



ARCANA (AB)

**Annual
Report
2025 | 2026**



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Introduction

ARCANA (AB) is pleased to present its third annual report to the Government of Alberta, covering the period from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. In Alberta, the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act (PPCLA) and its accompanying regulations govern the adjudication process and define the scope of an adjudicator's duties. During this reporting period, amendments introduced through Bill 30 (Alberta PPCLA amendments) were in effect.

ARCANA (AB) continues to serve as a Nominating Authority (NA) under the PPCLA, maintaining an online roster of experienced and qualified adjudicators who are fully trained and certified to provide prompt and effective dispute resolution services. Service Alberta has extended ARCANA (AB)'s mandate for an additional two years, with the current term now ending in June 2027.

ARCANA (AB)'s third year builds upon the foundation established during its initial years of operation, while also presenting new opportunities and challenges as the adjudication framework continues to mature in Alberta. The availability of accessible and cost-effective construction adjudication services supports the timely completion of projects, ensures that contractors and subcontractors are paid promptly, strengthens small businesses within the sector, and helps reduce the burden on the courts.



ARCANA (AB) Structure

ARCANA (AB) represents a partnership between the ADR Institutes of Alberta & Canada (ADRIA & ADRIC), and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). RICS has over 25 years of experience in the delivery of construction adjudication services around the world, and brings invaluable expertise and experience to the Nominating Authority (NA).

ADRIC and RICS have partnered to deliver an exceptional 40-hour training program for construction adjudicators. ADRIA & RICS administer and deliver NA services in Alberta and provide ongoing support and professional development to ARCANA (AB)'s roster of independent adjudicators.

In its third year of operation, ARCANA (AB) continued to serve Albertans and the Province's construction sector by providing access to a trusted, Alberta-based Nominating Authority with world-class expertise in construction dispute resolution. ARCANA (AB) adjudicators remain independent contractors, trained and certified by the NA, and appointed to individual files in accordance with the PPCLA and Regulation.

Throughout the year, adjudicators upheld a strong commitment to professionalism—adhering to a strict Code of Conduct and fulfilling ongoing professional development requirements—to ensure that their decisions remain compliant with legislation, are ethically sound, and responsive to evolving sector standards.



The Partners

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)



The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a globally recognized professional body that sets and upholds standards of excellence in land, property, infrastructure, and construction. With a commitment to integrity, transparency, and professional competence, RICS provides guidance, certification, and regulation to ensure trust and confidence in the built environment across both public and private sectors with over 20,000 adjudications over the past 25+ years pursuant to statutory and contractual regimes in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa, the Republic of Ireland and now Canada. The RICS training, accreditation and performance monitoring programs for construction adjudicators are regarded as the gold standard by industry professionals and users of adjudication globally.

The ADR Institute of Alberta (ADRIA)



ADRIA is well known to the Provincial Government as Alberta's professional association of mediators, arbitrators, adjudicators and other ADR practitioners, and the source of ADR expertise in Alberta. ADRIA functions as an independent Regional Affiliate of ADRIAC in the delivery of highly qualified and credentialed ADR professionals in all sectors of Alberta's economic and civil life. For over 20 years ADRIA has administered the Canadian Motor Vehicle Arbitration Plan (CAMVAP) in Western Canada, in partnership with the CAMVAP national body. ADRIA has represented the new ARCANA (AB) partnership throughout Service Alberta's consultation process and the drafting of prompt payment adjudication legislation, regulation and amendments. ADRIA staff provide the primary liaison between the Government of Alberta (Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction & Alberta Infrastructure) and the Nominating Authority (NA).

The ADR Institute of Canada (ADRIC)



The ADR Institute of Canada (ADRIC) is recognized as Canada's preeminent self-regulatory professional Dispute Resolution organization. ADRIC sets the standard for best practices for ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) in Canada and provides leadership, value and support to our individual and corporate members and to our clients. ADRIC provides education and certification, promotes ethical standards and professional competency, and advocates for all forms of ADR for public and private disputes. ADRIC members include Canada's top dispute resolution professionals, many of whom are skilled and experienced in construction industry law and practice. ADRIC and RICS are working with individual Affiliates across Canada to support Provincial Construction Adjudication initiatives.



Message from Leadership

Welcome to ARCANA (AB)'s third annual report! In our third year of operations, the overall revenue of adjudications remained relatively steady; however, we observed a notable shift toward adjudications involving higher-value claims. Year over year the number of adjudications went from 26 in 2024-2025 to 50 in 2025-2026 and the value of the claims increased to almost all tier cases for 2025-2026.

As we enter ARCANA's fourth year—and with the implementation of Bill 30—we anticipate continued gains in the timeliness and effectiveness of adjudication for construction contracts, including those governed by the Public Works Act. Of particular significance is the removal of the automatic stay that previously applied when an application for judicial review was commenced. This amendment supports the enforceability of adjudicators' determinations and provides greater certainty for all participants in the construction pyramid, including owners, contractors, subcontractors, sub-subcontractors, and suppliers.

ARCANA (AB) remains committed to working collaboratively with the Government of Alberta and the construction sector to strengthen Alberta's adjudication framework and to support the fair, efficient delivery of adjudication services.

We are proud of the progress achieved over the past year and look forward to continued service under the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act and its recent amendments.

Sincerely,
Stephen Carter-Edwards, J.D., P. Eng., Q.Adj (Construction)
ADR Institute of Alberta President



What is Adjudication?

Adjudication is a form of expedited dispute resolution designed to address construction disputes quickly and cost-effectively. In Alberta, adjudication operates under the framework established by the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act (PPCLA) and its accompanying regulations. The legislation recognizes adjudication as the preferred mechanism for resolving construction payment and contract disputes that cannot be settled directly by the parties.

