHCA is responding to, a draft 'Code of Conduct' for industry procurement
- Continuing to press Winnipeg/Manitoba to work toward a 'new fiscal deal' to open new revenue streams for municipality

Respectfully submitted,

John Highmoor, B.A., B.Sc. (C.E.)
Chair, MHCA

Alberta Construction Association

February 2025 Report to Canadian Construction Association

Advocacy

Over the past few months, the Alberta Construction Association has engaged with the Government of Alberta and other provincial agencies on a number of key issues affecting our members.

Prompt Payment

This fall the government passed amendments to the *Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act* and the *Public Works Act* which bring prompt payment to government contracts for the first time. ACA worked closely with the government and our partners associations to push for this over 2024, so we were pleased to see some success.

However, we acknowledge that the legislation did not go far enough and added further challenges for members seeking adjudication with the province. There are a number of risk factors that continue to concern our members in the legislation. The ACA will continue to work with the government to address those concerns, including amendments in the spring session.

Budget Deliberations

As the government of Alberta is preparing for the upcoming spring session at the Legislature, they are planning on releasing their budget for 2025 to be released at the end of February. ACA sent the government our recommendations on funding, including:

- Consistent and Predictable Capital Investment;
 - Ex. Investing in capital maintenance and renewal may help to smooth the peaks and valleys of investment in the province.
- Increased workforce training and upskilling programs;
 - Ex. Returning funding to the Canada-Alberta Job Grant that supports reskilling and upskilling in the construction industry.
- Continued effort to balance risk allocation in government contracts.
 - Costs could increase on government infrastructure projects if there isn't a properly allocated, shared approach to risks incurred on projects.
 - Ex. Tariff exclusions in contracts and procurement should be undertaken by the province in order to mitigate cost increases.

Contract Modernization

We continue to work with the government on contract modernization and how best to assign risk. We have been meeting with Alberta Infrastructure for some time on these issues and the new version of their contracts did not meet the expectations of industry.

During the fall we carried out conversations with the Deputy Minister of Alberta Infrastructure on our issues with their positions regarding contracts and continued to raise points of concern. This is a long-term advocacy issue for ACA and will likely continue for 2025 to be a point of priority.

Workforce Development

We are continuing with our Digital Tradesperson Project and are working towards the spring 2025 implementation. Also, our Trade Pathways Program has increased placements across the province exceeding the required number of participants by over 300%.

The ACA is also working with local construction association partners on developing more industry-led training by finding solutions to where industry may have gaps, such as skills to support technology adoption. The government still sees this as an issue of need to support productivity challenges in the industry. The ACA will continue to advocate strongly for increased investment in workforce programming.

Industry Overview

We expect 2025 to be a busy year for the industry. As major projects across the province such as Dow Chemical plant, school accelerator program, carbon capture and storage project Shell Canada's Polaris pick up steam this year. These will impact the ability for industry to keep pace with the demand for all capital projects. With a tight skilled labour market across the province and a tenuous supply chain, the industry in Alberta will be working with government on easing regulatory burden by reducing costs associated with red tape and risks and increasing access to skills throughout the year.

Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA)

As of January 30, 2025

Advocacy and Government Relations

- ARHCA's Board approved a renewed advocacy strategy for 2024 and 2025 (considering upcoming municipal, federal and provincial elections).
- The Minister of Transportation has agreed to hold a Productivity Forum mid-year.

Rural Municipalities

- A recent Asset Deficit Study by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) found that the current condition of rural municipal roads hovers around 60% and will fall to 8% by 2028 without a solution. This current infrastructure deficit is estimated at \$12B and is projected to grow to over \$30B by 2028.

Partnering with the U of A

- ARHCA continued working with the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering to contribute to a comprehensive study of construction inefficiencies. To ensure that this study includes a review of the attributes of a good owner, ARHCA successfully obtained funding and support from the National Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation (NCICC). This will provide valuable independent data to help the industry hold owners more accountable.

Workforce Development Committee Finding its feet.

- The new ARHCA Workforce Development Committee is moving quickly to identify initiatives where the association can make a positive impact on workforce for all members. An MBA Student has completed her capstone project which has provided a foundation for the committee to build upon. Once the paper has been formally returned by her academic advisor, we will provide information to all CCA member partner associations.

Conferences

- ARHCA staff are organizing the Western Canada Roadbuilders 2025 convention in Hawaii in February. We hope to bring a strong contingent from Alberta to attend the conference and support the local Maui economy as it rebuilds.
- On July 24, a wildfire swept through Jasper and engulfed the town, destroying a third of the houses and businesses. While the Jasper Park Lodge was spared, its staff accommodations were destroyed, forcing JPL to cancel many conventions, including ARHCA's. We relocated to the Banff Springs Hotel; however, this has been challenging and expensive, causing ARHCA to shorten our program and increase the cost of the event.
- Our January municipal conferences in Edmonton and Calgary were both highly successful. The Edmonton Committee event is focussed on linear infrastructure and drew nearly 300 attendees to hear presentations on upcoming works from Edmonton and surrounding counties, towns and cities. The Calgary event was co-promoted by ARHCA and the Calgary Construction Association and drew over 500 attendees.

