

Solving Ontario's Fiscal Challenges

The fiscal pressures facing Ontario governments and public agencies threaten the sustainability of our public services and the long-term prosperity of Ontario's economy. Reforming Ontario's labour relations laws can help by dramatically reducing the construction costs of our public infrastructure.

Harmful labour constraints in Ontario force many public institutions to tender construction projects to a disproportionately small pool of contractors affiliated with select craft-based unions. These labour monopolies drive up the cost of building and maintaining our schools, electrical utilities, water treatment plants, and other critical pieces of infrastructure – costs that often are shared by federal, provincial and municipal governments. They diminish the infrastructure and services available to Ontario families, saddle Ontarians with large government deficits, and promote a culture of inefficiency within the public service.

PCA envisions a construction industry that serves the interests of Ontario taxpayers, not just the narrow interests of a privileged few traditional unions and their affiliated contractors. We are advocating for legislative change, to ensure contractors can draw from a diverse labour pool on all public projects, and to protect government treasuries from these unnecessary and costly restrictive tendering monopolies.

Creating Construction Jobs in Ontario

Ontario's construction training and labour supply system is not equipped to address the growing demand for skilled tradespeople in our province. Overlapping, unnecessary regulation and out-dated apprenticeship laws make it difficult for new workers to find jobs and for employers to hire and develop the workers they need. Too often, special interests exploit our training and apprenticeship systems to entrench control over our industry rather than create jobs for Ontario workers.

PCA member companies are committed to hiring, training and developing the best construction workforce in our industry. Our record of accomplishment demonstrates that exceptional workforce safety and productivity can go hand in hand with more jobs and opportunity for Ontario construction workers.

PCA envisions a modern apprenticeship system that maximizes opportunities for new workers through competitive journeyman-to-apprentice ratios. We believe that a truly progressive training system should equally embrace private, union and community college training centers to foster greater choice for workers and increased responsiveness to Ontario's changing economy. To make this possible, PCA advocates for fairness and balanced representation within the institutions that govern Ontario's construction labour supply system.

Building a Stronger Ontario Economy

Ontario's economy is growing. However, it is growing slowly. Much needs to be done to reduce unemployment, increase personal incomes, and restore Ontario as Canada's economic engine. Infrastructure revitalization across the province, emerging manufacturing and energy production opportunities in Central and Southern Ontario and a burgeoning resource economy – particularly in Northern Ontario – are pillars of a stronger Ontario economy.

PCA members can help Ontario realize the economic development opportunities in these sectors. We are proven leaders in resource-based industrial construction and in developing the public infrastructure that supports these ventures. Additionally, PCA members and our workers embrace a progressive labour relations model that creates a highly productive and cost-competitive way for manufacturing companies to establish and grow their operations in Ontario.

PCA is actively promoting our vision to those companies that can grow Ontario's economy. We are advancing a modern approach to construction and labour relations throughout the province that will create an open, competitive, and attractive market for businesses, greater prosperity for entrepreneurs and business owners, and more jobs for Ontario workers.

PROGRESSIVE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

We are the Progressive Contractors Association of Canada (PCA), the voice of progressive unionized employers in Ontario who share a vision of an open, fair and competitive construction industry, free from the labour and tendering monopolies that hold back our economy.

PCA's members distinguish themselves from their competitors by working collaboratively with their employees to ensure construction costs are competitive, quality and productivity is high, and work environments are safe and fair. PCA companies chiefly employ workers represented by the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC). Together we are building the hospitals, schools, water treatment plants, bridges, factories and offices that are the backbone of Ontario's economy.

Unlike the traditional craft union and non-union approaches to construction labour relations, our experience tells us there is a better way to build our economy. That is why PCA is committed to advancing public policies that level the playing field for all construction industry participants, regardless of union affiliation or lack thereof.

Simply put, we are not anti-union. We are anti-monopoly. PCA will work with anyone or any party sharing our vision for a more open, fair and competitive construction industry.



**RESPECT
FAIRNESS
INNOVATION
ACCOUNTABILITY**



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**CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR ONTARIO**

Open, Fair and Competitive
Construction in Our Province



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