

# CANADA'S BUILDING TRADES UNIONS

## ABOUT US

Since 1908, Canada's Building Trades Unions have acted as the national voice of over **600,000 organized construction workers** — members of 14 international unions who work in more than 60 different trades and occupations and generate over **six per cent of the country's GDP**.

Our members are active in building, maintaining and renovating residential, commercial, industrial and public infrastructure projects. Fair wages and benefits negotiated by Canada's Building Trades Unions make it possible for members to lead fulfilling lives as engaged, responsible members of their communities. Every city, town and village in the country has its share of skilled construction workers who purchase homes, pay taxes, buy from local businesses, and support local clubs and charities.

## OUR MISSION: VALUE ON DISPLAY. EVERYDAY.

Canada's Building Trades Unions work continuously to strengthen the partnership between organized labour, industry and government that has made our country's construction industry an economic powerhouse. We have a long history of promoting better pensions, health and safety programs and apprenticeship and journeyperson training. We support policies that ensure a clean environment, universal access to education and health care, and dignity in retirement.

Members of CBTU are highly skilled craftspeople committed to using their skills to ensure that construction worksites are safe, and that projects meet specifications and work flawlessly from startup, without incidents or accidents. We strive to ensure that owners have the skilled tradespeople they need to complete projects on time and on budget; contractors have a highly-skilled, productive and professional workforce; and construction projects are built right the first time — proving that developing a partnership with Canada's Building Trades Unions is the best investment they will ever make.

## INDUSTRY FACTS

Construction is Canada's largest private-sector industry. Its direct impacts on the economy are immense:

- The industry supports more than 260,000 businesses.
- More than a million Canadians are employed in construction.
- Every job in construction produces seven spin-off jobs in other sectors of the economy.
- Construction workers install, repair and renovate more than \$150 billion worth of infrastructure every year.



## TRAINING

To support excellence, CBTU's affiliated unions operate the most comprehensive training system for tradespeople in Canada. The system includes more than \$650 million worth of training facilities at union halls and in union-operated institutes across Canada. It also employs community colleges and other independent trainers to extend its scope. Almost 60 per cent of apprenticeship in Canada takes place within the union training system, and curricula and training materials developed for the union system are used by other institutions across the country.

Training is funded by contributions negotiated in collective agreements. In one of many instances of union partnership with employers, these resources are managed by Training Trust Funds administered by boards with equal representation from labour and management. The trust funds ensure that training is responsive to the needs of industry by supporting the development of skills standards, training curricula, course materials and training for instructors.

Canada should address skilled trades shortages by improving access to training and apprenticeship and by removing internal barriers to mobility for construction workers. CBTU is working towards a more accessible, equitable workplace in Canada, through Build Together, a workforce development program focused on the recruitment and retention of workers from underrepresented portions of the population. A better-skilled and more inclusive workforce are the keys to successful attraction and retention. [Buildtogether.ca](https://buildtogether.ca) has more information on our program focused on the recruitment and retention of workers from underrepresented portions of the population: Indigenous Peoples, New Canadians, women and the next generation.

## OUR MEMBERS

### PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL COUNCILS

CBTU's provincial and local councils represent members' interests in jurisdictions across the country. These councils strive to improve provincial labour laws and educational standards and help to coordinate the activities of local offices. Learn more about our Councils [here](#).

### OUR AFFILIATES

CBTU is proud to work with 14 international unions across various building trades. To learn more about our affiliates click [here](#).

