

## Major Projects Designations

A designation under Part 3, Division 8 of the Labour Relations Code gives an owner or principal contractor of a major project in the province the ability to negotiate project labour agreements to complete the construction of the project. The person wanting the designation applies to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (E&I). If granted, the designation provides the project a “no strike/lockout” status and allows the owner, or its principal contractor, to negotiate project labour agreements with a union or group of unions.

Government, in consultation with stakeholders, developed a protocol to offer a transparent application process for a major project designation.

E&I has created a [form](#) that standardizes the information applicants provide. The application asks for:

- a. Contact information from the person completing the application;
- b. Project owner;
- c. Project description, including location anticipated duration and proposed phases, if applicable;
- d. Rationale for designation under Division 8;
- e. Scope of construction industry involvement;
- f. Estimated project cost;
- g. Economic impact of the project on Alberta’s economy;
- h. Details of affected established collective bargaining relationships, including contact information for relevant bargaining agents.

The protocol establishes procedures for handling the application after its submission to the Minister:

- a. When the application is received, the Minister will give notice and provide copies to organizations the Minister reasonably believes could be affected, including trade unions and registered employer organizations;
- b. The organizations receiving notice under the above paragraph can submit written submissions to the Minister;
- c. While the parties can decide the nature and format of their submissions, the submissions must include an executive summary;
- d. When submissions are received, the Minister will provide copies to the applicant and to all organizations mentioned, if they have not already received copies;
- e. The applicant and all organizations can submit written replies to the Minister;
- f. If, after reviewing the application material, together with any submissions and replies, the Minister considers the project to be significant to Alberta’s economy, the Minister may, under s.195(3) of the Labour Relations Code, refer the application to the Lieutenant Governor in Council;
- g. The Minister will provide notice of his decision under s. 195(3) to the applicant and any organization under (b) above;
- h. If the Minister forwards an application to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the Minister will also forward all submissions or replies received.

If the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers it to be in the public interest, it may then grant the designation through an Order in Council.