



Alberta Construction Association

Greater market opportunities and less risk for Alberta's construction industry

ACA Newsletter December 12, 2018

Essential Skills Training Help Employers Develop Their Staff



ACA supports best practices to enhance market opportunities and reduce risk for our member firms. A key source for competitive advantage is the skills and abilities of our member's workforce. ACA will continue to undertake research and partner to share best practices in workforce development.

Essential skills are used in every task a worker performs. Workers use essential skills to complete simple tasks, such as filling out a form or giving a verbal update at a meeting, to more complex tasks, such as writing an operational plan with sophisticated computer software. Employees need essential skills in order to perform their current jobs competently and to learn new skills to advance in their careers.

The Alberta Workforce Essential Skills Society (AWES) is a non-profit organization focused on training, research and curriculum development. AWES specializes in developing customized essential skills training solutions for organizations, employers and practitioners.

AWES has begun posting a series of blog posts and case studies reflecting on each partner's experience with the Skilling UP Essential Skills training project.

One project AWES is working on is Skilling UP, an innovative workplace training approach funded by the Government of Canada, through the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills (OLES), designed to increase the workplace essential skills of employees in the manufacturing sector.

Skilling UP offers essential skills training that are tightly tied to workplace procedures and documents determined through an extensive organizational needs assessment. It is aligned to current essential skills levels and organizational goals within the company.

More information can be found at the links below:

[WES Website](#)

[Essential Skills 101](#)

AWES on [Twitter](#)

ACA Members Affinity Partner Specials:

To find all of the special discounts and application forms please visit our website or [click here](#).



New Course on Seismic Design Being Offered



The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering is offering a course on performance-based seismic design of tall reinforced concrete buildings as part of a continuing education course.

This course covers detailed information from the conception to the final design of a Reinforced Concrete Shear Wall building using a performance-based seismic design (PBSD) approach. It includes hands-on experience in the application of PBSD on several building projects on the West Coast of the USA. It goes over the concept of PBSD, its development and key aspects of the general approach. It also presents an overview of the latest PBSD guidelines currently used and a brief review of current code requirements and how they differ from the PBSD approach.

The instructor is Freddy Pina, Ph.D., P.Eng., President of PBRV Consulting Ltd., a company that offers professional services to structural engineering firms with the main focus being in the seismic design of tall buildings using a performance-based design approach and in the assessment of the potential risk of failure or damage of existing buildings. Dr. Pina has been involved in the seismic design of numerous tall buildings as well as in the seismic risk assessment of several existing buildings. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia.

Please click [here](#) to view the brochure and to register.

WCB Announces Premium Rate Hike For 2019

The WCB Board of Directors approved the 2019 rate at their meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. The 2019 average premium rate will increase to \$1.08 (from an average rate of \$1.04 collected in 2018). The average required rate to cover 2019 costs is actually \$1.29, however in recognition of the struggling economy the \$0.21 difference between the average required rate and the rate collected will be absorbed by the Accident Fund, as it was in 2018.

If you would like more detailed information for your Industry, please contact [James Wilson](#) directly.

Employer statements should be available no later than December 9th.

Please see the following for further details:

[WCB rate information](#)

[2019 Premium Rates](#)

[2019 Premium rate highlights](#)

[Rate comparison by sector](#)

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