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ACA MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

May 29, 2026

ACA Advocacy Updates: Strengthening Alberta's Construction Framework

As of May 14th, the Second Session of the 31st Legislature has adjourned; however, the month still delivered several important legislative updates on issues that matter most to our members.

The Alberta Construction Association (ACA) continues to advance key advocacy priorities that strengthen certainty for construction employers under the *Public Works Act* (PWA) and the *Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act* (PPCLA).

The Government of Alberta has removed the fixed \$200,000 adjudication limit from legislation, an important win for ACA. The limit can now be adjusted by Cabinet order rather than requiring a legislative amendment, providing the flexibility needed to respond to industry conditions in real time.

Legislative updates have also revised the update cycle for the province's 20-year Strategic Capital Plan. The plan will now be refreshed every seven years instead of every four, supporting more stable long-term infrastructure planning.

ACA remains focused on driving greater predictability through two core areas:

- **Funding Formula:** Establishing a consistent, long-term model for capital investment.
- **Capital Maintenance and Renewal Plan:** Securing a sustained plan for schools, health facilities, and other provincial assets to support effective contractor planning.

Contract Modernization: Over the past few years, the industry has submitted approximately 58 contract-related recommendations to the Minister of Infrastructure. ACA's relationship with Minister Long remains positive, and further discussions are expected as implementation progresses. In addition, May also saw the release of updated construction management agreements and consulting service templates by the Government of Alberta.

Procurement Discussions: ACA continues to recommend the adoption of best-value procurement and the inclusion of lifecycle benefits as scored technical adders without undermining base price competitiveness. ACA recently met with the Industry Liaison Committee, a joint industry-government forum, to discuss procurement model redesigns and options to address common challenges. In late 2025, ACA also submitted a Procurement Review Discussions Document outlining six key concerns and recommendations in response to earlier provincial consultations.

Workforce Initiatives

Alberta Trades Discovery Centre: In partnership with industry and government, ACA continues to advance the Alberta Trades Discovery Centre. Expected to open in Calgary before the end of 2026, the centre will provide students and young Albertans with hands-on exposure to the trades through "Try-A-Trade" bays, where they can learn directly from skilled tradespeople.

Trade Pathways Program: Approximately 490 participants have been matched with more than 70 employers. The program has achieved over 75 percent completion, with more than 97 percent of participants securing employment.

Digital Tradesperson Program: ACA's Digital Tradesperson Program has been accepting applications since February 2026 with asynchronous courses and wage subsidies. More than 25 participants have enrolled, and 18 individuals have completed both the program and their work experience.

Alberta Apprenticeship 2024-25

Alberta Advanced Education's [Registrar's Report and Statistical Overview 2024–25](#) shows strong results for construction. A record 72,748 apprentices were registered last year, with major trades including Electrician, Plumber, and Insulator posting significant growth. ACA has reviewed the report and outlined what these trends mean for employers, sponsorship, and the initiatives shaping Alberta's training system. Our full review of the 2024-25 Registrar's Report can be found on our [website](#).

Meetings with Government

- May 6: The ACA Executive team met at the Legislature with Minister of Infrastructure Martin Long, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Mark Kleefeld, Education and Childcare Chief of Staff James Johnson, and Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration Joseph Schow to discuss construction workforce pathways from K–12 to post-certification.
- May 14: ACA co-hosted an event with Alberta Infrastructure and industry partners celebrating recent milestones made in contract modernization. Minister of Infrastructure Martin Long and Deputy Minister Mark Kleefeld shared insights on the significance of these achievements and outlined the government's future plans for Alberta's construction industry. And, ACA Executive Director Warren Singh delivered remarks recognizing these vital advancements in contract modernization and outlining next steps.



2026 ACA Golf Tournament: July 15, 2026

Mark your calendars. The 2026 ACA Golf Tournament is an opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Alberta's construction sector.

- Wednesday, July 15, 2026.
- RedTail Landing Golf Club.
- Shotgun start at 8:00 AM.

Registration and sponsorships available [here](#).

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Our mailing address is:
6726-75 St NW, Edmonton, AB T6E 6T9

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