

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 98156
Date: June 21, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Thursday, June 27, from 8:30-9:00am

ATTENDEES: Honourable John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR), and Honourable Amrik Virk, Minister of Advanced Education (AVED)

ISSUE(S): Aboriginal skills training in northwest British Columbia (BC)

BACKGROUND:

- Development in the northwest region is growing, with 15 major projects underway, including liquefied natural gas (LNG), mining, manufacturing, port facilities and hydroelectric projects resulting in significant employment opportunities for people in BC's northwest.
- Aboriginal people make up a large portion of the northwest population and yet are still underrepresented in the northwest labour market. Since 2004, Aboriginal labour force participation in the northwest has been decreasing.
- Aboriginal people represent a significant opportunity to help meet impending skills and labour shortages in the region, particularly in the LNG sector.

DISCUSSION:

- AVED is responsible for leading BC's Aboriginal post-secondary education and training initiatives, including actions under the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Actions Plan (the Plan), and relies on Labour Market Agreement (LMA) funding to implement some actions under the Plan.
- The Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (JTST) supports AVED's work under the Plan by sharing relevant labour market information and transferring LMA funding for the Aboriginal Training for Employment Program (\$2.2M in 2013/14) and the Aboriginal Community-based Delivery Partnership Program (\$5M in 2013/14).
- JTST also provides support for Aboriginal skills training with LMA funding for the Industry Training Authority's (ITA) Aboriginal in Trades Training Program (\$3.9M in 2013/14), as well as for select initiatives under the Essential Skills Workplace Based Training Program, the Labour Market Sector Solutions and the Employment Skills Access Program.
- The current LMA is set to expire in March 2014 and while the Federal Government has announced its intention to renew the LMA, with new terms and condition including the introduction of the Canada Job Grant, specific investments for a new LMA will not be known until a successful renewal is complete. JTST expects Aboriginal people will continue to be a priority client group of a renewed LMA.

- Through the Labour Market Partnership Program, JTST has provided over \$1.1M in funding for workforce development research and planning focused on the northwest region (including the Northwest Regional Workforce Table and the Northwest Partnership Project), including research on barriers and successful approaches for employing Aboriginal people in skilled trades, and high growth sectors in the north (such as the Natural Gas Workforce Committee).
 - Specifically, the Regional Skills Training Plan developed by the Northwest Regional Workforce Table identified a need for Aboriginal specific training actions. Tribal Resources Investment Corporation (TRICORP) was the Aboriginal representative at the table. As the project closed, members of this project transitioned to the Northwest Partnership Project and are taking a leadership role to implement the components of the Skills Training Plan.
- A cross-ministry working group comprised of representatives from JTST, AVED, MARR and the Ministry of Natural Gas, is being formed to develop recommendations that address skills gaps and leverage training opportunities for Northerners and Aboriginal British Columbians. Details regarding the formation of this group are still to be determined.
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada also provides approximately \$50M annually in funding for Aboriginal employment training in BC through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS). TRICORP is the ASETS holder in the northwest.

SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

- AVED is responsible for leading BC’s Aboriginal post-secondary education and training initiatives, including actions under the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Actions Plan.
- JTST supports various training initiatives through the LMA and ITA, as well as various research and workforce planning development activities to help address Aboriginal skills training needs in northwest British Columbia.
- JTST is committed to continue supporting the work of AVED and MARR, with a focus on collaboration and implementation of key initiatives at the local level.
- JTST is developing a strategy to renew the LMA and will work with key partner ministries and the federal government to ensure the renewed LMA continues to meet BC’s labour and skills shortages needs, including the needs of Aboriginal peoples.

Contact: Suzanne Ferguson, A/Executive Director, Labour Market Programs Branch
 Telephone: 250- 387-3661(office)

Reviewed by				
Dir:	ED:	ADM:	DM:	MIN:

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
DECISION NOTE

Cliff #: 98210

Date: June 24, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister.

ISSUE: WorkSafeBC Coverage for Simon Fraser University (SFU), University of Victoria (UVIC) and University of British Columbia (UBC) students on unpaid practicum work placements.

BACKGROUND: On April 12, 2013, former Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology, Ralph Sultan, wrote to the Chair of WorkSafeBC. He requested that WorkSafeBC coverage for eligible students who are in a recognized practicum program, or who are participating in classroom/lab/shop instruction for the technical component of an apprenticeship program, be extended to SFU, UBC and UVIC.

Before WorkSafeBC can extend coverage to such students, section 3(6) of the *Workers Compensation Act* requires that the Minister responsible for Labour also approve the training program and SFU, UBC and UVIC as a location for that training program.

