

PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2023

THE FUTURE OF ALBERTA'S CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

THE FACTS

The NDP has promised big policy changes for Alberta's construction industry. These changes benefit the NDP's favoured Building Trades Unions (BTUs) by ending "double breasting," introducing BC-style "Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)," and channeling training money to BTU training centres.



Excluding workers

In BC, only members of select BTUs can build major CBA infrastructure projects. This excludes 85% of BC construction workers. The same could happen here. Imagine if 80% of Alberta's construction workers were excluded from projects their tax dollars help fund.



Wasting Taxpayer Dollars

CBA projects in BC are over budget and behind schedule. Not many companies can bid on this work. Fewer bids = higher costs, typically up to 15%, leaving less funding for projects like schools and hospitals.



Suppressing Labour Choice

Double breasting allows companies to deploy the best of all labour models for their projects. This boosts productivity, pays workers well, and contributes to the "Alberta Advantage." The NDP plans to eliminate choice for Alberta construction employers and workers. This includes a return to card check and the elimination of secret ballot votes for union certification, similar to the last NDP government in Alberta.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

When candidates from any party come to your door, offer to take questions at forums, or you meet them elsewhere on the campaign trail, here are important questions to ask.

Future of Skilled Workers

- Are you aware that NDP promises could prevent the vast majority of construction workers from building certain projects funded by taxpayers?
- What would you do to assure construction workers that their jobs won't be jeopardized by policies designed to benefit only select union workers?

Future of Training

- Do you believe that apprenticeship funding should be accessible to all, regardless of union membership?
- It's important for my kids to have access to training programs so they can learn to be an electrician, framer, plumber, etc. What would you do to make sure they have access to the best skilled trades training programs?

Future of the Construction Industry

- Do you believe that public construction projects should be awarded based on merit or based on union affiliation?
- Do you believe that when workers select unions to represent them, it should be via a secret ballot?

Future of Labour Choice

- Do you agree with the NDP's plan to implement unfair labour agreements designed to help their union boss friends?
- Restoring card-check certification increases the power of unions and makes it difficult for employees to have any say or responsibility in unionizing. What would you do to ensure all stakeholders have a say when workers would like to unionize?