Alberta Roadbuilders and Heavy Construction Association (ARHCA)

As of February 18, 2025

Advocacy and Government Relations

- The ARHCA issued a statement and communication to membership on the US trade tariffs on February 6, 2025, outlining the ARHCA intent and actions to appeal to the Province of Alberta to protect existing contracts.
- The ARHCA will conduct a Board of Directors call on February 28, following the provincial budget announcement (and communication to members) on February 27. The call will additionally provide update on what is being done on the tariff file by our national partners at CCA and the Civil Infrastructure Council Corporation to ramp up our existing advocacy campaign for the [Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan](#); consider a plan and options to accelerate ARHCA advocacy to publicly advocate for “pipelines and roads” tweaking ‘[Fix Our Roads](#)’ to add pipelines to align with Danielle Smith’s position on the tariff issue; consider a letter campaign to the Premier to demand relief in contracts from the tariff impact in current and future contracts, and to escalate concerns over provincial highway construction and maintenance budgets.
- Following the Board of Directors conference call, the ARHCA will host a Town Hall for membership to describe the status of files we are working on, the actions the Board has approved, and to take questions.
- Attended a ‘Alberta Skilled Trades Labour Market Information Workshop’ to contribute and dialogue on industry job trends and immediate and long-term challenges and solutions to support the Alberta trades sector.

Member Activities

- The ARHCA is evaluating a membership only job board to support industry job placement and related best practice information to members. A survey to membership is included in the February Roadrunner newsletter. This is a response to membership interest to expand workforce development training and activities.

Conferences

- The ARHCA staff organized the Western Canada Roadbuilders 2025 conference in February. The event was well received and included exceptional dialogue on current industry challenges, including a cybersecurity session and ‘Women Driving Industry’ and political panels that received exceptional response from delegates.

NAIT Roadbuilders Certificate Program

- Member volunteers have been confirmed for the current review of all courses in the program. The courses are typically reviewed every 5 years. NAIT has additionally asked for the ARHCA’s help to secure course instructors through our membership. A callout and details are included in the February Roadrunner newsletter.

Educational Partnerships

- Educational programs for careers in roadbuilding will be profiled in the Alberta Heavy Q2 publication and will highlight our current partners, The [NAIT Roadbuilders Certificate Program](#) and the [Olds College Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate](#). The profile will provide general program awareness and demonstrate actionable deliverables of the Workforce Development Committee and corresponding initiatives. The profile will also provide a platform and messaging to support future recruitment campaigns on behalf of our educational partners.



Construction Association of Saskatchewan Update

January 2025

The Construction Association of Saskatchewan continues to strengthen the relationship between the newly elected Mayors and the Provincial Government.

Engagement with Municipal and Provincial Government

At our recent AGMs in early December, we had the mayors attend them in their respective cities and bring introductory greetings, highlighting their vision for the year. We also had a very productive meeting with Hon. David Marit, Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement, to discuss ongoing advocacy efforts and address critical issues facing the construction industry.

In partnership with MERIT Contractors Association - SK, the Saskatoon and Regina Region Home Builders Associations, we jointly advocated for the formation of a Construction Roundtable, to which Minister Marit has agreed and which we will see in action shortly. This is a significant achievement, as we are seeing our efforts reaching fruition.

Association Update

We are happy to share that the unified single entity (CASK) is up and running, with the Board of Directors meeting on January 7, 2025. Jeff Hagerty, Civil Manager at PCL Construction Management Inc., was elected as the Chair of the inaugural CASK Board. The Board will be busy creating a strategic plan, bylaws, and policies for CASK along with the staff team.

Our events are in full swing as usual, beginning with the 63rd Annual Bonspiel in Saskatoon. We also have our Annual Summer Meeting slated for June 10 to June 13 at Elk Ridge Resort, followed by the Regina Bonspiel, Saskatoon Members Gala, Regina's President Ball, golf tournaments, and Prince Albert's Christmas Social to wrap up the year.

