

# Community Benefit Agreements



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# Costly, Unfair and Ineffective

## What are CBAs supposed to do?

When designed openly and transparently, Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs), are pre-hire guidelines which establish employment terms for specific construction projects.

When used in good faith, they are intended to provide training and opportunities for workers who might not otherwise get the chance.

That's **not** what the NDP imposed in BC.

## Why are they unfair?

What the BC NDP call Community Benefit Agreements are not beneficial, nor designed in good faith. Instead, they give a monopoly of public works contracts to a small group of traditional trade unions, which all have direct ties to the NDP.

The unions handpicked by the NDP only represent about 15% of BC construction workers. **The other 85% are locked out of government projects.**

## What do the NDP say about CBAs?

The NDP say non-affiliated unions can still bid for work – but what they don't say is their employees would have to join one of the NDP's chosen unions. Contractors can also bid – but they can't do the work with their own employees they know and trust – instead, they are forced to rely on any worker the unions chose to send.

In other words, the deck is stacked. **Either join a union that supports the NDP, or don't work on government projects** – everything from bridges and highways to schools, hospitals, and much more.

## Why are they bad for BC?

Because 85% – the overwhelming majority of BC workers, contractors, and progressive unions are shut out – there's almost no competition. And that means the cost goes up.

This isn't theoretical – we've already seen the cost of NDP projects go through the roof. Cowichan District Hospital was originally budgeted between \$400 and \$600 million – now \$1.4 billion. Phase 4 of the Kicking Horse Canyon – up \$151 million.

According to Cardus, taxpayers could pay up to \$6.4 billion extra for infrastructure projects as a result of the NDP's CBAs. That's a 25% increase in costs – money that isn't going to healthcare, education, or tax relief.