



2025

# **MUNICIPAL ELECTION PLATFORM**

# Who We Are

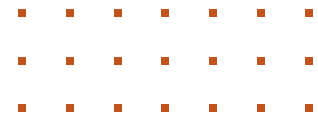


The Building Trades of Alberta (BTA) represents 60,000 skilled trades workers across the province. We are a coalition of affiliated unions working in construction, maintenance, and fabrication across Alberta's industrial, commercial, and residential sectors.

We advocate for the highest standards in safety, training, and quality results. BTA works with contractors, government, and communities to ensure fair treatment, strong representation, and sustainable careers for skilled tradespeople.

From Fort McMurray to Lethbridge, our members live and work in communities across this province, building our bridges, buildings, transit systems and more.

# Priority #1



## Building Greatness Through Project Labour Agreements



Building Trades workers are highly trained and experienced in delivering complex infrastructure projects—from bridges and transit systems to public buildings and utilities.

Building Trades members have proven that when skilled workers are used, large budgets don't mean large overruns. This is because the Building Trades unions and their contractor partners prioritize quality training of workers who can deliver results on time and on budget.

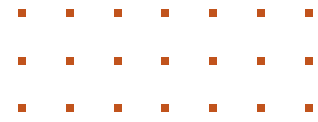
However, in recent years, Alberta's cities have seen a cheapest-bid model for construction projects arise. This has led to a deterioration in the quality of work, a downturn in the efficiency of project delivery, and a decrease in opportunities for skilled trades workers in the city.

That is why the BTA is advocating for strong Project Labour Agreements (PLAs) on municipal infrastructure projects between the City of Calgary and the BTA.

These PLAs will guarantee a steady supply of skilled labour by leveraging the BTA's wide network of affiliated union locals across the skilled trades. They would also create accountability among labour providers, ensuring high standards for certification and safety compliance, high-quality outcomes.

Additionally, PLAs will enable local skilled trades workers to build careers with good jobs within their city. This will create stability in Calgary's available workforce, lessen the reliance on Temporary Foreign Workers and discourage the use of black market labour.

## Priority #2



# Fighting Black Market Labour



In the past, civil construction industry in Alberta's cities provided great job opportunities for local skilled trades workers at all stages of their career to hone their skills and deliver quality results. However, with the rise of a cheapest-bid model in the construction industry, a disturbing trend has arisen.

On publicly funded city projects, undocumented workers are being exploited by bad actors on taxpayer-funded projects. These workers are provided with doctored safety certifications and are paid untaxable cash incomes.

The BTA has heard many testimonials from workers in this underground system who operate in unsafe conditions, receive no Workers' Compensation or pension plan contributions. This abusive system of labour trafficking in civil construction is:

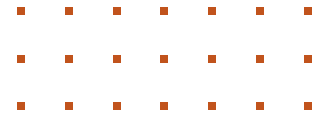
- Depleting public revenue through tax fraud
- Harming safety standards for workers
- Limiting opportunities for skilled trades workers in our cities

While existing municipal procurement policies should prevent this illegal practice from taking place, a lack of enforcement has allowed this problem to grow.

To counteract this rampant black market labour, the BTA is advocating for the establishment of a volunteer task force with the authority to audit municipal job sites, ensuring adherence to each city's procurement policies.

Through proper identification, investigations and enforcement, we can discourage malpractice, create a fair bidding process for contractors, and restore a civil construction sector that builds careers the right way.

# Priority #3



## Building Calgary's Apprentices



As Edmonton, Calgary and other Albert cities continue to grow, the demand for skilled tradespeople is rising. To meet these demands, municipalities must invest in both attracting and retaining apprentices.

### **Building a Strong Foundation for Apprentices**

Our cities have a unique opportunity to build its next generation of skilled trades workers by tapping into local training providers.

The Educational Partnership Foundation (TEPF) is an Alberta-based charity co-founded by the BTA. They work to connect high school students with apprenticeship-readiness programs across the skilled trades. Many of their programs are run in partnership with union-led training centres, providing a safe and controlled environment for students to hone their crafts.

By partnering with the BTA, TEPF and similar organizations, our cities can create initiatives that attract new apprentices, remove barriers to entry, and deliver accessible trades education.

### **Creating Career-Building Opportunities**

Civil construction projects have provided excellent career-building opportunities for apprentices across the skilled trades. That is why the BTA advocates for:

- Investments in strong municipal infrastructure built by well-trained skilled trade workers.
- Project Labour Agreements that ensure stable opportunities are available to apprentices.
- The phasing out of undocumented black market labour from taxpayer funded projects to create job opportunities for apprentices and legal skilled trades workers.