Top Priorities for the upcoming year

- Prompt Payment Reforms
- Skilled Workforce Shortage
- Bid Depository Upgradation
- Contract Terms

For further information and updates on Construction Association's work and initiatives please visit www.constructionsk.ca

TOP PRIORITIES

Focus:

- Prompt Payment, Adjudication and Lien Reform
- US Tariffs
- Labour Costs and Shortages
- Public Sector Procurement Practices
- Contract Terms

GENERAL CONCERNS

- Hiring slowdown
- Ongoing insecurity with regards to economic prospects
- Declining projected investments in major projects

NEW ADVOCACY EFFORTS

New “BCCA Members Only” Webinar Series for RCA Members

We held the first two sessions of this new series in December 2024 and January 2025:

- December: “COCA Presentation to BCCA Provincial Regions & Members”
- January “Unlocking the Value of CCDC Contracts”

“Owners Only” Webinar Series for Public Sector Owners

We held sessions in November and December 2024, and January 2025:

- November: “Builders Code – How Owners can Help Transform Construction Sites and Build a Better Construction Culture” – 101 attendees
- December: “Fairness at any Scale: Practical Insights for Public Sector Owners” – 137 attendees
- January: “Construction Management: Delivery Methods - What Owners Need to Know” – 218 attendees

We’ve now held 16 “Owners Only” sessions attracting a cumulative attendance of more than 2,800 public owner representatives members.

BCCA STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

BCCA and its Board of Directors has been developing our next 5-year strategic plan which will be officially approved at the February 2025 Board meeting. The new plan focuses on the following strategic priorities:

1. Advocate for Integrity
2. Advance Productivity
3. Activate Connections
4. Association Excellence

The full strategic plan will be published to the BCCA website after the February Board meeting; a **summary one pager can be viewed here**.

CONSTRUCTION MONTH

For the 8th year, BC has officially proclaimed April to be “Construction and Skilled Trades Month”. It’s a time to take a moment to celebrate and thank the unsung workers across our industry who create and maintain our built environment.

- Lunch Box Celebration – 100 grants and swag packages for RCA members
- 5 RCA Contractor Breakfasts – including a presentation of Builders Code Awards
- MLA NDP Caucus Luncheon, Day at the Leg for BCCA Executive and Board, and Leadership Reception on April 8
- Launch of Spring Stat Pack and 2025 Industry Survey Report
- Launch of new BCCA Past Chairs’ Legacy Fund

BUILDEX VANCOUVER 2025

BCCA Workforce Solutions, BidCentral, and BCCA Industry Practices will have a strong presence at this year’s Buildex Conference in Vancouver on February 26 and 27. Included:

- BCCA Workforce Solutions booth featuring STEP, Builders Code, Building Builders, BCCA-IN, Builders Life TalentCentral, BCCA Employee Benefit Trust
- BidCentral booth
- Shared space with VRCA/BCCA Connector Lounge
- Chris Atchison and Katy Fairley both participating in various speaking panels



MEMO

Date: January 31, 2025

To: Lynn Perrault, CCA

From: Matt Pitcairn

Cc: Steve Drummond, Kelly Scott

Subject: CCA Provincial Report – BC Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association

CURRENT STATE:

Road maintenance, construction, and heavy contracting firms are navigating a steady 2025, though wary of new tariff impacts. The reelected government has committed over \$43 billion to vital infrastructure projects over the next three years, including \$15 billion dedicated to transportation infrastructure. Despite governing with a slim majority, we anticipate that these spending plans will proceed as expected.

Mike Farnworth has been appointed Minister of Transportation and Transit. Mike has held several key roles in government, including serving as Public Safety Minister during the 2021 Atmospheric River - a difficult time that ultimately strengthened the relationship between the association and the government.

- We have launched the [RoadReadyBC](#) in partnership with the Alberta Road Builders & HCA, a 24-module online training program to ensure that professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to uphold high safety standards across diverse worksites and specialized tasks.
- We have released the [Provincial Response and Emergency Program \(P.R.E.P Book\)](#), a tool to support the province and communities through challenging circumstances, including natural disasters and generational climate events. It contains resources available to offer support at a moment's notice, with each chapter providing a snapshot of the various members ready to respond within a corresponding service area.
- We continue administering a province-wide talent attraction tour called the [RoadShow](#), centered on innovative simulator technology housed in a 35-foot trailer. Launched in Q1 2024, we have engaged over 8,000 participants at over 60 events across BC.
- The Construction Committee has made significant progress, including modernizing contract clauses with fuel escalation clauses and new force account terms. The Ministry of Transportation and Transit also has implemented new rates for Minor Works Supplemental General Conditions.

The 2025 Strategic Plan is focused on:

- **Advocating for increasing investment in climate-resilient and sustainable infrastructure**, consistent funding, sustainable practices, and efficient project delivery.
- **Growing and maintaining a robust, safe, and inclusive workforce** through campaigns, scholarships, and programs like the RoadShow. Diversity and mental wellness are key focuses, ensuring a supportive and secure work environment.
- **Leading an innovative, informed, and sustainable industry** by promoting sustainable practices and leveraging data for decision-making. Initiatives like the CleanRoads Innovation Program and the P.R.E.P Book will strengthen resilience and emergency readiness.