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# ACA JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

July 30, 2026

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## ACA Welcomes BC-Alberta West Coast Pipeline

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ACA welcomes the Government of Alberta's July 3 application to the federal Major Projects Office for the BC-Alberta West Coast Pipeline, a proposed \$35.2-\$43.7 billion project that would create significant opportunities for Alberta contractors. The project would drive demand for engineering, fabrication, concrete, transportation and other construction services. The project has been submitted for designation as a project of national interest and is partnering with Trans Mountain Corporation and Pembina Pipeline to help advance development.

"For several years industry has advocated for greater certainty around major project development and export infrastructure", said Warren Singh, ACA Executive Director to ConstructConnect. "Projects of this scale benefit thousands of construction employers and workers, with impacts extending well beyond pipe installation to the many skilled trades and businesses involved in delivering major infrastructure."

The Northern Shield Energy Corridor, a collaborative pipeline project between Ontario and Alberta has also been proposed. The pipeline would run from Hardisty to Sarnia,

with the goal of reducing Canada's reliance on foreign markets while strengthening supply chain and national security.

As these projects move forward, workforce capacity will remain a key priority. Continued collaboration between government and industry will be essential to attracting and retaining the skilled workforce needed to deliver projects of this magnitude.

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## **Prompt Payment and Adjudication Updated Reports**

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ARCANA and Alberta Dispute Adjudication for Construction Contracts (ADACC) released updated reports with new findings on prompt payment and adjudication. ARCANA's latest annual report highlights continued growth in Alberta's construction adjudication process, with 50 payment dispute cases administered over the reporting period. ADACC's 2026 first Annual Report notes two adjudications completed during the fiscal year, both receiving a Determination within the required timeframe, and no cases terminated before a Determination or Order were issued.

Together, these reports highlight an increasing demand for Alberta's adjudication process and fair, timely and efficient dispute resolution and payment practices. ACA has played an important role in supporting the development of the PPCLA framework and continues to support its success through industry education, awareness, and advocacy.

Read more about these reports on our website, [here](#).

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## **ACA Analysis: Key Findings From The 2024-25 Registrar's Report**

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ACA's analysis of Apprenticeship and Industry Training's Registrar's Report 2024-25 shows Alberta's apprenticeship programs reached their highest in more than ten years with over 72,000 apprentices, reflecting strong interest in the skilled trades and rising demand for seats across institutions. The report highlights the top construction trades by registrations, yearly increases in the Apprenticeship Learning Grant (ALG), and a 32% jump in participation in the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). It also identifies concerns, including low participation in the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) dual-credit programs, fluctuations in some trade registrations, and classrooms not operating at full capacity. ACA will continue monitoring these trends to support long-term workforce needs. Read more on our website [here](#).

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## Workforce Priorities & Updates

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**Alberta Trades Discovery Centre:** Calgary's first-of-its-kind Alberta Trades Discovery Centre is moving closer to completion with both the lease and contractor now finalized. Expected to open before the end of 2026, the centre is a collaboration between industry and government and will offer students unique hands-on exposure to a variety of skilled trades.

**Digital Tradesperson Training Initiative:** Using grant support from the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Construction Association is launching new digital and technology focused training (the Digital Skills Training Program - DSTP) in the summer of 2026. The program will feature 7 courses: **Digital Technology Overview (DTO), Artificial Intelligence in Construction, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Reality Capture in Construction, Tradespeople Transitioning to VDC roles, Exposing Tradespeople to BIM & VDC, and Introducing Apprentices to BIM & VDC.**



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## BuildForce Statistics Updates

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BuildForce Canada has released updated editions of its *Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward* reports for 2026-2035, featuring revised forecasts for residential and non-residential construction across Canada. The outlook projects that approximately 43,700 workers or about 21% of Alberta's 2025 construction labour force, will retire by 2035. Combined with expected industry growth requiring an additional 5,100 workers, Alberta will need to hire approximately 48,800 workers over the next decade. The report also forecasts steady growth in non-residential construction investment, particularly in engineering construction and institutional, commercial, and industrial (ICI) building.

BuildForce Canada's updated outlook reinforces that Alberta's construction industry will continue to face significant workforce challenges over the next decade. Meeting future labour demand will require sustained investment in apprenticeship training, targeted recruitment of underrepresented groups and newcomers, and a continued focus on aligning workforce development with the province's evolving construction needs.

To read BuildForce's full Alberta press release, click [here](#).

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# Industry Engagement

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**Calgary Stampede:** ACA Executive Director Warren Singh attended multiple days of the Calgary Stampede, meeting with provincial and municipal officials to discuss ACA priorities. Amidst the crowds, community events and celebrations, ACA used the opportunity to reinforce industry priorities, highlight workforce needs and continue building strong relationships with government partners.

**OpenCircle 40 Proof Anniversary Gala:** Last week, ACA Executive Director Warren Singh joined industry leaders and guests at OpenCircle's 40th Anniversary Gala, marking 4 decades of leadership, partnership, and meaningful contributions to the industry. The event also featured valuable remarks from Premier Danielle Smith and Minister of Infrastructure Martin Long. The event highlighted the importance of strong partnerships across the construction sector and provided an opportunity for ACA to engage with key industry stakeholders and government representatives committed to advancing the future of the industry.



# Infrastructure Partners Conference Banquet

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The Infrastructure Partners Conference banquet, featuring the Minister's Infrastructure Awards, will take place on November 5, 2026, at the JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District. The awards recognize excellence in Alberta's vertical infrastructure projects, celebrating the innovation and collaboration that contribute to successful project delivery across the province. Nominations are open until July 31, at 12:00 pm MST.

For more information on the event and nomination eligibility, click [here](#).

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