



The real story of BC'S COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENT

BC's provincial government introduced a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) for public construction projects in July 2018. This is the most significant policy change affecting BC's industrial, commercial, and institutional construction sector in decades.

WHAT IS A CBA?

A true CBA is a social requirement attached to a public project during tendering. It is intended to guarantee local opportunities for equity-seeking groups and require builders to improve public spaces or provide other specific "giving back" benefits that the local community defines.

But The "MADE IN BC" CBA is a Project Labour Agreement that favours a designated union:

- All workers on a public project must join the BC Building Trades Union
- A new Crown Corporation (the BC Infrastructure Benefits Inc.) will be their legal employer
- The Crown Corporation will hire, promote, discipline, and pay all workers as their employer
- The BC Building Trades Union will receive dues and contributions from every employee
- Union rules apply: wages, hours, meals, shifts, weather, call-ins, standby vacation, etc.
- Workers who belong to other unions must also join the BC Building Trades Union

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SAYS...

The BC government argues that this union requirement will deliver "good jobs for local workers, support local businesses, train apprentices, and ensure infrastructure projects are on time and on budget."

WHAT INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, & INSTITUTIONAL CONTRACTORS SAY...

The industry believes the BC CBA amounts to conscription of the construction workforce to a designated union and contravenes the rights of construction workers to freedom of assembly.

Further, the BC CBA undermines the role of all employers in our industry, regardless of their labour affiliation, and will discourage contractors from bidding on public projects.

*"Let them build the schools and hospitals with **day labour**. I don't understand why any contractor in his right mind would do this."*

*"This CBA union requirement makes government an **owner to avoid**, not an owner of choice."*

*"I don't have an issue with the goals: they're my goals too. But **union conscription is against my principles**. And I will not bid."*

For more information about the CBA visit www.bccassn.com/cba



OPINIONS

From Construction Industry Leaders

At a series of Town Hall meetings with industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) contractors across BC who are widely recognized as leaders and influencers in the industry, in-room polling said:

93%

disagree with Premier Horgan that the union requirements will lead to more good jobs for local workers (3% agree)

92%

disagree with Premier Horgan that the union requirements will increase apprenticeship rates (5% agree)

100%

disagree with Premier Horgan that the union requirements will improve access for local businesses (88% disagree strongly)

100%

believe the union requirement amounts to an "onerous condition" in the tender

98%

predict the union requirement will result in fewer bids on public sector projects

100%

believe the union requirement will not help to ensure infrastructure projects are on time or budget

96%

believe the union requirement will make them less likely to bid on a public project

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO...

voices.bccassn.com

Send an automated letter to Premier Horgan, your MLA and your MP

"The NDP made this a union/non-union issue but that's not what our industry is about. We work side by side and we do it well. We're 250,000 workers and we have to stand up together and do whatever we have to do. Together."

*"We need everyone to **stand up and fight** for our industry. Start by signing the damn letter. We should be able to get 100,000 signatures."*

*"The Island Highway project was a disaster – disintegrated the industry. **We can't let that happen again.**"*

*"We need to be **one voice** saying the same thing – the CBA doesn't help anyone, union or non-union."*

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