



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

KEEP BC BUILDING!

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Ensure the Availability of a Well-trained Workforce.

For the construction industry, the shortage of skilled labour in Canada has been a reality for the past few years. Rising costs and reduced capacity has become common place as companies struggled to attract and retain skilled workers. Despite economic woes south of the border, recent reports continue to stress that such shortages will continue to impact construction activity for the next decade due to anticipated retirements by the baby boomer generation.

Here in BC we have been given the opportunity to create a truly industry-led apprenticeship system. The BC Construction Association actively supports that concept. The creation of the Construction Industry Training Organization (CITO) has led the way in ensuring the industry has an active role in training its own workers.

The Board of Directors for CITO is made up entirely of industry participants and employers of apprentices. It has broad representation from the major trades and geographical regions of BC. Properly funded CITO will be able to continue to move ahead on the initiatives and needs of the construction industry around training the next generation of skilled workers for BC.

We look to the government to strongly support the Construction Industry Training Organization by ensuring it receives proper base funding from government and mechanisms to enable it to increase its funding base as required and agreed to by industry.

Attracting new skilled workers to BC and to construction careers requires the active and cooperative participation of government and employers. In addition, more attention must be paid to attracting workers from under-utilized groups such as women, immigrants and the Aboriginal community, but this must be done in concert with employers to enable effective connections between workers and jobs. Government programs designed to assist in this area need to proceed only after direct consultation with employers to ensure the right people are being identified for existing jobs.

We look to government to support employer led initiatives to attract and employ workers from under-utilized groups into construction careers.

The BC Construction Association represents over 1900 construction related member companies from across BC. Our member companies are both large and small, union and open-shop, and active primarily in the ICI sector.