

Meeting Note

Advice to Minister Anne Kang and Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Mercier

Date: March 18, 2021

Cliff #: 121163

Prepared for: Minister Anne Kang and Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Mercier

Date, Time of Meeting and Location:

Wednesday, March 24, 3:00-3:30pm

s.15; s.17

Meeting ID: s.15; s.17

Passcode: s.15; s.17

Attendees:

- Minister Anne Kang
- Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Mercier
- Catherine Poole, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, AEST
- Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director Unifor (Appendix A: Bio)
- Leanne Marsh – BC Regional Council Chair, Unifor & Unifor local 2200 Recording Secretary
- Danny Casquillo – Recording Secretary, Unifor local 2301
- Phil Fryer – National Skilled Trades Representative, Unifor
- John Breslin – National Skilled Trades Director, Unifor
- Dave Cassidy – Unifor National Skilled Trades Chair & President, Unifor local 444
- Curtis Finley – President, Unifor local 3018
- Mike Smith – President, Unifor local 2200

Issue(s): Discussion of Unifor's proposals for keeping BC communities strong despite the challenges created by COVID-19 and the role of the Skilled Trades in economic recovery.

Background:

- Unifor is Canada's largest private sector union, representing over 315,000 workers in every major area of the economy.
- In British Columbia, Unifor has close to 30,000 workers in multiple sectors, including transportation, natural resources, manufacturing, hospitality, and communications.
- Unifor is a strong advocate for increased apprenticeship opportunities and has their own skilled trades and apprenticeship council, which focuses advocacy on:
 - A national vision of apprenticeship training;
 - Greater collaboration between stakeholders in an on-going and structured manner;
 - Building parity of esteem between apprenticeship and post-secondary pathways;
 - Removing financial barriers and improving job security for apprentices; and
 - Investing in innovative ways to increase employer engagement in apprenticeship training.
- Unifor is conducting regional meetings with their membership and with appropriate MLAs the week of March 22-26, where rank-and-file union members and leadership will be

presenting their lobby document (Appendix B) with recommendations for keeping their communities strong despite current challenges.

Discussion:

- Unifor's lobby document presents their views and recommendations on the topic of Compulsory Trades. They are in favour of the reinstatement of compulsory trades within a framework for implementation with support of trade unions and labour organizations.
- The skilled trades will be critical to supporting B.C.'s economic recovery from COVID-19 by building infrastructure stimulus projects.
- This meeting is an opportunity to meet with a diverse group of Unifor members to discuss over-arching issues facing workers and how skilled trades can support recovery and rebuilding from impacts of the pandemic.
- 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.

Key Messages:

- Thank you for sharing your policy recommendations on Compulsory Trades with the Ministry.
- 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.
- The skilled trades will be critical to support B.C.'s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by building infrastructure stimulus projects.
- As we recover from the global pandemic, it is imperative that we work as a collective to support and address those populations most affected by the pandemic, including under-represented groups working in the Trades.
- Premier Horgan has given us a very ambitious mandate, one that will rely on strong industry partnerships, particularly for the implementation of Compulsory Trades.
- Compulsory Trades will help government build a trades system that is fair and supports workers by providing accessible skills training and other career development opportunities in the trades, and by continuing to maintain and enhance current high standards of worker, public, and environmental safety.
- Government has worked closely with key system partners like the ITA, trades trainers, industry, and organized labour to provide preliminary input into what a new approach to compulsory trades would look like in B.C. Key considerations included an effective compliance and enforcement model and a clear framework for reviewing and selecting trades. This work was informed by a broad range of evidence which included input from stakeholders and data analysis.

- We are in the process of developing a comprehensive approach to industry and public engagement, ensuring system partners like Unifor (and members) have an opportunity to provide input.
- I want to assure you and your members that government's goal is to ensure that Compulsory Trades contribute to a robust trades workforce that is ready to meet the demands of a strong, sustainable and inclusive economy - now and in the future. I am looking forward to working closely with all the partners in the trades training system on compulsory trades.
- I would like to thank Unifor for their continued commitment to B.C.'s workforce and for advocating on behalf of issues that impact workers and businesses. I look forward to working with you.