The purpose of adjudication is to provide a timely and practical resolution process that keeps construction projects moving forward while ensuring that payment disputes do not delay project completion. Construction projects often involve multiple parties—owners, contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers—and unresolved disputes can quickly disrupt project timelines and financial stability. By offering a structured but efficient process, adjudication helps maintain cash flow within the construction industry and reduces the need for lengthy and costly litigation.

Adjudication is a fast and straightforward process. When a dispute arises, one of the parties may initiate adjudication through a Nominating Authority, which appoints an independent and qualified adjudicator from its roster. The adjudicator reviews written submissions and supporting documentation from both parties and may request additional information if necessary. The process operates under a strict statutory timetable, with decisions typically issued within approximately 30 days after the adjudicator receives the parties' submissions.

Unlike traditional court proceedings, adjudication focuses on efficiency and practicality. While adjudicators must apply the relevant contract terms and legal framework, the process is designed to minimize procedural complexity and encourage timely outcomes. The adjudicator's determination is binding on the parties on an interim basis, meaning it must be complied with immediately, while still allowing the matter to be revisited later through arbitration or the courts if either party chooses to pursue further action.

By providing a rapid and accessible dispute resolution mechanism, adjudication plays an important role in supporting the stability and productivity of the construction sector, ensuring that disputes are resolved promptly and that projects can continue to progress without unnecessary delay.

THE BENEFITS OF ADJUDICATION

Adjudication is a fast, flexible and cost-effective way to resolve construction disputes and keep projects on track.

- 1



FAST RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

Adjudication provides a decision within a short timeframe, minimizing delays and keeping projects moving.
- 2



MAINTAINS CASH FLOW

Prompt decisions on payment disputes help ensure timely payment to contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, supporting healthy cash flow.
- 3



COST-EFFECTIVE

Adjudication is generally less expensive than litigation, reducing legal and administrative costs.
- 4



KEEPS PROJECTS MOVING

Disputes are resolved quickly so construction work can continue with minimal disruption or delay.
- 5



ACCESSIBLE PROCESS

The process is straightforward and less formal than court proceedings, making it easier for parties to access when needed.
- 6



INDUSTRY EXPERTISE

Adjudicators are often construction professionals with specialized knowledge and experience, enabling informed decisions on technical and contractual matters.
- 7



REDUCES COURT BURDEN

By resolving disputes outside the court system, adjudication helps decrease the number of construction-related cases that require judicial intervention.
- 8



PRESERVES BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS

Because adjudication is faster and less adversarial than litigation, it can help maintain working relationships between project participants.
- 9



SUPPORTS SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES

A quicker and more affordable dispute resolution process helps smaller businesses protect their rights and recover payments without incurring significant legal costs.
- 10



ENCOURAGES FAIRNESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Knowing that disputes can be referred to adjudication encourages parties to meet their contractual obligations and address issues and resolve disputes promptly.



IN SUMMARY

Adjudication provides a practical, efficient, and cost-effective way to resolve construction disputes. It promotes prompt payment, supports project continuity, strengthens industry confidence, and offers parties access to expert decision-makers without the delays and costs often associated with litigation.

Accessing Adjudication

In its third year of operation, ARCANA (AB) continued to provide an accessible and straightforward pathway to adjudication. As set out in the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act and its accompanying regulations, the adjudication process is initiated through the submission of a Notice of Adjudication. To support users in this step, ARCANA (AB) maintains a user-friendly template, application form, and guidance materials on its website.

In many cases, the issuance of a Notice of Adjudication—submitted free of charge to the applicant—has prompted meaningful dialogue between the parties. This initial step has, at times, resulted in disputes being resolved or payments being made without the need for further involvement from ARCANA (AB). These early and informal resolutions align closely with the Government of Alberta's prompt payment objectives by encouraging parties to address disputes quickly and collaboratively.

Under the legislative framework, Nominating Authority fees, if applicable, become payable within seven days of serving the Notice of Adjudication, which triggers the formal process for appointing an adjudicator. Once an adjudicator is appointed, the adjudication proceeds in accordance with the timelines established under the legislation.

To further support users, ARCANA (AB) provides a comprehensive user guide outlining each step of the adjudication process, which remains available on the organization's website.

Ensuring accessibility remains a key priority. ARCANA (AB) continues to maintain a tiered fee schedule designed to accommodate disputes of varying claim values and make adjudication accessible across the construction sector. In addition, information on cost-effective dispute resolution alternatives—particularly for claims under \$100,000 or disputes that fall outside the scope of the legislation—is provided to help parties make informed decisions about the most appropriate path to resolving their disputes.

ARCANA (AB) Fee Schedule

ARCANA (AB) has updated its fee schedule to align with current operational costs and administrative requirements. This adjustment supports the ongoing delivery of efficient, accessible, and high-quality adjudication services while ensuring the adjudication process remains fair, timely, and sustainable for all participants.

The updated fee schedule is effective February 1, 2026. Parties and adjudicators are encouraged to review the revised schedule and apply the new fees to matters commenced on or after this date.

ARCANA(AB) Fee Schedule						
Case Information*			ARCANA(AB) Fees		Adjudicator Fee Rates & Caps**	
Claim Value	Tier	Amount in dispute	Filing Fee	Certification Fee	Hourly Rate	Adjudicator Fee Caps
Low Value	1	Under \$25,000	Nil	Nil	\$200	\$1,800
	2	Under \$50,000			\$225	\$3,600
	3	Under \$100,000			\$250	\$6,000
Mid Value	4	Under \$250,000	\$450	Nil	\$275	7.5% of Amount in Dispute
	5	Under \$500,000			\$425	
High Value	6	Under \$1,000,000	\$450	Nil	\$500 max	As agreed to with the adjudicator
	7	\$1,000,000 or more			\$650 max	

* The value of any counterclaim will be added to that of the claim in determining the total amount in dispute.

