



March 5, 2021
Our Ref. 121158

Bridgitte Anderson, President & CEO, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade
Greg D'Avignon, President & CEO, Business Council of British Columbia
Samantha Howard, Senior Director for British Columbia, Canadian Federation of Independent Business
Fiona Famulak, President & CEO, BC Chamber of Commerce
Chris Gardner, President, Independent Contractors and Businesses Association
Anne McMullin, President & CEO, Urban Development Institute
Paul de Jong, President, Progressive Contractors Association of Canada
Dave Baspaly, President, Council of Construction Associations
Kelly Scott, President, BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association
Carolyn Campbell, Executive Director, Concrete BC
Kim Barbero, CEO, Mechanical Contractors Association of British Columbia
Bryan Wallner, President, Roofing Contractors Association of British Columbia
Scott Bone, President, Northern Regional Construction Association
Rory Kulmala, CEO, Vancouver Island Construction Association
Scott Wild, CEO, Southern Interior Construction Association
Jason Glue, Interim President, Vancouver Regional Construction Association
Bob Sloat, Regional Director for Western Canada, Surety Association of Canada
Zana Gordon, Executive Director, Fenestration Association of BC

Email Addresses: c/o ceo@boardoftrade.com; greg.davignon@bcbc.com;
Samantha.Howard@cfib.ca; dbaxter@bcchamber.org; chris@icba.ca; AMcMullin@udi.org;
pdejong@pcac.ca; dave@cocabc.ca; kelly@roadbuilders.bc.ca; ccampbell@concretebc.ca;
kbarbero@mcabc.org; bwallner@rcabc.org; sbone@nrca.ca; rorykulmala@vicabc.ca;
scottw@sicabc.ca; roxanne@vrca.ca; bsloat@suretycanada.com; info@fen-bc.org

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your letter of February 9, 2021, sent to us, regarding the reinstatement of compulsory trades training in British Columbia.

... /2

Our Government is committed to ensuring that British Columbia is responsive to the needs of our apprentices, workers, employers, unions, and industry stakeholders, all those who are key to building a strong and sustainable economy. As part of this commitment, the Honourable John Horgan, Premier, has issued each of us mandate letters with direction to restore compulsory trades in British Columbia, and we are eager to begin this important work.

We would like to assure you and your members that comprehensive stakeholder engagement on the implementation of compulsory trades is a priority. Planning is currently underway to launch multiple engagement opportunities across the province. Workers, organized labour, businesses, Indigenous partners, members of the public, and others will be invited to participate. Our goal is to hear directly from a broad spectrum of workers and employers to ensure differing perspectives are taken into consideration. We value your experience and expertise and look forward to your members' participation in these upcoming virtual engagement sessions.

We would also like to stress our government's focus on B.C.'s COVID-19 economic recovery for businesses, communities, and families. We know B.C.'s recovery depends on limiting the spread of COVID-19 and an effective rollout of the vaccine, ensuring the safe operation of businesses, investing in our communities and building infrastructure, job creation and retraining programs to connect people to new job opportunities, and building upon our immediate relief measures by continuing to provide supports for people and businesses hardest hit. Our ministries will continue to encourage this recovery, which includes increasing pathways to apprenticeship completion for more workers, supporting accessible skills training and career development opportunities in the trades, and continuing to maintain and enhance current high standards of worker and public safety.

We look forward to working closely with you and your members to ensure our province has the skilled trades workforce we need to build critical infrastructure, realize the potential of a cleaner environment, and maintain the services that British Columbians rely on for now and into the future.

Thank you again for submitting your letter and for sharing your perspective on restoring compulsory trades in British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Kang", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Honourable Anne Kang
Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training



Honourable Harry Bains
Minister of Labour



Andrew Mercier, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

pc: Mr. Trevor Hughes, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Labour

LBR.Deputy@gov.bc.ca

Ms. Bobbi Plecas, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation

JERI.DM@gov.bc.ca

Ms. Shannon Baskerville, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training

AEST.DeputyMinister@gov.bc.ca