



**MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS  
ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA**

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## Prompt payment legislation gets a big nudge

On the morning of December 6, 2017 a first was achieved in Canada; the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed Bill 142: An Act to amend the Construction Lien Act. This is legislation which incorporates and implements a system of prompt payment and adjudication processes. Ontario is now the first Canadian jurisdiction to address long-standing trade contractor concerns around the practice of unjustified payment delays in construction contracts.

While the federal government continues to consider its position on the senate Bill S-224, they have, at least, informed all of the provinces of the need for each of the provinces to address prompt payment concern. In recent discussions with Alberta MLAs, the ATCC is finding a much higher level of awareness and understanding of the issues and a willingness to move forward with legislation. The limiting factor may be that the NDP currently has a full legislative docket that they will be challenged to get through before the next election is called.

If you get the opportunity to talk with your elected representative over the holiday season, express to them that moving forward with an Alberta version of prompt payment legislation would provide a strong signal to the small business community that they, the government, would view as willing to give something back after a long list of additional burdens being piled on.