** Applied by the Nominating Authority (ARCANA) when the parties have not agreed to an adjudicator within 4 working days after the Notice of Adjudication is issued. Where the adjudicator is agreed by the parties, fees and caps will be as agreed with the adjudicator. Fee and caps can be adjusted in consultation with the adjudicator at any time, but only with the consent of both parties. See Note 7 below.

ARCANA (AB) Fee Schedule

Notes	
1	The <i>Amount in Dispute</i> is the figure the parties say is in dispute. It is not the total contract value and may be different from the amount finally determined by the adjudicator. The amount in dispute may be adjusted based on any counterclaim made by the Respondent (see Note 3). If a counterclaim is submitted, the adjudicator may increase the applicable fee cap to the next Tier or apply the 7.5% fee to the revised amount in dispute, as appropriate.
2	For low-value cases and mid-value cases, if questions are raised about the adjudicator's authority to decide the dispute (called jurisdictional issues) and need a separate decision, only up to 40% of the fee cap will be charged for handling these issues.
3	The costs relating to a jurisdiction challenge or counterclaim may be assessed and apportioned separately to those relating to the determination of the Applicant's claim. Costs for dealing with counterclaims not related to the Applicant's claim must be adjudicated separately, usually by submitting a second Notice of Adjudication. The legislation does allow such claims to be consolidated when appropriate. NB Revisions to this note currently under discussion.
4	Besides the Notice of Adjudication and the contract or subcontract, both parties can provide the adjudicator with any documents they plan to rely on.
5	ARCANA does not charge for certifying adjudication determinations – this service is included as part of its role as a Nominating Authority under the PPCLA legislation.
6	ARCANA earns part of its fees by taking a commission from the adjudicator's fee: 20% for claims under \$25,000, 25% for claims under \$50,000, and 30% for higher amounts.
7	In all cases, the parties and adjudicator may at any time agree on hourly rates, fee caps and expenses which differ from those set out in this Fee Schedule and Notes, where they believe this to be appropriate. Parties are under no obligation to enter into such an agreement, and where they do not, the adjudicator is obliged to deal with the matter in accordance with the fees and policies set out herein.

Construction Adjudication Training Program

ARCANA (AB) adjudicators bring a minimum of 10 years of experience in the construction sector, ensuring deep industry knowledge and practical insight. Prior to joining the adjudication roster, candidates must complete over 40 hours of in class training and many hours of additional preparation time and pass a rigorous written evaluation. They are also assessed by a three-member review panel composed of seasoned experts in the field.

The first group of adjudicators that joined the roster in 2022 will be reassessed before the end of the year.

To maintain high professional standards, all adjudicators must be members of the ADR Institute of Alberta and the ADR Institute of Canada (ADRIA/ADRIC), and hold ADRIC's national designation of Qualified Adjudicator (Construction), or Q.Adj(Const).

This designation requires annual renewal through a Continuing Education & Engagement (CEE) program, ensuring that adjudicators remain current with developments in the field and continue to meet the expectations of the role. ARCANA (AB) conducted several professional development webinar workshops over the reporting period to keep current and aspiring roster adjudicators abreast of the evolving legislation, caselaw, NA expectations and industry practices.

Roster of ARCANA (AB) Adjudicators

In its third year, ARCANA (AB) expanded its roster from 14 to 16 independent adjudicators, reflecting continued growth in its capacity to meet increasing demand, and offering a full range of legal and construction expertise as required by the PPCLA.

All adjudicators on ARCANA (AB)'s roster are well-qualified professionals who hold current ADR Canada Adjudication credentials, maintain professional liability insurance, and function independently of the Nominating Authority (NA). They are guided by a rigorous code of conduct, a comprehensive ethics framework, and a clear, transparent public complaint process. As Alberta's adjudication framework continues to evolve, ensuring a strong, diverse, and accessible pool of qualified adjudicators remains a central priority. Current adjudicator profiles are publicly accessible on ARCANA (AB)'s website.

Professional Backgrounds of the Roster Adjudicators

Profession	Number of Certified Adjudicators
Lawyer	8
Lawyer/Engineer	1
Lawyer/Surveyor	1
Engineer/Arbitrator	2
Engineer	2
Surveyor	1
Construction Manager	1

Training, Credentials and Professional Development

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ARCANA (AB) conducted multiple professional development webinar workshops over the reporting period to keep current and aspiring roster adjudicators informed of the evolving legislation, caselaw, NA expectations and industry practices. There was a session specific to the Bill 30 amendments and another special master class where a panel comprised of Canadian, UK and Australian adjudicators shared challenges and best practices across their respective jurisdictions.

Ongoing Concerns with the PPCLA and Regulation

ARCANA(AB) has concerns regarding the wording of some provisions of the PPCLA and Regulation, including some of the amendments brought about by Bill 30. In particular ARCANA(AB) believes that the “date of final” payment provision (section 33.4(2) of the PPCLA) is being seen by some as confusing and an unnecessary impediment to adjudication. ARCANA(AB) hopes to meet with Government of Alberta officials in the coming months to discuss adjudication issues generally and possible revisions to the PPCLA and Regulation.

Of course, given the transitional provisions of these amendments (the amendments do not apply to contracts entered into prior to April 1, 2025) it may yet be months before any Public Works Act adjudications occur. ARCANA (AB) expects to be meeting with Government of Alberta officials in the coming months to discuss adjudication issues generally and the Bill 30 amendments in particular”.