The Ministry of Advanced Education is hoping to have the WorkSafeBC coverage in place effective July 1, 2013.

DISCUSSION: The Ministry of Advanced Education has provided the following in support of extending coverage to SFU, UBC and UVIC.

- WorkSafeBC coverage is already provided to students participating in unpaid and supervised work experience programs, or in apprenticeship instruction, at BC's 22 other public post-secondary institutions. Extending coverage to SFU, UBC and UVIC would bring a consistent approach for all BC public institutions and all BC students.
- Currently, SFU, UBC and UVIC are insured through third-party coverage rather than through WorkSafeBC. This leaves these three institutions and the host employers providing the practicums vulnerable to lawsuits when a student is injured during a work placement. Coverage through WorkSafeBC, on the other hand, precludes lawsuits for workplace injuries.
- All three universities, and the affected host employers, support having coverage available through WorkSafeBC as an option to the current third-party coverage. The universities have been putting processes and resources in place to implement WorkSafeBC coverage starting July 1, 2013.
- From the students' perspective, WorkSafeBC benefits are comparable to those provided through the existing third-party coverage. UBC students currently pay an annual premium for coverage, which would no longer apply with WorkSafeBC.

- Not providing WSBC coverage to students acts as a barrier to work experience placements, as it requires the host employer to bear the risk of student injuries.
- Most of the practicums to be covered are of a low risk or moderate risk for injury. There have been no injury claims during the past three years for all three universities with their current insurance providers. As such, the cost to government for WorkSafeBC coverage should be minimal.
- The Public Service Agency (PSA), which will administer the WorkSafeBC claims, is aware of and supportive of the proposed change.
- The proposed July 1, 2013, effective date aligns with student enrolment in summer programs that require practicum placements. Approval and implementation beyond this date may put some students at risk of obtaining a practicum placement and completing their programs on time. It may also require the Ministry of Advanced Education to work with Risk Management Branch to find an interim plan until the WorkSafeBC coverage is in place, and may create some feelings of ill-will from the three universities towards the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Labour Division staff have reviewed the submissions from the Ministry of Advanced Education, including the details on the eligible students and programs to be included in the expanded WorkSafeBC coverage. Staff see no issues with extending WorkSafeBC coverage to SFU, UBC and UVIC on the same basis that other public post-secondary institutions are currently covered, and acknowledge the consistency that it will bring for public post-secondary institutions and students in British Columbia. Program details are set out in the policy attached to the April 12, 2013, letter of the former Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology (Attachment to this Briefing Note).

If the Minister approves the extension to SFU, UBC and UVIC, WorkSafeBC would then deem the eligible students to be workers of the Crown eligible for workers' compensation coverage.

OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

s13, s17

ATTACHMENTS:

April 12, 2013, letter from the former Minister of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology to WorkSafeBC, and attached program policy.

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Approved / Not Approved	Date:
Comments:	

Prepared by: Michael Tanner, Director, Labour Policy and Legislation Division
 Telephone: (office) 250 356-7264 (Cell) s17

Reviewed by			
Dir:	ED: John Blakely	ADM: Trevor Hughes	DM:



April 12, 2013

Our Ref. 91312

George Morfitt
Chair, WorkSafeBC
Workers' Compensation Board
PO Box 5350, Station Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

Dear Mr. Morfitt:

I am writing with regard to section 3(6) of the *Worker's Compensation Act* which allows the Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology (the Ministry) to deem eligible students to be workers of the Crown, and therefore eligible for WorkSafeBC coverage.

Effective July 1, 2013, Simon Fraser University, the University of British Columbia, and the University of Victoria are eligible for, and should be added to the list of institutions which receive WorkSafeBC coverage for eligible students who are in recognized practicum programs, or are participating in classroom/lab/shop instruction for the technical training component of an apprenticeship program. However, participation in this coverage is up to each institution. Please confirm that this change to the eligibility list has been implemented by WorkSafeBC staff, at your earliest convenience

For your information, I have enclosed a revised Statement of Ministry Policy.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Colin Fowler, Acting Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Post-Secondary Funding and Corporate Finance Branch, at Colin.Fowler@gov.bc.ca or 250-387-8820.

