THE STRAIGHT GOODS ON MERIT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

In late 1985, more than a dozen contractors met to consider their futures. Construction was at a standstill and any work going on was being built union-free. Workers had few benefits, wages were low and profit margins were non-existent. It was time for companies to focus on workers' needs. The idea of an industry-wide, portable benefit plan for open shop workers was born. From the original 15 contractors, Merit Contractors Association has now grown to more than 1,200 members, including most of the province's large general and trade contractors. A little over two decades later the association is still tracking in the same direction: a stronger, more efficient open shop sector.

DID YOU KNOW?

To recruit more people for the construction industry, Merit offers a Construction Boot Camp. Offered completely free of charge, the course is only two weeks long, and upon successful completion students have the opportunity to work at a construction company.

2006-07

Merit will spend $2.17-million in 2006-07 to pay the tuition fees of apprentices taking technical apprenticeship training at an Alberta college or technical institute.

32,000

The Association has more than 1,200 member companies that employ over 32,000 people enrolled in its benefit programs.

1,000

More than 1,000 Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) students have been placed with Merit member companies.

58

Merit member companies proudly worked more than 58 million hours of construction employment in 2006.

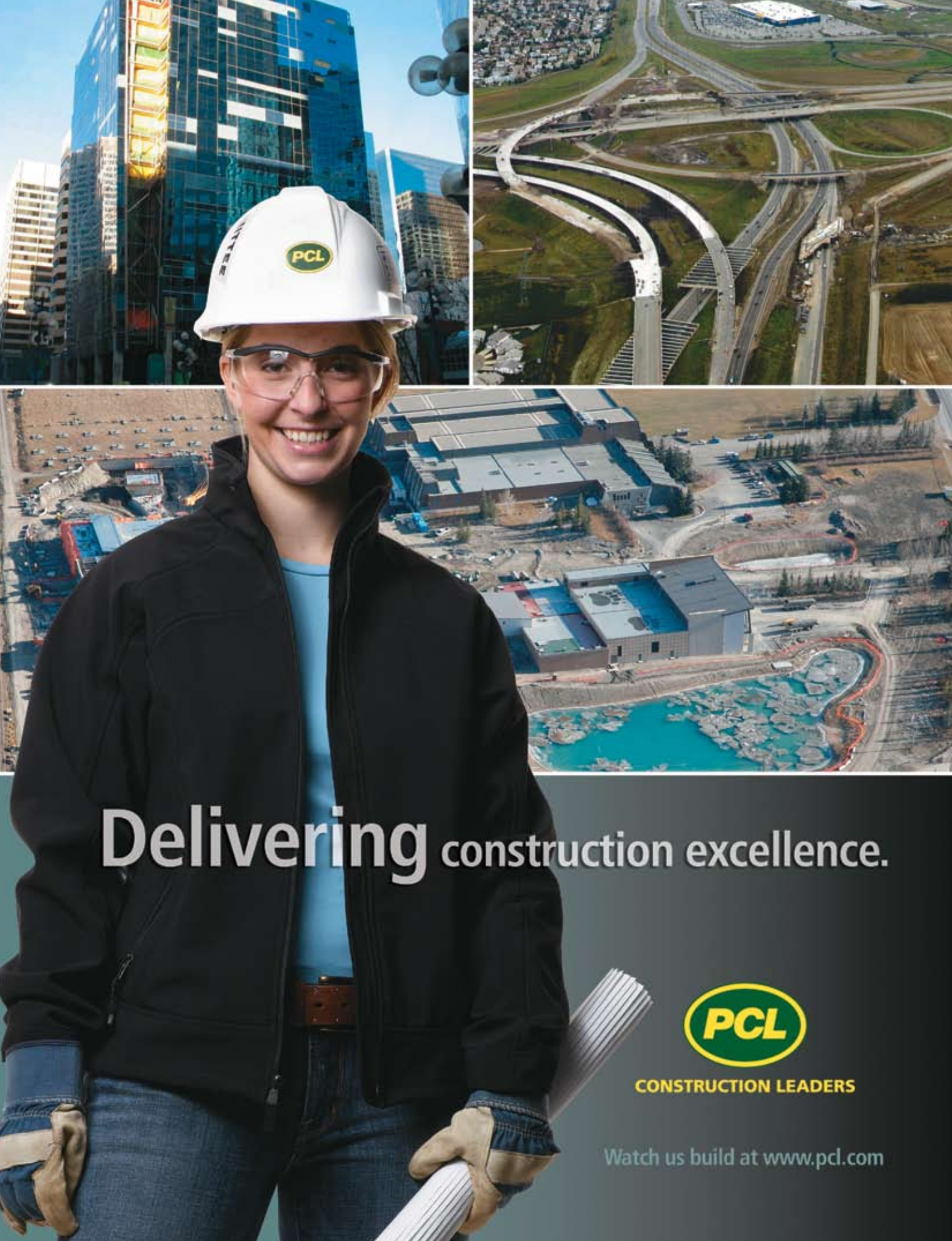
MERIT

Second only to the Alberta government, Merit is the largest provider of high-school awards in the province.

80%

Eighty per cent of construction work in Alberta is done by the open shop sector.

Merit continues to be the fastest growing construction association in Canada.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Alberta Construction Safety Association

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