# Working together for economic security

Mechanical contractors are the largest representative group on any new construction site in the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional and Residential (ICI-R) sectors. They are also responsible for the maintenance, servicing and retrofitting of existing buildings and homes in British Columbia. Yet, Mechanical Contractors and others working in the construction industry in BC, don't have the protections already available or emerging across Canada and even North America.

#### Consider the following:

- BC is the only province without a commitment to either implementing or progressing prompt payment legislation, making it much harder to run a contracting business in BC than elsewhere.
- Timely pay for work completed is not a requirement; often reaching 180 days. Cash flow is critical for businesses to keep their employees at work and the entire supply chain working to support positive climate action initiatives.
- Delays in payment put businesses at risk, and disproportionately impact small contractors and their workers.
- The absence of prompt payment legislation in BC impacts the future of an industry already affected by skilled trades shortages. It removes security for employees who may lose their jobs and limits employers from hiring additional workers and apprentices.
- The lack of prompt payment legislation increases construction costs.

## Recommendations

- Re-activate the Ministry of the Attorney General's working group.
- Consider an adjudication model that efficiently assess and awards.
- Introduce prompt payment legislation asap.

### **Reminder:**

Prompt payment legislation was a priority government file last year – a working group was established early in the year and was just as quickly put on hold.











The Thermal Environmental Comfort Association is the primary Trade Association in the province of BC for the residential HVAC industry. We represent

almost 400 HVAC contractors and equipment suppliers in the province of BC and have been providing training to the trades for over 30 years. Our standards and training are recognized in the BC Building Code and are the basis for the design, installation and inspection of residential Heating, Cooling and Ventilation systems in BC.

#### Gary Milligan, Vice-President

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Founded in Montreal in 1933, the CIPH is a not-for-profit trade association representing more than 280 companies including manufacturers, wholesale distribution, Master

Distributors and Manufacturers. In British Columbia our association is composed of 64 member companies that include manufacturers, wholesale distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, heating, hydronic, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH-BC wholesalers operate more than 200 warehouses and showrooms across British Columbia. Total industry sales in British Columbia exceed \$1.2 billion annually and CIPH-BC members employ nearly 2,000 employees. CIPH-BC works closely with Governments and Utilities to help guide codes and standards in co-operation with our industry partners.

#### Malcolm Bradbury, Director

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Founded in 1968, the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

Institute of Canada (HRAI) is a non-profit national trade association of manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors in the Canadian heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industries.

HRAI represents more than 1,250 companies in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) industry. Our members include manufacturers, wholesalers, and contractors who provide essential goods and services, employ more than 50,000 people in Canada and deliver more than \$12B annually to the Canadian economy.

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Mechanical Contractors Association of BC (MCABC), established as an organized

provincial entity in 1905 under an earlier name, is one of nine provincial associations represented by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC), the country's largest trade contractor Association. MCABC has 200 members; nationally, MCAC represents 1,000 companies engaged in 24 core activities, including: plumbing, heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, sprinkler systems, fire protection, control systems, refrigeration, insulation, specialized process systems, medical gases, hydronics site services and welding.

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