

Letter from the President on the 2026 Annual Conference

Dear colleagues,

As most of you are aware, our 2026 Annual Conference and business meetings will be held in San Diego, California, in March. I recognize that some of you may have questions about this decision given the ongoing political and trade tensions. This letter is intended to provide further context on our reflections and decisions.

First and foremost, I want to assure you all that my team and I remain committed to transparency and openness during this process. If you, your team, or any of your members have any questions or concerns that they would like to relay to us, please contact me at president@cca-acc.com.

We recognize that hosting this year's conference in the United States comes at a time of heightened political and trade tensions. These dynamics are not lost on us. In fact, they have only reinforced the importance of showing up and standing up for Canada. Our two countries remain deeply connected through people, projects, and policies. And in moments like this, when tensions rise, direct engagement is not optional – it is essential.

2026 will be more than a conference. It will be a strategic opportunity for Canada's construction industry to demonstrate its presence, reinforce partnerships, and support Canada's federal negotiators by maintaining visibility and engagement in the U.S. market. Since January 2025, we have been closely monitoring the U.S. administration's announcements on tariffs. All along, we have remained steadfast in our efforts to advocate for Canada's construction sector to see the complete removal of tariffs and a return to the free trade from which both countries once benefitted. Additionally, since fall 2024, we have been in active dialogue with government partners, cross-border advocacy groups and local officials in California to ensure a thoughtful and informed approach to the 2026 Annual Conference.

Additionally, the financial reality facing CCA cannot be overlooked. Due to the size and scope of our conferences, planning and booking must begin four to six years in advance. This requires annual deposits to guarantee the venue and related services. At this stage, cancelling would trigger significant financial penalties and result in forfeited funds. Such a loss would directly affect CCA's ability to deliver the critical programs and services our members rely on. As stewards of the association, we believe it is our responsibility to manage commitments wisely and safeguard the long-term health of the organization.

Most of all, this is an opportunity for our industry to show America that Canada's construction industry is strong and united. We are the backbone of our country, employing more than 1.6 million Canadians and contributing more than \$160 billion to Canada's GDP every year. CCA has proudly represented our industry for over 100 years.

We will weather this difficult period in the Canada-U.S. relationship, and we will come out stronger than ever. I hope that we can count on you to show up and stand up for Canada in San Diego, California, March 10-13, 2026. Your presence matters as it demonstrates our industry's strength, unity and commitment to advancing Canada's interests. Thank you for your continued support and trust as we navigate these complex times together.

Sincerely,



Rodrigue Gilbert
CCA President