Government Liaison

ARCANA (AB) continues to play a leadership role in the development of Government policy and amendments to the PPCLA. Once provided with details, ARCANA (AB) provided feedback and suggested changes to the Bill 30 amendments. While these could not be immediately accepted, given the advanced nature of the omnibus Bill in the legislature, ARCANA (AB) continues to advocate for essential amendments and earlier access to proposed legislation. These advocacy efforts continue with mid-June and ongoing consultations between the GOA/Service Alberta and Alberta's Nominating Authorities. Through consultations with Infrastructure Alberta (IA), ARCANA (AB) will also advocate for broader access to Public Works adjudications.

Adjudication Statistics

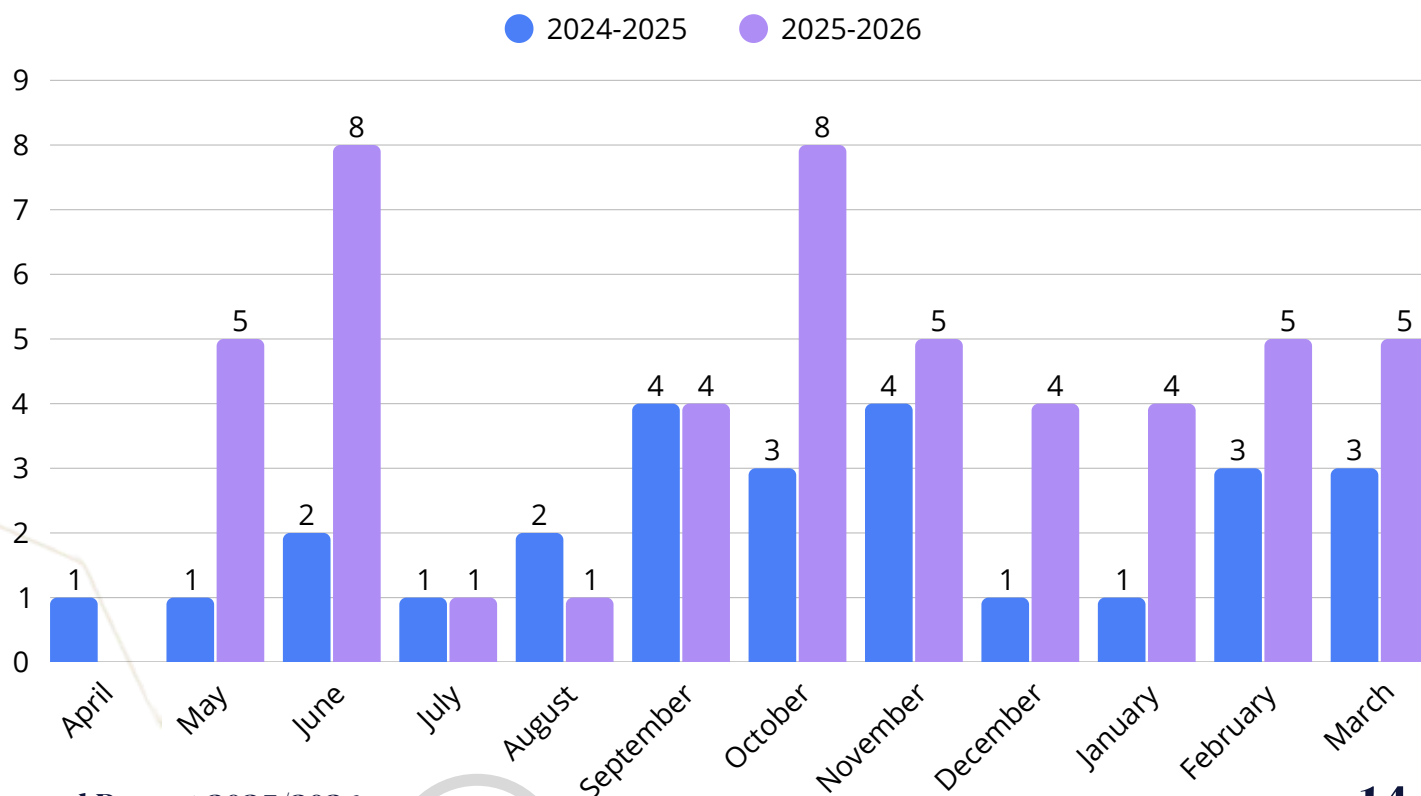
1. Introduction

During the 2025–2026 reporting period, ARCANA received a total of 50 notices, of which 6 were withdrawn prior to appointment, resulting in 44 appointments being made.

Monthly volumes remained relatively consistent overall, with some identifiable seasonal variation. Peak activity occurred in June and October, while lower volumes were recorded in April, July, and August.

These lower volumes align with periods that include public holidays, such as Easter, and the summer vacation, when industry activity typically slows. Such fluctuations are consistent with broader industry patterns, where case volumes tend to reduce during holiday periods and increase during more active business cycles.

