

## House of Commons adjournment: Parliamentary spring recap

On June 19, 2026, the House of Commons rose for summer recess, concluding a busy parliamentary session that provided ample opportunities for engagement between the construction industry and the federal government. This session reaffirmed the government's commitment to its 'Build, Baby, Build' agenda by executing key initiatives announced in Budget 2025 and rolling out implementation details in the Spring Economic Statement.

This note provides an update on the Carney administration's major updates during the 45<sup>th</sup> parliamentary session.

### From minority to majority

On April 13, 2026, the government secured an official majority following a sweep of three special elections in the riding of Terrebonne, University-Rosedale, and Scarborough Southwest. Alongside the by-election wins, the government welcomed five floor-crossers, four from the Conservatives and one from the NDP, bringing its total to 174 seats out of 343 seats in the House of Commons.

Gaining a majority means the government has greater control over the parliamentary processes, including stability of governance for the next three years. They have increased legislative power, allowing them to pass bills within their mandate; enhanced control over committees; and reduced reliance on opposition parties to advance policy or legislative action.

### Spring Economic Statement

On April 29, 2026, the government tabled the Spring Economic Statement (SES), marking the its first spring fiscal update. The timing of the SES is intended to better align with industry timelines and provide an updated snapshot of Canada's fiscal outlook since Budget 2025.

Of note to the construction industry is the introduction of the 'Team Canada Strong' (TCS) initiative, a \$6 billion funding package aimed at recruiting, training, and hiring 80,000 to 100,000 Red Seal-trained workers by 2030-31. Other key measures include:

- \$2 billion over the next five years to facilitate paid job placements for young people entering the skilled trades.
- Up to \$10,000 per participating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to hire, train, and retrain apprentices.
- \$3.4 billion over five years on the worker side to address barriers to apprenticeship training and completion.
- An increase to the annual deductible on expenses, from \$4,000 to \$10,000, to enhance labour mobility for tradespeople.

CCA has participated in several roundtables to provide feedback on the TCS initiative, including implementation details and opportunities to expand the program to better represent the construction workforce.

### Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) review

The formal joint review of CUSMA is set to begin July 1, 2026. Rather than a formal renegotiation, this joint review is a mandated six-year check-in to evaluate the agreement's performance and to identify improvements needed

before renewing for the next 16 years. Any party may withdraw from the agreement, provided they give six months' notice to the other parties.

CCA has previously participated in the submission outlining the industry's recommendations for the upcoming CUSMA review. As a net importer, construction is particularly vulnerable to material price volatility and procurement challenges resulting from restrictive trade policies or tariffs. Therefore, the industry has been a strong supporter of North American free trade, recognizing its importance in fostering a business environment that enables construction to build the infrastructure that Canadians need and deserve.

During this spring session, CCA has participated in the following engagements, reaffirming these asks:

- **Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT)** - Our President, Rodrigue Gilbert, appeared before the House of Commons CIIT as part of their study on 'Free Trade within Canada'. He provided an industry perspective on ways to resolve internal trade issues, such as construction labour mobility and Red Seal accreditation.
- **Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (AEFA)** - Our Associate Vice-President of Public Affairs and Industry Practices, Louis-Philippe Champagne, appeared before the Senate's AEFA to comment on the study of 'such issues as may arise from time to time relating to foreign relations and international trade generally'. He provided insight into construction-specific considerations that Canada should keep in mind for the upcoming review, including rules of origin requirements and reliable access to essential materials.

## Workforce development

CCA has been actively engaged with the federal government on the workforce development file, advocating for streamlined, proportional funding parity for domestic workforce recruitment, while ensuring that Canada's immigration strategy reflects labour market demands:

- **Workforce Alliance** – CCA has been working with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) on the development of the 'Housing and Construction' Workforce Alliance to help mobilize a workforce that can support the delivery of the government's Build Canada Strong initiatives.
- **Strengthening labour relations** – CCA was invited as a stakeholder to participate in ESDC's 'Targeted Consultations on Building Canada Strong for all – Powered by Canada's Workers', where CCA provided insights on measures to enhance labour supports, such as health and safety regulations.
- **Express Entry reform** – CCA participated in Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)'s 2026 consultations on potential Express Entry (EE) reforms, highlighting the longstanding reality that the EE process has not historically worked for construction and providing comments on proposed reforms to ensure that future iterations are better aligned to industry needs.
- **Immigration levels** – CCA also participated in IRCC's 2026 consultations on immigration levels, emphasizing how the government's immigration strategy must align with and reflect current and projected labour-market needs, spotlighting construction's role in this economic demand.

## Infrastructure investment

Following Budget 2025 and SES 2026, the government has continued to reiterate its commitment to nation-building projects, trade corridors, and increased housing supply to bolster Canada's domestic economy. To help advance these priorities, CCA has engaged with the government through the following consultations:

- **Major Projects Office (MPO)** – Since the spring session, the government has expanded the MPO’s mandate, including certain Northern and Arctic projects under its purview. As part of the goal of expediting the completion of major projects, CCA participated in the Privy Council Office’s (PCO) consultation on ‘Getting Major Projects Built in Canada – Regulatory Changes for Major Projects’ to provide feedback on the proposed regulatory changes.
- **Transport Canada (TC)** – CCA also responded to the parallel consultation by Transport Canada (TC) on ‘Strengthening One Canadian Economy through trade and transportation,’ offering recommendations on the importance of trade and transport infrastructure as a mechanism to simultaneously consolidate the domestic economy while diversifying Canada’s trade.
- **National Infrastructure Assessment 2 (NIA)** – The Canadian Infrastructure Council (CIC) released a call for evidence to inform NIA Report 2 to accelerate the delivery of housing-enabling infrastructure. CCA submitted recommendations to directly unlock the sector’s full potential to deliver on the government’s \$115 billion infrastructure commitment.

As a result of our participation in these consultations, CCA has received numerous follow-up requests for meetings with senior officials, thereby strengthening the construction industry’s visibility and influence across key federal government departments.

## Procurement modernization

CCA’s participation in the above-mentioned parallel consultations led by the MPO and TC provided valuable opportunities to integrate our advocacy on procurement modernization as an approach that ensures projects proceed with technical and financial feasibility. Furthermore, CCA has continued to monitor developments on the following policies:

- **Buy Canadian** – As of June 1, 2026, the compliance framework for *Prioritizing Canadian Suppliers and Canadian Content in Strategic Federal Procurements* will change the data collection threshold on contracts from \$25,000 to \$5,000, for which Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is the common service provider.
- **Supporting Small and Medium Businesses** – Announced in Budget 2025, the *Small and Medium Businesses Procurement Program* was allocated \$79.9 million in funding to improve SME participation in federal procurement opportunities. The SES 2026 indicated that the program would be officially launched later this spring; however, full operational details or eligibility criteria have yet to be released. CCA will continue to monitor developments and provide more information as it becomes available.

## Conclusion

The House is now adjourned and set to return on September 21, 2026. In the meantime, CCA will continue to monitor developments on our advocacy files and engage with parliamentarians in the lead-up to a busy fall, marked by numerous advocacy events, including our semi-annual Meech Lake meeting and Hill Day.

For more information on CCA’s advocacy work, please contact our Associate Vice-President of Public Affairs and Industry Practices, [Louis-Philippe Champagne](#).