



Alberta Construction Association

Greater market opportunities and less risk for Alberta's construction industry

ACA Newsletter June 26, 2025

Proudly serving members of



Red Deer Construction Association

OHS Inspections



Alberta's construction industry is seeing a noticeable increase in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) inspections, a trend raising questions and concerns among contractors and tradespeople across the province. Recent conversations between Alberta Construction Association (ACA) representatives and senior government officials have helped clarify what's behind this shift and what it means for your worksites.

What's Happening?

Industry members have reported a rise in OHS officer visits, particularly on large-scale, long-duration projects. This prompted discussions with key figures from Alberta Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration.

According to officials, OHS is currently focusing on three priority areas:

- Injuries involving large machinery
- Fall protection compliance
- Safe storage and handling of chemicals



Updates from ACA

- ACA and our partner associations are once again hosting the Infrastructure Partners Conference, find out more [here](#).
- ACA honoured National Indigenous People's Day to celebrate their contributions to construction industry [here](#).
- Alberta Trade Definitions for 2025 are now available find out what is new for this year [here](#).
- You can sign up for our ACA Digital Tradeperson program [here](#).
- ACA published our latest construction industry statistics [here](#).

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These priorities are supported by a return to pre-pandemic staffing levels, with about 135 officers now active, just shy of the pre-COVID number of 150. The increase in inspections reflects both expanded workforce capacity and targeted safety initiatives.

Why It Matters

For many ACA members, especially those managing large sites with extensive subcontractor networks, the uptick in inspections may feel like heightened scrutiny. There is concern that longer-term, high-profile projects are

more frequently visited than smaller or short-term ones. This perception can lead to frustration and calls for stronger industry advocacy.

What ACA Is Doing

The ACA is monitoring the situation closely. We are actively gathering member feedback to identify patterns, understand concerns, and represent your interests in discussions with OHS and the Minister's office.

What You Can Do

- **Report Concerns:** Share your inspection experiences with your Local Construction Association or directly with the ACA.
- **Stay Compliant:** Focus on the current enforcement priorities such as machinery safety, fall protection, and chemical handling.
- **Advocate with Us:** Help us push for consistent, balanced enforcement that respects the realities of construction workplaces.

We're committed to ensuring our industry remains safe, fair, and treated with respect. Your input is essential.

ACA Committees Launched to Advance Advocacy, Member Service, and Industry Excellence

The Alberta Construction Association (ACA) is excited to announce the formation of three new strategic committees designed to advance our core pillars: advocacy, serving members, and promoting industry excellence. Over the past month, these committees have held their inaugural meetings, laying the groundwork for collaboration, action, and results on the most pressing issues facing Alberta's construction sector.

Government Advocacy Committee

Advocacy has always been at the core of ACA's mission, and the Government Advocacy Committee is formalizing this commitment with renewed focus. This committee brings together members with firsthand knowledge of regulatory, procurement, and legislative challenges.



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In their first sessions, the committee began mapping out ACA's 2025 advocacy priorities, ranging from fair and timely procurement to long-term infrastructure investment. Through targeted engagement with elected officials and public servants, this committee ensures the voice of Alberta's construction industry is heard where it matters most.

Workforce and Safety Committee

At the heart of a strong construction industry is a safe and skilled workforce. The Workforce and Safety Committee is focused on identifying workforce challenges, supporting recruitment and retention efforts, and championing safety as a shared responsibility across the industry.

In its initial meetings, the committee has begun exploring solutions to labour shortages, effective apprenticeship systems, addressing barriers for underrepresented groups, and promoting mental health and safety culture on job sites. Their work directly supports ACA's goal of serving members by helping ensure access to talent and safer working environments.

Innovation and Sustainability Committee

The construction industry is evolving rapidly, and ACA is committed to ensuring our members are ready for the future. The newly formed Innovation and Sustainability Committee is tackling opportunities around low-carbon construction, digital technologies, and efficient building practices.

This committee is already engaging with industry leaders and experts to identify actionable steps for enhancing industry excellence through innovation. From modernizing procurement practices to sharing best practices in sustainable design, their efforts will help ACA members stay competitive while contributing to a more resilient Alberta.

Looking Ahead

Each committee reflects ACA's commitment to delivering real value to our members. By focusing on workforce and safety, innovation and sustainability, and government advocacy, these groups are helping shape a stronger, more responsive, and more forward-looking construction sector.

ACA encourages all members to get involved—whether by participating in a committee, responding to consultations, or sharing your expertise. Together, we can build solutions that serve our industry today and position it for success tomorrow.

To learn more or express interest in joining a committee, contact us at policy@albertaconstruction.net.

Proactive Planning for a Safer Summer Construction Season

As Alberta's wildfire seasons become longer and more severe, construction sites, particularly those near forested areas or in rural settings, face growing risks. Proactive planning is essential to protect workers, equipment, and nearby communities. The Alberta Construction Association encourages members to take the necessary steps to ensure fire safety is built into every project.

Fire preparedness starts well before the wildfire season. Every job site should have an up-to-date Fire Safety Plan that includes clear emergency procedures, designated roles, and communication protocols. These plans should be reviewed regularly—ideally every four months—and all workers should be trained on evacuation procedures and muster points.

Key measures include developing site-specific emergency response plans, maintaining fire breaks around work areas, training crews on wildfire procedures, and ensuring access to water

sources or fire suppression equipment. It's also essential to coordinate with Alberta Wildfire and local municipal authorities to stay informed of real-time wildfire conditions and evacuation alerts. Preventing ignition sources, such as from welding, grinding, or idling heavy equipment is another crucial step in maintaining site safety. By integrating wildfire preparedness into day-to-day operations, construction companies play a vital role in protecting both workers and Alberta's natural landscape.

Monitoring wildfire activity through tools like the Alberta Wildfire Dashboard and Alberta Emergency Alert system is critical. Supervisors need to be ready to respond quickly to changing conditions, especially when construction occurs near the wildland-urban interface. Sites in rural or remote areas should clarify which fire authority has jurisdiction and understands the expected response times. Early coordination with local fire departments can help determine access routes, water sources, and whether additional sprinkler systems or equipment are necessary.

Good housekeeping practices on site also makes a difference. Materials like brush, scrap wood, or packaging that can act as "ladder fuels" should be removed regularly, especially near treelines. Combustible and flammable materials must be stored safely and away from buildings, and hot work should follow fire watch and inspection procedures. Designating proper smoking areas and ensuring that fire extinguishers are correctly placed, inspected, and suited to the task are all basic but critical components of prevention.

If your site is under an evacuation alert, being prepared is essential. Workers should be informed immediately and have transportation and emergency supplies ready in case of sudden evacuation. Securing the site quickly and safely can help minimize damage and ensure emergency responders can do their work effectively.

The Alberta Construction Association urges all members to review their Fire Safety Plans, ensure worker awareness, and actively collaborate with local fire departments. Stay alert, stay prepared, and be part of a safer construction industry.

For more information and resources please visit the following links:

- [Alberta Wildfire](#)
- [FireSmart Canada \(Alberta Section\)](#)
- [Alberta Building & Fire Codes](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Code](#)
- [Alberta Emergency Alerts](#)

Building a Modern Construction Workforce

On May 27, the Alberta Construction Association partnered with Built Environment Edmonton to host a Workforce Development Event focused on the future of Alberta's construction workforce.

The event provided an opportunity to introduce ACA's current workforce initiatives, including the Digital Tradesperson program and the Trade Pathways program. These programs are designed to support skill development and career advancement across the construction sector.

Attendees engaged in an open discussion, offering valuable feedback on the challenges and opportunities facing workforce development in construction. The conversation highlighted the importance of ongoing training and innovation to meet the needs of a changing industry.

Digital Tradesperson

The Digital Tradesperson program is redefining how tradespeople connect with opportunities in a digital-first world. By offering a streamlined platform for showcasing skills, building digital portfolios, and accessing employment tools, the platform helps tradespeople market themselves professionally and efficiently.

As a part of the future forward training in Building Information Modeling (BIM) and Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) Digital Tradesperson equips your employees with the tools to stand out and thrive in today's competitive job market

More than just a job board, Digital Tradesperson bridges the gap between traditional trades and the digital economy. It empowers workers to take control of their careers, connect directly with contractors and clients, and build a reputation rooted in verified experience and peer reviews. With its easy-to-use interface and industry-focused features, it's quickly becoming a go-to resource for those looking to grow in the trades sector.

Our first cohort of participants have begun their training with more to come in the next few months. If you have employees who would like to register as a participant, you can find further information and registration [here](#).

Upcoming Events

[Calgary Construction Association Stampede BBQ](#) – July 3rd

[RDCA & BILD 2025 Member Appreciation BBQ](#) – August 15

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