



NEWS RELEASE

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ICFMA Welcomes Federal Investment in Apprenticeship Training and Calls for a Stronger Place for ICF in Red Seal Training

OTTAWA, October 15, 2026 -- The Insulating Concrete Forms Manufacturers Association (ICFMA) welcomes today's announcement by the Honourable John Zerucelli, Secretary of State (Labour), of new investments, reported at \$430 million, through the Union Training and Innovation Program to expand apprenticeship training capacity, modernize training equipment and support innovation in Red Seal trades training, along with a new call for applications for organizations seeking funding.

"Canada can't build the homes and buildings it needs without skilled tradespeople, and Red Seal training is the backbone of that workforce," said Jim Facette, Executive Director of ICFMA. "Investing in training centres, equipment and new ways of teaching is exactly what the trades need, and our members are ready to help."

ICFMA members depend on skilled trades. Every insulating concrete form (ICF) project, from single-family homes to mid-rise residential and commercial buildings, relies on carpenters, concrete workers and other tradespeople who know how to build with ICF correctly. ICFMA member manufacturers already invest in that workforce through an industry-tailored ICF training program, delivered by the manufacturers themselves, that prepares installers, contractors and builders to design, place and pour ICF walls to the standard that codes and owners expect.

ICF is already established in Canada's building code. Prescriptive requirements for ICF construction have been part of Part 9 of the National Building Code of Canada since 2005, and the 2020 edition expanded that recognition further. In March 2024, ICFMA published its Prescriptive ICF Design Tables for Part 9 Building in Canada, which gives code-compliant, province-specific engineering tables based on the 2015 edition of Part 9. For projects that fall within its scope, it removes the need for custom engineering, which can shorten design and approval timelines. ICFMA is now active on the 2025 edition of the National Building Code and will update its design tables so they remain current as provinces and territories adopt it.

ICF is already recognized in the Red Seal standard for carpenters, where it is listed among the wall form systems apprentices are expected to know. Going forward, ICFMA sees the need for ICF to have a stronger place in the Red Seal program, with more depth in curriculum and hands-on training, so apprentices across Canada are ready to build with it. ICF construction delivers durable, energy-efficient and resilient buildings, and as demand grows, that training should not be left to industry alone.

"ICF deserves a bigger place in how apprentices are trained, and we welcome the opportunity to work with government, the provinces and territories, unions and training providers to make that happen," said Facette. "Our members bring decades of hands-on training experience, and we are ready to put it to work."

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About the ICFMA: The Insulating Concrete Forms Manufacturers Association (ICFMA) is the voice of the North American insulating concrete form (ICF) industry. ICFMA unites manufacturers across Canada and the United States around shared technical standards, and works to advance and grow its members' business by promoting the safe, code-recognized and widely understood use of ICF construction. Its goal is for ICF technology to be recognized and specified as a mainstream, trusted building solution, and for the industry's achievements to be recognized and put to use by its partners and stakeholders. For more information visit icf-ma.org.

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