Volume of applications months on month against the previous reporting year



Adjudication Statistics

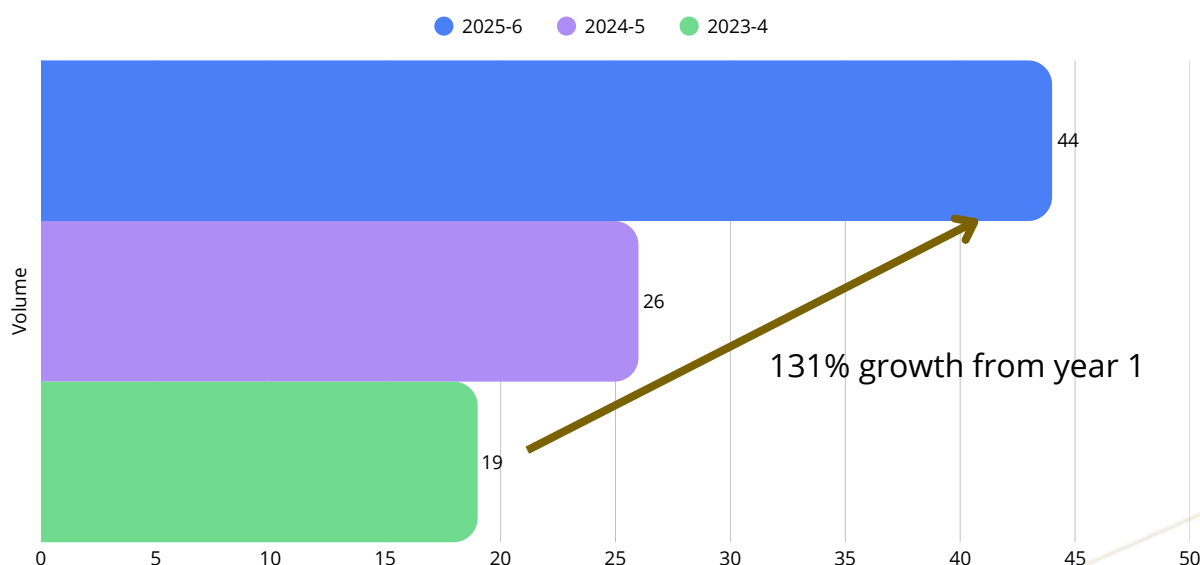
2. Growth of the Service

Since its introduction, ARCANA has demonstrated steady growth. Appointments increased from 19 in 2023–2024 to 29 in 2024–2025, rising further to 44 in the current reporting period, representing a clear and consistent upward trend.

This increase reflects the continued embedding of the legislative framework within the industry, alongside growing awareness and confidence among parties in using adjudication as a dispute resolution mechanism. As familiarity with the process develops, more parties are engaging with the scheme and incorporating it into their approach to resolving disputes.

Overall, this pattern is consistent with a scheme that is becoming more established over time, with adjudication increasingly seen as a practical and accessible option within the wider dispute resolution landscape.

Year on year application growth



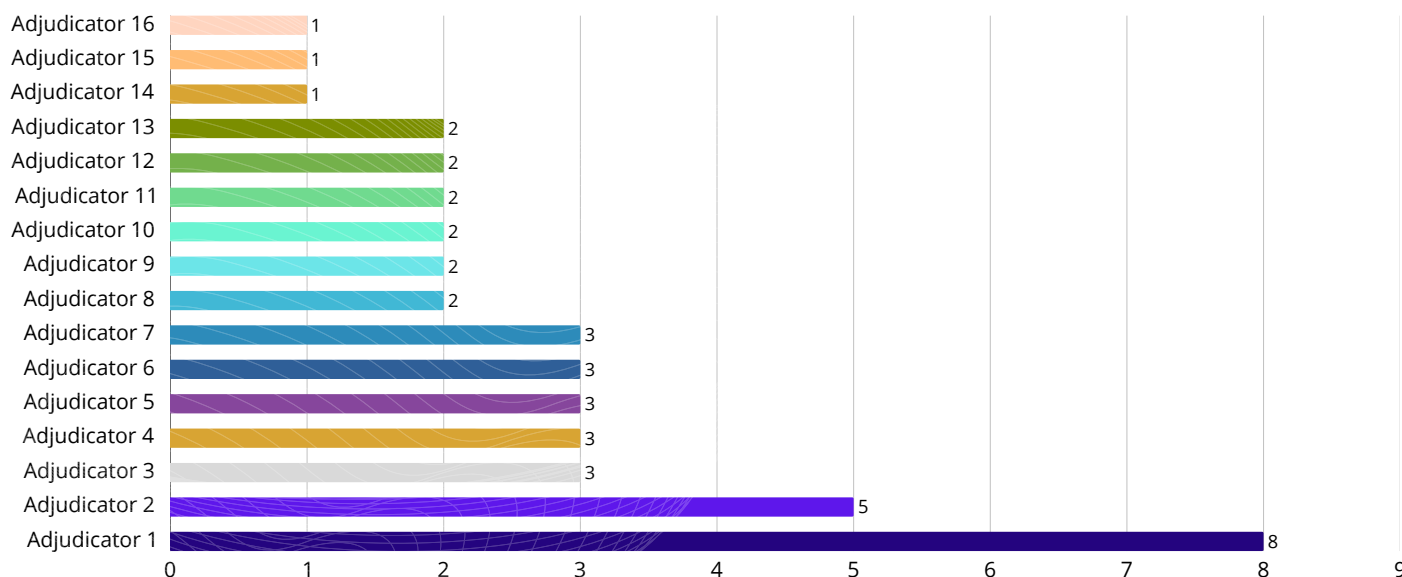
Adjudication Statistics

3. Adjudicator appointments

Of the 50 notices received, 44 proceeded to adjudicator appointment, with six withdrawn prior to appointment for reasons including settlement or jurisdictional issues. A total of 16 adjudicators were active on the roster during the reporting period and cases were spread across these professionals.

All adjudicators were appointed to at least one matter, demonstrating effective utilisation of the roster. The relatively balanced distribution of appointments indicates that the allocation process is functioning as intended, while continuing to allow for party preference.

Allocation of cases to ARCANA (AB) Roster Adjudicators



Adjudication Statistics

4. Adjudicator Selection

As part of the process, and in accordance with the regulations, parties are given a prescribed period of four days to agree on an adjudicator from the roster before the Nominating Authority makes a selection. Out of the appointed cases reviewed, 33 involved parties either suggesting an adjudicator or working collaboratively to agree on one within this timeframe.

In the remaining cases, no adjudicator was proposed for agreement at the notice stage. However, in a small number of these instances, the parties subsequently reached agreement within the permitted four-day window. Where no agreement is reached within this period, the Nominating Authority proceeds to make the appointment in line with the regulatory requirements.

