

Meeting Note

Advice to Parliamentary Secretary

Date: May 18th, 2021

Cliff #: 121929

Prepared for: Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Mercier

Date, Time of Meeting, and Location:

Wednesday, May 19th, 9:00am – 9:30am

Virtual

Attendees:

- Parliamentary Secretary Mercier
- BC Building Trades Council Executive Board (see Appendix A)
- Brynn Bourke, Interim Executive Director, BCBT
- Michael Snoddon, Senior Ministerial Assistant
- Jeff Hannah, Ministerial Assistant

Issue(s): Meeting between Parliamentary Secretary Andrew Mercier and the Executive Board of the BC Building Trades Council to discuss Skilled Trades Certification (compulsory trades).

Background:

- Established in 1967, BC Building Trades Council (BCBT) represents 25 local craft construction unions belonging to 13 international unions and more than 35,000 unionized construction workers in B.C. These highly skilled workers account for approximately 55% of the non-residential construction labour force.
- BCBT works with construction companies to leverage development opportunities, to advance economic prosperity and to position local workers first in the province.
- BCBT is a strong supporter of the apprenticeship system and is committed to hiring and training apprentices through their union members and through technical training centers. BCBT invests approximately \$21 million into their training programs annually.
- Brynn Bourke is the current Interim Executive Director and their executive board has 15 members who come from a wide range of trades and training backgrounds. (see **Appendix A** for list of board members).

Discussion:

- BCBT is a strong proponent for the re-introduction of Skilled Trades Certification within BC's skilled trades.
- BCBT recently released a press release highlighting an article from their quarterly *TradeTalk* Magazine. The author illustrates some of the long-term impacts that the elimination of compulsory trades has had on BC's workers and broader trades system.
- In addition, the article suggests less time should be spent determining which trades should be mandatory while emphasizing the importance of re-introducing compulsory trades as soon as possible to protect workers and consumers.
- BCBT Executive Board members come from various trade backgrounds (Carpentry, Labourers, Painters, etc.) and may wish to know if their trades will be STC designated trades.

Key Messages:

- 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.
- Skilled Trades Certification will help encourage this recovery by 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.
- Supported by the MC Stakeholder Advisory Working Group (SAWG), the Skilled Trades Certification trades were selected based on their potential to benefit workers by standardizing their skills at a high level, while continuing to support business viability, maintain public safety, and reinforce consumer confidence in BC's skilled trades workers and their work.
- Following an upcoming announcement, government will be launching multiple virtual engagement opportunities for participants from across the province. Our goal is to hear directly from a broad spectrum of workers, employers, and other system partners to ensure differing perspectives are taken into consideration.
- As part of this engagement, I will be reaching out to key system partners, including BCBT, to discuss in more detail the designated trades, the implementation plan, and our approach to engagement.
- Thank you for meeting with me; I look forward to working with all of you as we move forward with the implementation of Skilled Trades Certification.

Attachment(s):**Appendix A – BC Building Trades Executive Board Members**

Contact: Catherine Poole, A/ADM (250.508.0420)

Appendix A – BC Building Trades Executive Board

NAV MALHOTRA

Labourers 1611

DAN JAJIC

Painters DC 38

BRIAN COCHRANE

Operating Engineers 115

AL PHILLIPS

UA

ROY BIZZUTTO

Cement Masons 919

JIM LOFTY

IBEW

DOUG PARTON

Ironworkers 97

NEIL MUNRO

Insulators 118

JIM PAQUETTE

Sheet Metal

ROBERT DEMAND

UNITE HERE 40

TONY SANTAVENERE

Teamsters 213

GEOFF HIGGINSON

Bricklayers 2

MIRO MARAS

Millwrights 2736

HAMISH STEWART

BCRCC (Council of Carpenters)

DARRELL HAWK

Piledrivers