



Meeting Title: PS Mercier's Introductory Meeting and Discussion on IUOE Skills Training Needs.

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 19 1:00pm - 1:30pm

For Minister's Reference:

- Meeting Note 120493
 - Appendix A – Brian Cochrane, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115

<u>Approval History</u>	<u>Date of approval</u>
ADM Sawchuk	Jan 14/21
DM Baskerville	Jan 14/21
MO received:	_____
MO reviewed:	

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Meeting Note

Advice to Andrew Mercier, Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training

Date: January 11, 2021

Cliff #: 120493

Prepared for: Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training, Advanced Education, Skills and Training

Date, Time of Meeting and Location: Tuesday, January 19 1:00pm - 1:30pm

Attendees:

- Andrew Mercier, Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training, Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)
- Jeff Hannah, Ministerial Assistant
- Brian Cochrane, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 (Appendix A)

Issue(s): Introductory Meeting and Discussion on IUOE Skills Training Needs

Background:

- The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 115 is a trade union representing over 12,000 members across multiple industries, such as heavy equipment operators, mechanics, surveyors, and stationary engineers.
- IUOE advocates for workers' rights by challenging unfair labour practices and promoting fair wages and fair treatment for IUOE members and working people across B.C. and is a member union of the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED).
- IUOE is accredited as a private training institution and is an Industry Training Authority (ITA) designated trades trainer.
- In 2019/20 IUOE received \$233K from the ITA to deliver heavy equipment operator and mobile crane training to 101 people.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had impacts across the labour market and in March 2020 a Trades Training COVID 19 Working Group (TTCWG) was formed¹ to address challenges in the trades training system due to effects of the pandemic.
- Over the last 18 months, AEST has developed a business case that balances in-depth research studies with industry perspectives and expertise to understand the potential impacts of implementing mandatory trades certification on workers, employers, the trades training system and B.C.'s economy.

¹ Membership includes AEST, ITA, Trades Training BC, and BC Association of Trades and Technical Administrators.

- A plan has been developed to ensure that Mandatory Certification is implemented in a way that ensures workers and businesses transition to a mandatory environment successfully.

Discussion:

- As the uncertainty around the second wave of the pandemic increases, the skilled trades will be critical to supporting B.C.'s economic recovery from Covid-19 by building infrastructure stimulus projects.
- The trades training system adapted quickly to the pandemic with most training institutions moving theoretical training online and continuing to provide hands-on learning through smaller, safely distanced cohorts.
- IOUE has expressed support for implementation of Mandatory Certification.
- IUOE has previously expressed concerns about funding levels to support their training program, emphasising the high costs involved with delivery this type of training.
- The Industry Training Authority is responsible for trades training funding decisions, and no recent discussions have occurred with Ministry staff regarding IOUE's funding requests.

Key Messages:

- The skilled trades will be critical to support B.C.'s economic recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic by building infrastructure stimulus projects.
- Our government is committed to delivering accessible and affordable skilled trades training to ensure British Columbians get the education and training they need for good paying careers to participate in B.C.'s economic recovery.
- Premier Horgan has given me a very ambitious mandate, one that will rely on strong industry partnerships, particularly the implementation of Compulsory Trades.
- I am looking forward to working closely with all the partners in the trades training system to implement compulsory trades.
- How has COVID impacted your sector and what are some of the top concerns you are seeing as we continue to work through the pandemic and recovery?
- Thank you for meeting with me; I look forward to working with you.

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Attachment(s):

- **Appendix A** – Brian Cochrane, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115

Contact: *Bindi Sawchuk, ADM, Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills Training (250-216-0346)*

Appendix A - Biography of Brian Cochrane, Business Manager, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 (IUOE)

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Brian Cochrane is a 31-year member of IUOE Local 115 and currently the Business Manager. Brian also currently holds the following additional positions:

- Trustee - IUOE General Executive Board
- Chair - IUOE Local 115 Benefits and Pension Plans
- Director - IUOE Training Association
- Officer - BC Federation of Labour
- Director-BC Building Trades



December 7, 2020

Andrew Mercier, MLA
Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training
East Annex
Parliament Buildings
501 Belleville St.
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

Dear Parliamentary Secretary Mercier:

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 115, I would like to personally congratulate you on your appointment as Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training.

As British Columbians work together to rise above the challenges of COVID-19, we do so knowing that we have the leadership of a government that is focused on safety and an economic recovery that will work for everyone.

You may be aware IUOE Local 115 will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary next year which includes recognizing our union's proud history of working with our partners in government, industry, and the wider community to improve the lives of BC's workers. We are equally proud of the Operating Engineers who volunteered their time during the election campaign to support a government that acts in the best interests of our province's working families.

Operating Engineers are firmly supporting the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) program which is providing fair wages and benefits for workers on public projects including the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project, the Highway One expansion and the Broadway SkyTrain Line. Including more projects into the CBA program will ensure greater equity in the construction industry and provide more opportunities for apprentices, women, and members from Indigenous communities.

Meanwhile, our union continues to play a leading role in providing training and accreditation in road building, heavy construction, mobile crane operation and asphalt paving to hundreds of British Columbians every year. We are committed to increasing the number of women and members of IBPOC communities amongst our graduates in our response to the need for greater equity in the construction industry.

Your experience and technical knowledge will be a great asset to Government on many issues that we will face going forward, and we will be pleased to assist in advancing those agendas.

International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 | Brian Cochrane - Business Manager, Wayne Mills - President
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Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation for you to come out to our training site in Maple Ridge to experience all of the updates and investments Local 115 has made to train the next generation.

Your staff can contact me directly to coordinate a time that works for your schedule.

We look forward to working with you and your team.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Cochrane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Cochrane" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Cochrane
Business Manager