



Canadian  
Construction  
Association

## Canada's construction industry: A strong foundation for a stronger Canada

If you ask Canadians today what is keeping them awake at night, many will say the housing crisis, high cost of living and economic uncertainty. While there seems to be no shortage of proposals on how to solve these issues, none can be achieved without the participation and partnership of the Canadian construction industry.

Construction is the foundation of a strong nation. It is the bedrock upon which our communities are built. Beyond housing, we also build, deliver and maintain the infrastructure needed to support communities; from roads and schools to sewers and public transit.

Construction employs 1.6 million people in Canada and contributes about \$151 billion to the economy annually, accounting for 7.4 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) and creating a ripple effect of expansion in other sectors like engineering, manufacturing, agriculture, technology, and retail.

Our industry fuels economic growth; creating jobs, stimulating investment, and fortifying Canada's global standing in international trade and commerce through world-class airports, highways and ports.

Our industry impacts every Canadian's quality of life and plays a critical role in building a prosperous and resilient nation. Yet, the fundamental importance of construction is at times overlooked and taken for granted.

For Canada to prosper and address the key issues facing our country, the federal government needs to make substantial changes around infrastructure investment, workforce development and procurement modernization.

The construction industry is ready to play an even greater role in delivering Canada's housing-enabling and trade-enabling infrastructure.

But we need the federal government to meet us halfway through consistent and sufficient long-term investments in infrastructure, accelerated approval of critical projects and greater access to the workforce we need. Because when Canada's construction industry is strong, Canada is stronger.



## Recommendations:

### **Commit to comprehensive infrastructure investment**

The federal government should restore Canada's reputation as a leader by committing to the implementation of the National Infrastructure Assessment and include a 25-year plan for infrastructure investment that includes housing-enabling and trade-enabling infrastructure.

### **Address the workforce shortage**

The federal government should address ongoing industry-wide labour shortages by modernizing the existing immigration policy and points system to better reflect the workforce needs of the Canadian economy.

### **Modernize procurement processes**

The Auditor General should review existing procurement processes and consult with the industry to recommend practices to better balance risk-sharing between public contracts and the private sector, reduce red tape and accelerate approvals for critical projects.

## About CCA

The Canadian Construction Association (CCA) is the only national association representing contractors (general, trade, civil) and manufacturers, service providers and suppliers in Canada. Backed by 18,000 member firms drawn from 62 local and provincial integrated partner associations across the country, CCA gives voice to the public policy, legal and standards development goals of contractors, suppliers and allied business professionals working in, or with, Canada's institutional, commercial, industrial and civil (ICIC) construction industry.