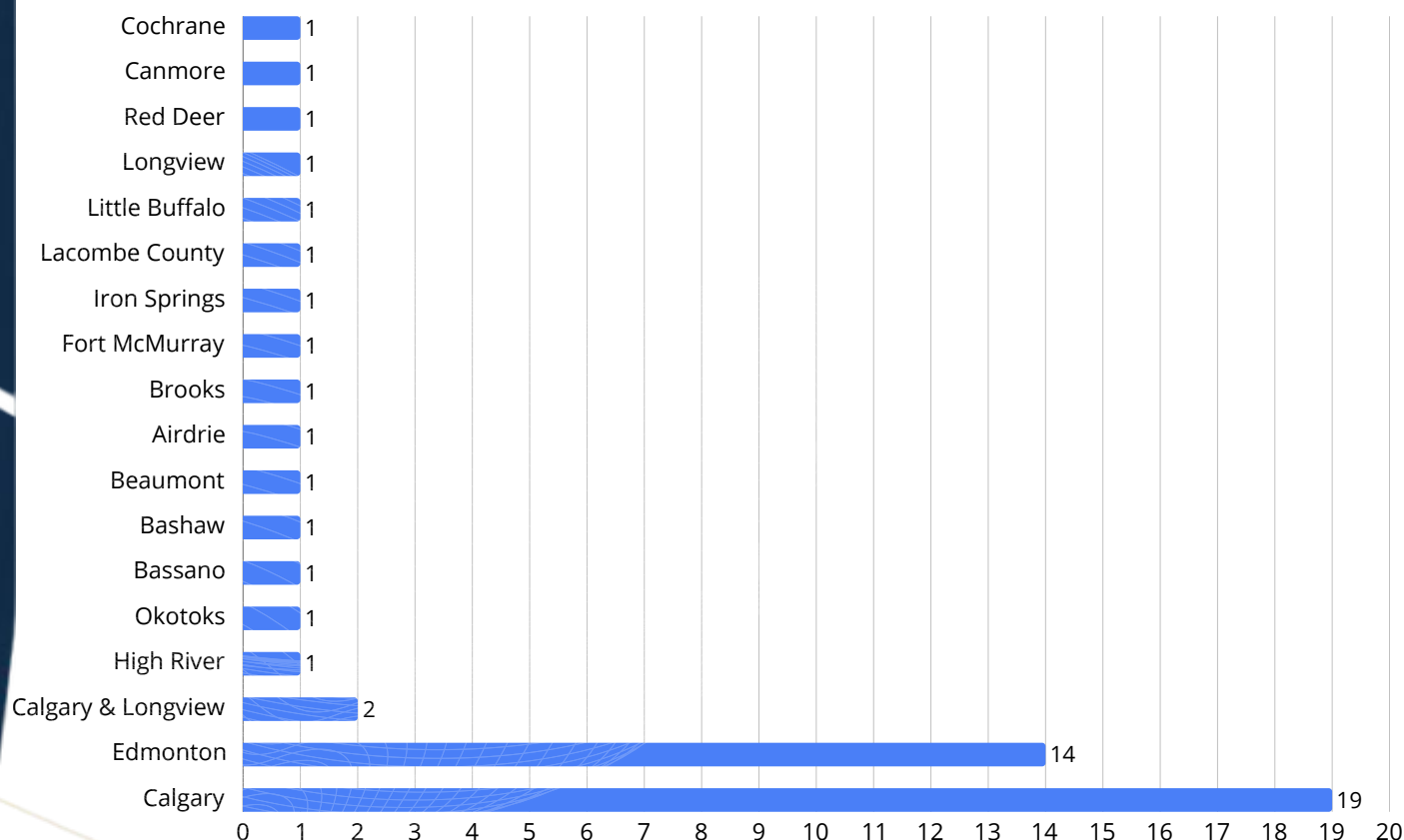
Variation in nomination and acceptance rates appears to be influenced by a range of factors, including adjudicator availability, the parties' familiarity with particular professionals from the roster, and perceptions of relevant expertise. This is consistent with patterns typically seen in developing schemes, where certain adjudicators become more widely recognised and are selected more frequently as their experience and reputation develop over time.

Adjudication Statistics

5. Geographic Distribution

Notices were concentrated in Alberta's primary urban centres, with Calgary accounting for 19 cases and Edmonton 14. This concentration reflects the higher volume of construction activity within these regions. Lower volumes across smaller communities are consistent with both population distribution and the scale of regional projects.

Location of applications received within Alberta



Adjudication Statistics

6. Case status and outcomes

A total of 44 adjudicators were appointed during the reporting period. Six notices were withdrawn, primarily due to jurisdictional issues or matters falling outside the scope of the legislative framework.

At the end of the reporting period, two cases remained in progress. These matters were consolidated and are being managed by a single adjudicator.

