



British
Columbia
Construction
Association

November 4th, 2022

The Honourable Harry Bains, MLA
Minister of Labour
PO Box 9064, Stn. Prov Gov't
Victoria, BC V8W 0E2
Lbr.Minister@gov.bc.ca

RE: BILL 41 DOES NOT BENEFIT BC'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Dear Minister Bains:

A new (October 2022) economic and policy report from Sage Policy Groups paints a stark picture for BC contractors:

- Investment in BC's industrial, commercial, and institutional construction sectors is down 10.9% since February 2020, while the non-residential building price index spiked 19.6%.
- BC is living its lowest construction unemployment rate since 1976 at 5.7%, with the competition for talent sending average construction wages soaring 26% since 2017 and 11% since last year alone (fueled by BC's mandatory 5-day sick leave policy).
- The provincial government has failed to deliver on prompt payment legislation. BC's contractors will experience increasing financial peril as they wait to be paid.

These pressures and others are creating enormous financial risk for contractors who have been the lynch pin in the provincial economy throughout pandemic.

And now, Bill 41 has been introduced to fix a system that is not broken, adding more pressure on the construction businesses and the 236,000 British Columbians that they employ.

It is an unfortunate dereliction of responsibility that BC's construction employers were not consulted about Bill 41 prior to its introduction, and we write now to advise you that they call for its dissolution.

The construction industry is massive, essential, and struggling. Many employers are reaching a breaking point, with BC's urgent need for more housing and other infrastructure development hanging in the balance. We urge you to reconsider Bill 41, in the best interests of BC's construction economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Atchison'.

Chris Atchison
President
BC Construction Association

Donna Grant
President



Rory Kulmala
CEO



Clifford Ksyhk
CEO



Nicole Bryant
CEO



- cc. Honourable John Horgan, MLA, Premier of British Columbia
David Eby, MLA, Premier Designate
Kevin Falcon, MLA
Geoff Meggs, Chief of Staff
Trevor Hughes, Deputy Minister of Labour
Jeff Parr, Chair, WorkSafeBC Board of Directors
Anne Naser, President and Chief Executive Officer, WorkSafeBC
Dave Earle, President, Employer's Forum
Dave Baspaly, President, Council of Construction Association
Fiona Famulak, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce