

# Calgary Construction Association (CCA) Report for GAMA Board Meeting-2023-06-22

Since our last meeting, 2023-05-04, I have attended the CCA AGM and Banquet, where I was elected to the CCA Executive for the 2023/4 year, the CCA LEAN Coffee (a great venue for discussing and applying LEAN principles to construction) on 2023-05-12, a CCA Executive meeting on 2023-06-15, a couple of dinners with other board and executive members, and I will be attending the Grand Opening and Dedication of the CCA Members' Centre ahead of our 2023-06-21 meeting (might be a good venue for future GAMA meetings).

The CCA has been working together with the Alberta Trade Contractors Council (ATCC) to advance the issues we are working on with the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Act (STAE) and the Designated Trades and Restricted Activities Regulation (DTRA).

The ATCC has put forward a paper for members, related associations, and other interested parties as talking points moving forward. This is to be ratified with the CCA board at the next board meeting 2023-06-27. The document reads as follows:

With the pending announcement of a new Cabinet, it is important that ATCC members have a consistent message that can be delivered at every opportunity over the next few weeks and months. New Ministers, Chiefs of Staff, and Deputy Ministers will be seeking to engage with industry as they plan and roll out their Ministry priorities. We encourage you to meet with them often and be deliberate and consistent with messages you deliver.

1.Apprenticeship Training – All Training institutions must teach a provincial standardized, minimum threshold curriculum and test all students with provincial standardized examinations.

- The curriculum and exams must be developed in consultation with relevant industry representation.
- Training Institutions may teach enhanced curriculums at their discretion.

2.Standardized curriculum and examinations must be developed in consultation with employers, apprentices, training providers, and the registrar.

- The government needs to provide a clear path to the construction trades on how this will be accomplished.

3.Development of training programs that could be deemed to be within the scope of work of an existing trade (ie: micro credentialing) will only proceed on the basis of full consultation with and approval by the impacted trade(s).

- ATCC's position is that minimum requirements for micro credentials within the construction trades should be a journeyperson certification, ie: micro credentials are an addition to.

4.The current provincial board must be repopulated to reflect the demographics of the construction industry. The current board representation is narrow and inappropriately weighted to favor specific interests, (ie training institutions and unions).

The STAEA regulations have opened a pathway for employers to deem individuals competent to perform work within their trade's scope of work, but only as 'deemed qualified as a journey person. These 'deemed qualified' journey people, or certified journey people,

can supervise registered apprentices at a ratio of one journey person (or 'deemed qualified') to two registered apprentices. Labourers are no longer allowed. The government has not provided any criteria for this 'deemed qualified' status, nor do they intend to provide the means to record or track individuals who have been deemed competent by an employer. They will however, as the registrar, track registered apprentices and certified journey people. In this manner they will not understand the actual workforce size for any trade. While this is a pathway to help resolve current labour needs, it throws open the door to a downward spiral of unregulated and poor-quality workmanship and ultimately, becomes a safety issue.

Additionally, the CCA has been contacted by the provincial government's Deputy Minister of Consumer, Registry, and Strategic Services-Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction ministry (they need a longer name), ahead of a planned invitation to meet. Dow Chemicals wants to be exempted from the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act (PPCLA) Legislation (just enacted and taking effect for prime contracts signed after 2022-08-28 and yet to affect the majority of sub-contracts in effect), for approved an expansion of its ethylene plant in Fort Saskatchewan. The zero emission expansion will cost up to \$225M USD and will create 400 to 500 full time jobs (we do not have enough people to fill the jobs we have today). The government is meeting with a number of associations to divide and conquer and get Dow exempted. CCA is proposing an open letter (in conjunction with a number of other associations) expressing our belief that this is exactly why the PPCLA was needed and enacted.

Looking forward to an exciting and busy summer. That said I will be away the following weeks with minimal access to emails or cell service.

2023-06-24 to 2023-07-03

2023-07-08 to 2023-07-16

2023-07-29 to 2023-08-07

2023-08-19 to 2023-08-27

2023-09-02 to 2023-09-10

Gary Porter  
GAMA CCA Representative