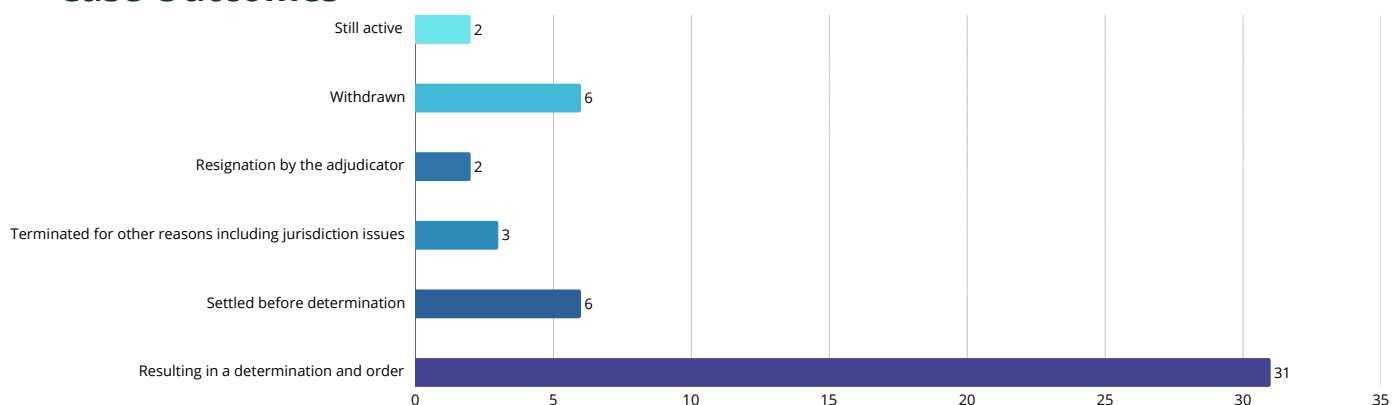
The number of cases resulting in a determination and order increased to 31, compared with 14 in the previous reporting period. This increase is broadly in line with the overall rise in applications and indicates continued reliance on adjudication to achieve formal outcomes. Settlement levels remained consistent, suggesting that a proportion of disputes continue to be resolved once the adjudication process is underway.

Six cases were settled after the adjudicator had been appointed, demonstrating how the PPCLA framework can support and encourage resolution between parties during the course of proceedings.

Two adjudicators resigned from their appointments due to jurisdictional limitations, where the dispute required the consent and participation of the responding party. In these instances, the responding party did not engage or submit documentation.

A small number of cases were also concluded on procedural grounds. This included a successful jurisdictional challenge where the Notice of Adjudication was issued outside the required timeframe, and three cases which were terminated as abandoned due to non-compliance with timelines and directions.

Case Outcomes



Adjudication Statistics

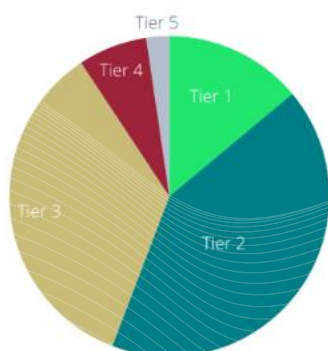
7. Fee Structure and Tiering

Under the previous fee structure, most applications fell within Tier 2 and Tier 3 categories, reflecting the typical value and nature of disputes referred.

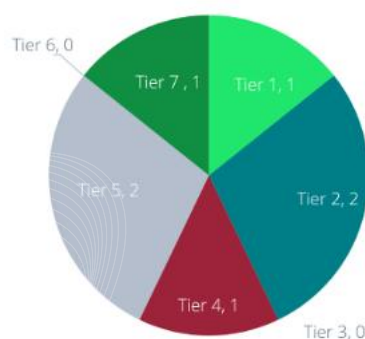
Data following the introduction of the revised fee structure from 1 February 2026 suggests a broader spread of applications across tiers, indicating that the revised framework may be supporting access to adjudication across a wider range of dispute values.

Tier level of applications received

Fee structure up to 31 January 2026



New fee structure 1 February onwards



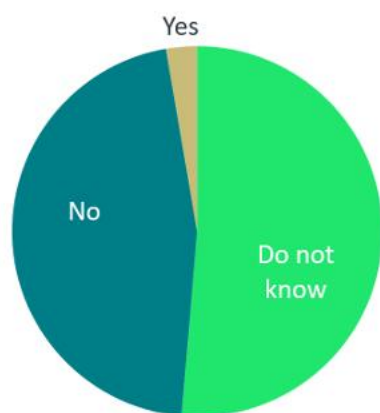
Adjudication Statistics

8. Representation and Jurisdiction

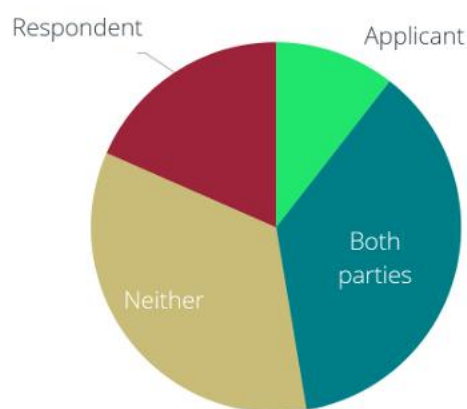
Levels of party representation varied across cases. The relatively low number of jurisdictional challenges indicates that most applications fall within the intended legislative scope, while acknowledging that interpretation continues to develop in practice.

Jurisdictional Challenges and party representation

- Was there a judicial challenge?



- Were the parties represented?



Adjudication Statistics

9. Adjudicator Time Commitment

The average time spent per active case during the reporting period was approximately 27.8 hours, based on 44 active cases and excluding withdrawn matters. Overall, 41.5% of total time was spent on cases involving jurisdictional challenges, with the remaining 58.5% attributed to standard cases.

10. Sector Distribution

From the files received, 27 related to the commercial sector, 18 to the residential sector, and 3 to the industrial sector, 2 public works.

This represents a shift from the previous reporting period, where residential matters formed the largest proportion of cases. The current distribution indicates increased use of adjudication within the commercial sector.

Adjudication Statistics

10. Conclusion and Key Takeaways

The 2025–2026 reporting period reflects a significant stage in the development of adjudication in Alberta. ARCANA (AB) received 50 notices during the year, representing substantial growth from previous reporting periods and demonstrating increasing awareness, confidence, and reliance on adjudication within the construction industry. The continued rise in application volumes suggests that adjudication is becoming an established and trusted mechanism for resolving disputes under the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act.

The data also indicates a maturing scheme. Cases continue to be concentrated in Alberta's major urban centres, reflecting the province's construction activity, while adjudicator appointments were effectively distributed across the roster, ensuring broad participation and utilization of available expertise. The increase in determinations and orders, together with consistent settlement levels, demonstrates that adjudication is supporting both formal dispute resolution and negotiated outcomes between parties.

