

CONSTRUCTION ZONES

INTRODUCTION

The scope of certificates issued under construction registration is normally the same as the territorial jurisdiction of the union. For example, a local union's constitution may give it jurisdiction for the province of Alberta north of the 52nd parallel. When that local union is certified **under registration**, the geographical scope of the certificate is that part of the province of Alberta north of the 52nd parallel. One consequence of this system is that union mergers result in complex jurisdictional changes which, in turn, affect the scope of certificates. The Board manages these changes by using "zones" in bargaining unit descriptions. This chapter addresses:

- the origins of zones;
- existing zones; and
- creating new zones.

ORIGIN OF ZONES

Historically, construction unions were regionally organized. For example, at one point there were six locals of the Carpenters union that represented carpenters in the construction industry. Over time, those locals have merged and now there are only two such locals (Carpenters 1325 in the North and Carpenters 2103 in the South). Between them, they have jurisdiction over the entire province for carpenters in the construction industry.

One outcome of such amalgamations is jurisdictional expansion. That is to say, as the unions merge, their jurisdiction expands. During these mergers, however, the Board is careful to preserve the original scope of certificates. That is to say, an expansion of a union's territorial jurisdiction does not expand the geographic scope of their certificates. The Board preserves the original scope of a certificate by adding "zones" to the certificate's bargaining unit description.

For example, the Medicine Hat Local and ABC Company are named in Certificate No. 123-1990 (General Construction Carpenters). The scope of Certificate No. 123-1990 is the territorial jurisdiction of the Medicine Hat Local. When ABC Company operates outside of that area, Certificate No. 123-1990 (and resultant collective agreement) does not apply. If the Medicine Hat Local merges with the Lethbridge Local, the union's territorial jurisdiction expands. The scope of the certificate, however, must remain the original jurisdiction of the Medicine Hat Local.

The Board indicates a difference between the territorial jurisdiction of a union and the scope of a certificate by adding a "zone" description to the bargaining unit description on the certificate. In our example, the Medicine Hat Local's territorial jurisdiction when Certificate 123-1990 was issued was "the area within a 100-miles radius from the centre of Medicine Hat". Following the merger,

the Board then creates a new Zone. (The fictional) Zone 23 is “That part of the province of Alberta within a 100-mile radius of the centre of Medicine Hat.” The Board then reconsiders Certificate No 123-1990. The reconsideration changes the union’s name from “Medicine Hat Local” to “Medicine Hat and Lethbridge Local” and would change the bargaining unit description from “General Construction Carpenters” to “General Construction Carpenters in Zone 23”.

EXISTING ZONES

The Board currently has 19 zones. These are:

<i>Insulators, Local 110</i>	Zone 1:	That part of the province of Alberta north of the north city limits of Red Deer in a straight line east to Saskatchewan and west to British Columbia.
<i>Insulators, Local 110; Painters, Local 177 (Glass Workers)</i>	Zone 2:	That part of the province of Alberta south of the north city limits of Red Deer in a straight line east to Saskatchewan and west to British Columbia.
<i>Bricklayers, Local 2</i>	Zone 3:	That part of the province of Alberta north of the north line of Township 11 to the north boundary line of Township 38.
<i>Cement Masons, Local 222</i>	Zone 4:	That part of the province of Alberta south of the south boundary line of Township 37.
<i>Cement Masons, Local 222</i>	Zone 5:	That part of the province of Alberta north of the south boundary line of Township 37.
<i>Painters, Local 177</i>	Zone 6:	That part of the province of Alberta south of the north boundary line of Township 39.
<i>Painters, Local 177</i>	Zone 7:	That part of the province of Alberta north of the north boundary line of Township 39.
<i>Carpenters, Local 1325</i>	Zone 8:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded by a line running through a point one mile north of the town of Ponoka, from the British Columbia boundary to the western boundary of Range 13, west of the fifth meridian; north to the south boundary of Township 64; and west to the British Columbia boundary.
<i>Carpenters, Local 1325</i>	Zone 9:	That part of the province of Alberta north of a line running through a point one mile north of the town of Ponoka, excepting Zone 8.
<i>IBEW, Local 424</i>	Zone 10:	That part of the province of Alberta north of the north boundary line of Township 38.
<i>IBEW, Local 424</i>	Zone 11:	That part of the province of Alberta south of the north boundary line of Township 38.

