



BC Construction Industry Echoes Throne Speech Commitments Towards Infrastructure and Housing

Victoria, BC (February 18th, 2025)—With tariff threats looming, the construction sector has spent weeks preparing for potential instability and turmoil that will upend everyday life for most British Columbians in some way or shape. The BC Construction Association (BCCA) is hopeful that today’s throne speech demonstrates a strong commitment from the BC Government to implement measures that protect both the construction industry and its workforce. Such a commitment is crucial to ensure that the construction industry can address the urgent demands for housing and infrastructure projects across the province, which may be impacted by the currently unstable trade relationship between the US and Canada.

“Our industry is incredibly reliant on smooth cross-border trade, and the potential for tariffs to disrupt supply chains is deeply concerning,” said Chris Atchison, President of the BC Construction Association. “These developments have the potential to drive up costs and delay critical projects, which could hinder the progress we’ve made toward addressing housing and infrastructure needs in the province.”

Now is the time to invest in BC’s future. We are at a critical juncture for infrastructure and growing our province. Even without the looming threat of tariffs, BC is facing under-investments in building critical infrastructure like housing, hospitals, schools, and strengthening our transportation infrastructure. With the new reality we are living in, these infrastructure deficits have grown more acute and require immediate attention.

As a crucial contributor to the provincial economy, responsible for 10% of BC’s GDP and employing hundreds of thousands, the construction sector relies heavily on cross-border trade for materials, equipment, and components. Any disruptions from US tariffs or retaliatory measures from Canada would reverberate through the province's economy, leading to rising costs, supply chain disruptions, and project delays.

“The commitment outlined in today's throne speech is a positive development in the ongoing discussion of BC’s response to tariffs,” said Chris Atchison, “BCCA is pleased to hear a strong commitment to eliminating unnecessary red tape, breaking barriers to the construction of middle-class homes, advancing critical infrastructure projects, and building a robust skilled workforce. Construction is foundational to our success as a province, and as the industry's voice, BCCA stands prepared to work closely with the BC government to navigate these uncertain times. In order to deliver the relief that businesses and residents need, the task ahead for government is to quickly deliver on these commitments. We are ready to work with government to make that happen.”



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About BCCA: *The British Columbia Construction Association (BCCA) is a non-partisan and non-profit organization, working with four Regional Construction Associations (NRCA, SICA, VICA and VRCA) to serve more than 10,000 employers in the province's industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential multi-unit (ICIR) construction industry regardless of labour affiliation. BCCA advocates on behalf of all employers to ensure British Columbia's construction sector remains productive and resilient.*

For more information about BCCA, visit: bccasn.com

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