Key trends from this report include:

- A continued increase in notices, rising to 50 during the reporting period and reflecting sustained growth in the use of adjudication.
- Growing industry confidence in the adjudication process, evidenced by the increasing number of parties engaging with the scheme and utilizing it as part of their dispute resolution strategy.
- Effective utilization of the adjudicator roster, with all active roster adjudicators receiving appointments during the reporting period.
- A high level of party engagement in adjudicator selection, with parties reaching agreement or proposing an adjudicator in a significant proportion of cases.
- An increase in determinations and orders, indicating that adjudication continues to provide parties with timely and enforceable outcomes.
- Continued use of settlement as a dispute resolution pathway, with a number of matters resolving after adjudication proceedings had commenced.
- A shift in sector participation, with commercial disputes forming the largest proportion of applications, demonstrating increasing uptake of adjudication within the commercial construction sector.
- Significant adjudicator time devoted to jurisdictional matters, highlighting the importance of ongoing education and clarity regarding legislative requirements and procedural compliance.

As the adjudication continues to mature, it will be important to monitor emerging trends, support industry education, and ensure that the process remains efficient, accessible, and responsive to the needs of stakeholders. The continued growth in application volumes and increasing diversity of matters being referred to adjudication suggest that the process is becoming an integral component of construction dispute resolution in Alberta.

Challenges

Challenges - Jurisdictional challenges based on the old “contract completion” provisions of the PPCLA have now ended. There have, however, been instances where ARCANA (AB) adjudication roster members have had to deal with jurisdiction issues under the new “date of final payment” provisions under section 33.4(2) of the PPCLA.

ARCANA (AB) continues to encourage the appointment of non-lawyer adjudicators to disputes where appropriate. While legally trained adjudicators are often the right choice non-lawyers, with their construction education and experience, coupled with their adjudication training, are well-equipped to deal with many disputes.

ARCANA (AB) adjudicators have been increasingly faced with jurisdictional issues respecting counterclaims by respondents. Adjudicators must decide whether such counterclaims are properly adjudicated in the existing adjudication or if same must be the subject of a separate adjudication.

In December 2025, ADACC (Alberta Dispute Adjudication for Construction Contracts) was appointed by the Government of Alberta as a second nominating authority in Alberta. While this appointment means competition over adjudications, ARCANA (AB) regards this appointment as also an opportunity for collaboration between the two nominating authorities regarding the promotion and improvement of adjudication in the province

ARCANA Website & Publications

ARCANA (AB) continues to enhance its communication and outreach efforts to ensure stakeholders have timely access to information and resources. During the year, work commenced on the development of a standalone ARCANA (AB) website that will provide an improved user experience, streamlined access to adjudication resources, educational materials, roster information, and important updates. The website is expected to serve as a central hub for parties seeking information about adjudication in Alberta.

In addition, ARCANA (AB) published regular newsletters approximately every two to three months to keep roster members and stakeholders informed of operational updates, legislative developments, educational opportunities, and key activities undertaken throughout the year.

Public, Legal, and Industry Education

Since the introduction of prompt payment and adjudication legislation in Alberta, awareness of adjudication has steadily increased; however, there remains significant opportunity to further educate industry participants on the benefits and practical application of the process. Many contractors, subcontractors, owners, and consultants continue to have limited familiarity with adjudication and its role in supporting timely dispute resolution and project continuity.

ARCANA (AB) remains committed to expanding its educational and outreach initiatives through industry events, webinars, publications, and stakeholder engagement. Greater collaboration with industry associations, educational institutions, and government partners would help broaden the reach of these efforts and ensure that information about adjudication is accessible across all segments of the construction sector.

As the adjudication framework continues to mature, ongoing education will be critical to fostering confidence in the process, encouraging compliance with the Prompt Payment and Construction Lien Act, and promoting a culture of timely payment and dispute resolution. Increased awareness and understanding among project participants will contribute to a stronger, more efficient construction industry and support the long-term success of adjudication in Alberta.

ARCANA (AB) has spoken at a number of events including the following:

- June 15, 2025 - Professional Development Session - Online
- August 28, 2025 - McLeod Law/ARCANA (AB) – Online
- September 15, 2025 - CBA Const. Section/Adrianna Worman – Calgary
- September 18, 2025 - APEGA/Jerry Crawford – Online
- October 24, 2025 - CBA – Ottawa
- November 5, 2025 - ARCANA (AB) – Adjudication Symposium – Online
- February 26, 2026 - ARCANA (AB) – Industry Session on Adjudication – Calgary
- March 18, 2026 - Canadian Institute – Calgary

Conclusion

Annual reports provide an opportunity to reflect on the past year, highlight achievements, assess challenges, and identify opportunities for continued growth and improvement. This Third Annual Report reflects that purpose by presenting ARCANA (AB)'s key statistics, educational initiatives, operational developments, challenges encountered, and updates to its roster of adjudicators.

At the same time, this report looks ahead with optimism and confidence. As ARCANA (AB) enters its fourth year of operation, it does so against a backdrop of legislative amendments, an expanded and highly qualified roster of adjudicators, growing industry recognition of adjudication as an effective dispute resolution mechanism, and increasing opportunities to engage with stakeholders and promote awareness of the adjudication process. These developments position ARCANA (AB) well to continue advancing its mandate and supporting Alberta's construction industry in the years ahead.

Contact Information

ARCANA (AB) is responsive to questions and feedback from all sectors, public and private. Responses are assured within 2 business days.

ARCANA (AB) can best be reached by:

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*“Fairness, impartiality, and
reasoned decision-making are the
hallmarks of effective
adjudication.”*

