



Alberta Construction Association

ACA NEWSLETTER FEB/MAR 2026

GREATER MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AND LESS RISK FOR ALBERTA'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

PROUDLY SERVING MEMBERS OF:



ACA WELCOMES BUDGET 2026 INVESTMENTS IN WORKFORCE AND CAPITAL PLAN

With the provincial budget passed, ACA has clarity on the ministry's priorities for the year, including funding dedicated to skilled trades pathways and the government's commitment to reducing barriers to entry. This provides a solid foundation for continued collaboration with the province on strengthening trade pathways, improving access for new and prospective workers, and supporting long term workforce development.

Budget 2026 arrives at a pivotal moment for Alberta's construction sector. ACA welcomed the budget's direction while noting that further work is needed to support long term economic sustainability for future infrastructure projects. The confirmed commitments create opportunities for progress on the issues that matter most to Alberta's construction industry.

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ACA PRIORITIES FOR BUDGET 2026

1. Strengthening Workforce Capacity

ACA appreciates the funding directed toward the Apprenticeship Learning Grant. Predictable, multi-year apprenticeship funding aligned with employer demand is essential to continue building the province.

- ACA supports ongoing investment in NAIT's Advanced Skills Centre and will continue to work with industry partners and Advanced Education to develop the Alberta Trades Discovery Centre model, including a northern hub in Edmonton.

- ACA is concerned that Northwestern Polytechnic's Skilled Trades Centre may not be moving forward in Budget 2026.
- ACA will continue to support programs that help people transition into construction careers, including Honour the Work, Dual Credit, RAP and Trade Pathways.

Workforce investment is not discretionary spending. Without scalable training, mentorship and immigration alignment, Alberta risks project delays, cost escalation and lost competitiveness.

2. Capital Investment Certainty

ACA is encouraged by a \$2.2 billion increase to Alberta's Capital Plan, growing to \$28.3 billion over the next three years.

- \$3.3 billion for K-12 school infrastructure, a \$712 million increase from Budget 2025, to construct roughly 160 projects across the province.
- \$4.2 billion for Capital Maintenance and Renewal, a \$454 million increase from Budget 2025, to upgrade health facilities, schools and government buildings.

Of note, very few new capital projects were announced. ACA will continue to encourage projects to move forward and will work with the province to develop a long-term funding formula with greater predictability for industry.

3. Procurement and Contract Modernization

ACA has been actively working with the province on modernization outcomes, including:

- Enabling greater regional participation opportunities on upcoming tenders.
- Fair risk allocation aligned with the party best able to manage that risk.
- Procurement models that support digital project delivery and innovation.

ACA is pleased with progress at industry tables such as the Industry Liaison Committee and looks forward to modernized contracts that ensure fair, open and transparent procurement for quality project delivery.

[Read the full news release here](#)

KEY MINISTRY INVESTMENTS

Budget 2026 includes significant investments across three key ministries that directly impact our industry and workforce.

Infrastructure

- \$3.3 billion for new and ongoing school infrastructure (+\$712M from Budget 2025).
- \$4.2 billion for Capital Maintenance and Renewal of health facilities, schools and government buildings.
- \$2.7 billion for provincial highways, bridges and road improvements.

Advanced Education

- \$96 million Apprenticeship Learning Grant to expand classroom instruction seats across Alberta.
- \$384 million over three years for the NAIT Advanced Skills Centre.
- \$160 million over three years for the University of Calgary's Multi-Disciplinary Hub.
- \$1.1 billion in student loans, scholarships and grants.
- \$148 million over three years for Targeted Enrolment Expansion in high-demand programs.
- \$54 million over three years invested in nonprofit community organizations that raise awareness of skilled trades and reduce barriers to entry.

Jobs, Economy and Trade / Immigration (JETI)

- \$115 million for workforce strategies.
- \$16 million for economic immigration programs.
- \$81 million for labour relations, occupational health and safety and employment standards.

ACA will continue to monitor these investments as details are released and will keep members informed of opportunities and implications for our industry.

[Read more about the Alberta budget here](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS & RESOURCES

New ACA Website

We have launched our new, updated website designed to better serve Alberta's industrial, commercial and institutional construction community. The refreshed site provides clearer access to ACA's advocacy work, industry resources, workforce initiatives and updates affecting the more than 3,000 construction employers we represent across the province. We invite members, industry partners and government stakeholders to [explore the new site here](#).

Stats Package Update

The March ACA statistics update highlights a strong pipeline of projects underway or proposed approaching \$200 billion, alongside ongoing workforce pressures including significant skilled trades retirements expected over the coming decade. [Access the package here](#).

Wildfire Preparedness Information Guide

As wildfire season begins across Alberta, ACA has developed a Wildfire Preparedness Information Guide to support contractors and workers in planning for wildfire risks and maintaining safe operations. We encourage all industry members to [review and share the guide](#) to help ensure our worksites remain safe and resilient during the wildfire season.