Sincerely,

Ralph Sultan
Minister

Enclosure: Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology WorkSafeBC Policy

pc: Mr. Joe Thompson, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Services and Sector Resource Management Division
Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology

Mr. Colin Fowler, Acting Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

WorkSafeBC Coverage for Post-Secondary Students Deemed to be Employees of the Crown

Authority

The legal authority to provide WorkSafe BC coverage to post-secondary students attending specific programs at eligible institutions resides within the *Workers Compensation Act*:

3(6) Where the Minister of Education, Skills and Training and the Minister of Labour approve a vocational or training program, and a school or other location as a place of that vocational or training program, the Board may, at the request of either minister, deem any person or class of persons enrolled in the program to be workers of the Crown in right of the Province and compensation under this Act is then payable out of the accident fund for injuries arising out of and in the course of training for those workers, but where the injury results in a period of temporary disability with no loss of earnings,

- (a) a health care benefit only is payable except as provided in paragraph (b); and
- (b) where training allowances paid by Canada or the Province are suspended, the Board may, for the period it considers advisable, pay compensation in the amount of the training allowance.

Eligible Students

Students are eligible if they are participating in the 'practicum' component of a program offered by a public post-secondary institution, regardless of the source of funding for the program.

A practicum is defined as:

- An assigned unpaid and supervised practical work experience which takes place at the host employer's premises or place of business; and
- A required component of a program which:
 - is included in the program description in a public post-secondary institution's course calendar; and
 - must be successfully completed by the student as a requirement for program completion and/or graduation.

Please note special ineligible situations to which WorkSafe BC coverage does not extend to:

- work places created specifically for the purposes of experiential training/simulated work experience while attending a program established by an institution; and
- out-of-province practicums.

2. Also eligible are Industry Training Authority (ITA)-registered apprentices who are attending classroom, lab or shop instruction for the technical training component of their apprenticeship program at an eligible institution.

An apprenticeship is defined as a form of post-secondary education that combines paid, work-based training, with technical training in a classroom or shop setting. Successful completion of both components, along with examinations, is required to earn a Certificate of Qualification, and be recognized as a certified tradesperson.

Apprentices are registered with the ITA, sponsored by an employer, and generally laid off to attend the technical training (post-secondary) component of their apprenticeship.

For more information on eligible students, please refer to the attached document issued by the Ministry of Advanced Education on April 1, 2013, entitled "*Clarification of WorkSafe BC Coverage*".

Eligible Institutions include:

1. Public post-secondary institutions:

- British Columbia Institute of Technology
- Camosun College
- College of New Caledonia
- College of the Rockies
- Douglas College
- Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Langara College
- Nicola Valley Institute of Technology
- North Island College
- Northern Lights College
- Northwest Community College
- Okanagan College
- Selkirk College
- Vancouver Community College
- Capilano University
- Emily Carr University of Art and Design
- Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Royal Roads University
- Thompson Rivers University
- University of Northern British Columbia
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island University

Eligible for WSBC Coverage effective July 1, 2013:

- Simon Fraser University
- University of British Columbia
- University of Victoria

2. Industry Training Authority-designated public or private post-secondary training institution.

Notes:

Where WorkSafe BC coverage is unavailable due to the above eligibility requirements:

- Institutions are to encourage all students to have their own medical insurance, such as coverage under the BC Medical Services Plan.
- Institutions are also encouraged to participate in the Student Accident Insurance Plan which is available by contacting the University, College and Institute Protection Program.

**Procedures for Submitting WorkSafeBC Claims for Injured
Practicum or Apprenticeship Students at eligible public post-secondary institutions
and at ITA-designated public or private post-secondary institutions**

Documentation

- WorksafeBC “Employers Report of Injury or Occupational Disease” (Form 7) at <http://www.worksafebc.com>.

Completion Guidelines

- Institution completes Form 7.
- Record the institution’s information in the Employers Information section.
- Leave the WorksafeBC account number, Classification Number and Operating Location Number blank (the Ministry will complete this information).
- Record the injured student’s information in the Workers Information section.
- Clearly indicate whether the injured student was on a practicum or attending apprenticeship technical training, and include the name of their program.
- Complete the remainder of the form, as indicated, and sign the last page.
- Encrypt the form and email the protected document to the Ministry contact information provided below.
- Call the Ministry contact and provide the password to open the encrypted document.

Authorization

1. *Institution* - The Signature and Report Date (bottom of the third page) should be signed and dated by the institution’s Occupational Health and Safety representative.
2. *Ministry* - **The Ministry must authorize the claim before it will be processed by WorkSafeBC** (this authorization indicates that the student should be considered an employee of the Crown for this claim and that the Crown agrees to assume the liability for claim costs).
 - If approved, the Ministry will provide the claim package to WorkSafeBC for processing and a copy of the authorized Form 7 to the institution for its records.
 - If not approved, the Ministry will advise the institution of the results.

