



## Executive Director's Report

### ONTARIO CONSTRUCTION WILL OPERATE AT NEAR CAPACITY in 2020

February 4, 2020 Report



Highlights from the report include:

BuildForce Canada's 2020–2029 Construction and Maintenance Looking Forward provincial report predicts that both residential and non-residential sector demand will create two distinct labour market peaks — the first in 2020 and the second in 2026. BuildForce anticipates that construction employment will rise by just over 23,000 workers (six per cent) by 2026 before receding by close to 13,600 workers as major projects wind down.

The non-residential sector will be the primary driver of labour market peaks. The 2020 peak is driven by major public transportation projects, institutional building construction and modernization, and overlapping demands from two major nuclear refurbishment projects in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Southwestern Ontario.

Breakdown:

- Southwestern Ontario is set to experience the largest relative increase in growth in 2020, driven by the start of refurbishment work at the Bruce Power nuclear plant, acceleration in demands related to the Gordie Howe International Bridge in Windsor, and the Nova Chemicals plant in Sarnia. Non-residential employment is expected to rise a further 1,400 workers in 2020, or six per cent from 2019, following an increase of close to 2,500 workers in 2019.
- The GTA will likely require an additional 3,700 workers to meet demands in 2020. The increase is driven by a rise in major project requirements related to the Eglinton, Hurontario, and Finch (LRT) projects, as well as ongoing work at the Ontario Power Generation Darlington nuclear refurbishment project. Planned subway and health-sector investments, alongside moderate growth in residential construction, will contribute to the need for an additional 19,400 workers by 2026 – a 12 per cent increase over 2019.
- In Eastern Ontario, phase two of the Ottawa LRT, the redevelopment of Parliament Hill's Centre Block and other federal buildings, new hospital projects in both Ottawa and Kingston, and the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) research and development complex in Chalk River will drive demands for an additional 3,400 workers needed by 2024, or a seven per cent increase over 2019.
- Significant near-term demands in Northern Ontario are driven by mining, mineral-processing, and large-scale transmission infrastructure investments. Construction employment is projected to rise by close to 2,100 workers by 2021 – a nine per cent increase over 2019, before declining to 2024.
- Central Ontario is benefiting, in part, from the spillover of expansion in the GTA. Modest growth across residential and non-residential sectors should increase labour force requirements by 2,900 workers over the decade

2019 Numbers Are In

- Construction fatal injuries for 2019 were 16 compared to the high of 25 in 2018 (DOWN 36%).
- Critical injuries for 2019 were 264 compared to 276 in 2018 (DOWN 4%).
- Although this is a great improvement, there are still just too many falls in both categories.



**BE PREPARED FOR MLTSD INSPECTION BLITZ**

The Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development has announced the launch of worksite inspections focused on personal protective equipment (PPE).

A Feb. 4 release noted the PPE inspections could include high-visibility clothing, skin protection such as gloves, face shields, eye protection and hearing protectors.

The blitz, which runs until March 13, follows four weeks of outreach to the construction sector to educate and assist in safety compliance.

The blitz is part of the government's Safe At Work Ontario strategy, aimed at helping employers comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations, the release noted.

The ministry issued 7,483 orders from Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2017 for lack of PPE on projects.

That was the second highest category of Occupational Health and Safety Act violations in construction workplaces for 2017.

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# FEBRUARY 2020



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