<i>Carpenters, Local 2103</i>	Zone 12:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded on the north by a line from the B.C. border east along the north boundary of Township 13 to the west boundary of Range 27; north to the north boundary of Township 15 and east of the west boundary of Range 13; on the east by a line from there south to the U.S. border; on the south by the U.S. border; and on the west by the B.C. border.
<i>Carpenters, Local 2103</i>	Zone 13:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded by a line from the U.S. border north on the west boundary of Range 13 to the south boundary of Township 23; east to the Saskatchewan border; south to the U.S. border; then west to the west boundary of Range 13.
<i>Carpenters, Local 2103</i>	Zone 14:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded on the south by a line from the B.C. border running east on the south boundary of Township 14 to the east boundary of Range 27; north to the south boundary of Township 16; east to the east boundary of Range 14; north to the south boundary of Township 23; and then east to the Saskatchewan border; on the east by the Saskatchewan border; on the north by a line along the north boundary of Township 32 from the B.C. border to the Saskatchewan border; and on the west by the B.C. border.
<i>Carpenters, Local 2103</i>	Zone 15:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded on the south by a line along the north boundary of Township 32 from the B.C. border to the Saskatchewan border; on the north by a line from the B.C. border to the Saskatchewan border, one mile north of the town of Ponoka; on the east by the Saskatchewan border; and on the west by the B.C. border.
<i>Millwrights, Local 1460</i>	Zone 16:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded on the north by a line running east from the B.C. border to the Saskatchewan border through a point one mile north of the town of Ponoka.
<i>Millwrights, Local 1460</i>	Zone 17:	That part of the province of Alberta bounded on the south by a line running east from the B.C. border to the Saskatchewan border through a point one mile north of the town of Ponoka.
<i>CLAC, Local 63</i>	Zone 18:	That part of the province of Alberta north of the Tenth Base Line.
<i>CLAC, Local 63</i>	Zone 19:	That part of the province of Alberta south of the 52 nd Parallel.

CREATING NEW ZONES

Zones are normally created as a result of a union successorship in the **construction** industry. See: [[Trade Union Successorships, Chapter 33\(c\)](#); [Construction Registration, Chapter 25\(b\)](#)]. During the investigation of the successorship, an officer may note a change in the union's territorial

jurisdiction. This change has the potential to alter (i.e., expand) the scope of the certificate. The officer prevents this expansion by recommending that a zone be added to the bargaining unit of the certificate(s) involved. This may require the officer to recommend the creation of a new zone.

As noted above and in Schedule A of the [Rules of Procedure](#), the Board has created approximately 20 zones. Creating a new zone requires several steps.

1. The officer identifies a change in a union's jurisdiction that alters the scope of a **construction** certificate.
2. The officer determines the precise wording of the union's current territorial jurisdiction by examining the union's constitution, charter or bylaws.
3. The officer determines the precise wording of the union's territorial jurisdiction when the original certificate was issued. It is important to carefully examine the history of the union and the bargaining relationship because there may be several consecutive union successorships that may obfuscate the proper scope of the certificate.
4. The officer develops a description of the new zone based upon the principles outlined below. Remember, the purpose of the new zone description is to ensure the scope of the certificate is not inadvertently expanded as a consequence of the union successorship.
5. The officer places a recommendation for the creation of the new zone in the officer's report.
6. Should a Board panel approve the creation of the zone, the officer then ensures the [Rules of Procedure](#) are updated.

When wording a zone description, consider the following:

- **Purpose:** The purpose of writing a zone description is to make clear the geographic scope of an existing certificate. The zone description must, then, be very precise and clearly worded.
- **Reference points:** The boundaries of a zone are best expressed in terms of unchanging reference points. Whereas the limits of a city or the location of a road may change, baselines, lines of latitude and longitude and provincial borders are relatively static.
- **Phraseology:** Bargaining unit description start with "That portion of the province of Alberta". Although perhaps unnecessary to state (as the Board only has jurisdiction in Alberta), this opening sentence gives readers important context.

Subsequently, the description makes reference some portion of the province. For example, it might indicate "north of the north city limit of Red Deer in a straight line east to Saskatchewan and west to British Columbia." This description is clear so long as the Red Deer city limits don't change. Another example might be "south of the south boundary line of Township 37."

More complicated descriptions require the description of more than one boundary. For example, “That part of the province of Alberta bounded by a line running through a point one mile north of the town of Ponoka, from the British Columbia Boundary to the western boundary of Range 13, west of the fifth meridian; north to the south boundary of Township 64; and west to the British Columbia boundary.” Note that, when there is a change from one boundary line to another, a semi-colon is used.