Attachment(s):

Appendix A – Biography of Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, Unifor

Appendix B – Unifor lobby document submitted to Government

Contact: *Catherine Poole, A/ADM, Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills Training (250-508-0420)*

Appendix A - Biography of Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, Unifor

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Meeting Note

Advice to Members of the Legislative Assembly

Date: March 19, 2021

Cliff #: 121163

Issue(s): Discussion of Unifor's proposals for keeping BC communities strong despite the challenges created by COVID-19 and the role of the Skilled Trades in economic recovery.

Background:

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Key Messages:

- Thank you for sharing your policy recommendations on Compulsory Trades with the Ministry.

- 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.
- The skilled trades will be critical to support B.C.'s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by building infrastructure stimulus projects.
- As we recover from the global pandemic, it is imperative that we work as a collective to support and address those populations most affected by the pandemic, including under-represented groups working in the Trades.
- Premier Horgan has given us a very ambitious mandate, one that will rely on strong industry partnerships, particularly for the implementation of Compulsory Trades.
- Compulsory Trades will help government build a trades system that is fair and supports workers by providing accessible skills training and other career development opportunities in the trades, and by continuing to maintain and enhance current high standards of worker, public, and environmental safety.
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Appendix B – Unifor lobby document submitted to Government

Contact: *Catherine Poole, A/ADM, Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills Training (250-508-0420)*

Appendix A - Biography of Gavin McGarrigle, Western Regional Director, Unifor

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Tlucko, Alannah AEST:EX

From: Minister, AEST AEST:EX
Sent: March 30, 2021 5:06 PM
To: AEST MCRU Incoming Corresp Working Box AEST:EX
Subject: 121163 ADD TO CLIFF: Thank-you & Photo (attached)!
Attachments: 2021 BC Lobby-Leave behind-Final-with trades.pdf; BCRC lobby-20210324-A Mercier-Trades.png

Add to CLIFF 121163 (naming convention = 121163 McGarrigle and Harrison THANK YOU)

Katie Campbell | Correspondence Team Lead
Ministerial Correspondence & Research Unit
Office of the Deputy Minister
Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training
Ph: (778) 698-1321

From: Erin Harrison <Erin.Harrison@unifor.org>
Sent: March 24, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Minister, AEST AEST:EX <AEST.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; Mercier, Andrew LASS:EX <Andrew.Mercier.MLA@leg.bc.ca>; Poole, Catherine AEST:EX <Catherine.Poole@gov.bc.ca>; Hannah, Jeff AEST:EX <Jeff.Hannah@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Fleurant, Kathleen AEST:EX <Kathleen.Fleurant@gov.bc.ca>; Ralph, Cindy AEST:EX <Cindy.Ralph@gov.bc.ca>; Gavin McGarrigle <Gavin.McGarrigle@unifor.org>; John Breslin <John.Breslin@unifor.org>; Phil Fryer <Phil.Fryer@unifor.org>; Dave Cassidy (Local 444) <dcassidy@uni444.ca>; Leanne Marsh (Local 2200) <yankeegirl2@shaw.ca>; Casquilho, Danny (RTA) <danny.casquilho@riotinto.com>; president@unifor3018.ca; casquilhod@gmail.com; vp@unifor2200.ca
Subject: Thank-you & Photo (attached)!
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Greetings Parliamentary Secretary Mercier, Jeff Hannah & Catherine Poole,

Thank-you for meeting with our Unifor delegation today! Please find attached a copy of the photo taken during our meeting.

I am also re-attaching the document which highlights our current recommendations that require your support.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask. I have cc'd the team that you met with for ease.

We look forward to working together on re-instating compulsory trades certification!

In Solidarity Always,

Erin Harrison



E: erin.harrison@unifor.org | M: 416-523-0707

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PLEASE NOTE: As of January 1, 2021, the Unifor National Office has moved to 115 Gordon Baker Road, Toronto, ON M2H 0A8 – Please update your records.

VEUILLEZ NOTER : Depuis le 1^{er} janvier 2021, le bureau national d'Unifor a déménagé au 115 chemin Gordon Baker, Toronto (Ontario) M2H 0A8 – Veuillez mettre à jour vos dossiers.

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