

## Community benefits

### Definition

Community benefits can be defined in a number of ways, but the most simple explanation is they are about leveraging public investment to obtain more benefit for the same dollar. They can range from requiring basic reporting as those listed in the bilateral agreements or the inclusion of unclear and unspecified additions to projects.

The federal framework defines community benefits as being social, economic or environmental benefits that a community derives from construction, maintenance or repairs. This definition also includes job creation, training and developing public space.

### CCA's official position

The Canadian construction industry firmly believes in giving back to the communities in which we live, work and invest. The efforts of our organization through #CDNConstructionGives, the hundreds of initiatives and charitable works that our membership undertakes in their local communities, and our years-long implementation of a diversity strategy should signal to the federal government that the construction industry is committed to community benefits without the need for a formal legislative lens. CCA also believes that such legislation has the potential to dilute the competitive bidding process on federal government contracts and tenders.

### Related policies

#### 1.7 Corporate social responsibility

CCA recognizes that corporate social responsibility (CSR) is a rapidly evolving issue and affects companies differently depending on their size, location and specialization. CCA recognizes the

importance of CSR, and encourages companies to voluntarily undertake initiatives that enable them to operate in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

#### 4.4 Minority preferences and set-aside programs

CCA opposes any procurement practice or program that seeks to confer exclusive bidding rights to firms based upon any of the following characteristics: sex, race, religion, or geographic domicile within Canada of the principal owners of a firm, its employees or labour force.

#### 4.16 Community benefits

CCA is opposed to using the procurement of construction services to advance unrelated community benefits and other public policy objectives where they jeopardize the integrity of the competitive bid system

#### 5.2 Under-represented groups in construction

CCA advocates the entry of under-represented groups in all occupations within the construction industry and urges construction employers to remove all barriers to their employment. CCA opposes all forms of compulsory programs of employment equity, including any system of quotas.

#### **Public advocacy on Bill C-344**

CCA formally opposed Bill C-344 throughout 2018 and 2019. In addition to highlighting the charitable efforts of our partner organizations through #CDNConstructionGives, community benefit frameworks were also one of the key issues raised as part of CCA's summer Hill at Home campaign in which local companies and representatives raised key issues with their members of parliament just weeks before the start of the 2019 federal election campaign. It also featured as a cornerstone issue on CCA's election website and PushPolitics tool, [Construction4CDNS.ca](https://www.construction4cdns.ca)

#### **Questions to address:**

1. Given the strong federal position and societal support for "community benefits", are CCA's policies still relevant?
2. What if any changes would you recommend to the four related policies? Why/why not?
3. Any other feedback you would like to provide CCA as we navigate this issue?

