

February 9, 2021

Honourable Anne Kang  
Minister of Advanced Education and  
Skills Training  
Government of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria British Columbia V8V 1X4  
Email: [AEST.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AEST.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Honourable Harry Bains  
Minister of Labour  
Government of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4  
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Mr. Andrew Mercier, MLA  
Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 1X4  
Email: [Andrew.Mercier.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Mercier.mla@leg.bc.ca)

Dear Minister Kang, Minister Bains and Parliamentary Secretary Mercier:

**Re: Compulsory Trades Training – Request for Consultation**

We are writing about your government’s process to reinstate compulsory trades training in British Columbia. Each of your mandate letters task you to work with the Industry Training Authority and each other to “*restore the compulsory trades system to improve safety and give more workers a path to apprenticeship completion*”.

We understand your government sponsored a ‘table’ to consider compulsory trades last year that included some representatives from the construction sector and members of organized labour. We are not aware of the content or extent of these discussions due to the confidentiality of the process. As BC business leaders, we believe that before any changes are contemplated government should broaden consultations to include the signatories to this letter and any other stakeholders representing significant segments of the business community and construction industry who to date have not had an opportunity to take part in the consultation process.

As detailed in recent mandate letters, the primary responsibility for restoring compulsory trades training is assigned to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training. We note, however, the Ministry of Labour also has a mandate to “*create new consultative mechanisms to engage employer and worker representatives in consideration of any changes proposed to workplace legislation to ensure widest possible support*”.

All economic sectors have been significantly impacted by the health and economic fallout from COVID-19 and have spent the better part of the last 10 months focused on their workers, families, and communities, as well as the viability of their business. We respectfully request your government broaden its stakeholder engagement on compulsory trades training to include signatories to this letter and other business stakeholders prior to formulating any policy framework and/or enabling legislation regarding compulsory trades.

We look forward to your response at your earliest possible convenience.

Sincerely,



Bridgitte Anderson  
President and CEO



Greg D'Avignon  
President & CEO



Samantha Howard  
Senior Director, B.C.



Dan Baxter  
Interim President  
& CEO



Chris Gardner  
President



Anne McMullin  
President & CEO



Paul de Jong  
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Dave Baspaly  
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Carolyn Campbell  
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Jason Glue  
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Bob Sloat  
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Zana Gordon  
Executive Director

CC: Ms. Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training  
Mr. Trevor Hughes, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour  
Ms. Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery, and Innovation