For further information on this process, or to discuss or submit claims, please contact:

Mr. Fritz Christo, Coordinator, Post-Secondary Institution Funding
Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology
Telephone: (250) 953-4267

E-Mail: Fritz.Christo@gov.bc.ca

Attachment 1

Clarification of WorkSafeBC Coverage
Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology
April 1, 2013

There are specific situations when students attending specified education programs at eligible post-secondary institutions will be deemed to be “workers of the Crown” under the *Workers Compensation Act*. The Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology (the Ministry) has developed and distributed policies and procedures (last revised October 2012) to support the implementation of this legislation. The following details are intended to provide additional information on the Ministry’s WorkSafeBC (WSBC) policy.

If unsure of coverage, institutions should contact the Ministry *prior* to entering into practicum or placement agreements with employers to ensure WSBC coverage will be extended to the students of those programs.

Apprenticeship students

Apprenticeship is a form of post-secondary education that combines paid, work-based training, with technical training in a classroom or shop setting. Successful completion of both components, along with examinations, is required to earn a Certificate of Qualification, and be recognized as a certified tradesperson. Apprentices are registered with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and are sponsored by an employer. They are generally laid off to attend the technical training (post-secondary) portion of their apprenticeship.

Apprentices in ITA-approved apprenticeship technical training are provided WSBC coverage through the Ministry while in the classroom, shop or lab at an ITA-designated public or private post-secondary institution.

Foundation Program students

Foundation programs are pre-apprenticeship programs that are typically conducted in a classroom or shop on site at the institution. These students do not require an employer/sponsor to participate.

Foundation students are provided WSBC coverage through the Ministry only while on an off-site work experience that is a required component of their program (i.e., included in the program description of the institution’s course calendar and must be completed as a requirement for program graduation/certification).

Foundation students are not provided WSBC coverage while attending the post-secondary classroom, shop or lab components of their program.

ACE-IT Students

Last Revised: April 1, 2013

2 of 3

ACE-IT students are provided WSBC coverage through the Ministry while attending an eligible post-secondary institution and only while on an off-site work experience that is a required component of their program (i.e., included in the program description of the institution's course calendar and must be completed as a requirement for program graduation/certification).

ACE-IT students are not provided WSBC coverage while attending the post-secondary classroom, shop or lab components of their program.

The Ministry of Education provides WSBC coverage for students while on an off-site work experience /practicum during the secondary school component of their program.

Practicum/Work Experience Students

Effective January 1, 1994, WSBC coverage was extended to all students participating in the practicum or work experience component of a program offered by an eligible institution, regardless of the source of funding for the program.

Further clarification of this coverage was provided on March 29, 1994:

To be designated as a practicum for the purpose of obtaining provincial WSBC coverage for students, the practical, on-the-job training must meet the conditions/provisos of the definition as stated and expanded below.

A practicum/work experience is defined as:

1. An assigned work experience component of a program which is sanctioned by the institution;
2. A required component of the program which is included in the program description in the institutional calendar, *normally* as a credit course; and which must be successfully completed by the student as a requirement for program graduation and certification; and
3. Unpaid work activities which are supervised by the employer or a qualified designate, and which occur at the employer's regular business location.

The practicum may occur either:

- "Off-site" at the host employer's regular place of business; or
- "On-site" at the training institution's premises, but only in a work place that is part of the institution's regular business activities, such as an office administration practicum in the administration department of an institution.

Practical work experience which occurs at work places that have been established by the institution for the purpose of simulated work training for a given program does not meet the conditions of a practicum for the purposes of provincial WSBC coverage for students.

Paid Work Experience

A student who is paid by an employer while on a work experience or practicum component of their post-secondary education will be provided WSBC coverage through that employer. The Ministry is not the employer in these cases and therefore cannot provide WSBC coverage.

Out-of-Province Practicum

WCB coverage is for workers who are injured while on the job in British Columbia. Students working outside of BC should confirm coverage with the province or country in which they will be on practicum. It is advisable that students obtain their own medical insurance for out-of-country placements.

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff #: 98633
Date: July 5, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Minister Shirley Bond

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: 10:15 am, Tuesday July 9, 2013

ATTENDEES: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education

ISSUE: BC-AB Ministers' discussion following the Premier's June 14 commitment to cooperation on areas of mutual interest including skills training, immigration and labour.

BACKGROUND:

Minister Lukaszuk is the Deputy to the Premier of Alberta, and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (biography attached as Appendix A). His areas of responsibility include apprenticeship and trades, immigration, economic development, post secondary education and research and innovation.

BC and Alberta are both experiencing a significant demand for skilled workers due to demand from their natural resource sectors (including mining, oil, and liquid natural gas). A majority of the labour shortages are projected to be in trades-related occupations in the northern regions of both provinces. Ensuring that labour supply can meet demand in these priority growth sectors is critical for overall economic growth of both provincial economies.

On June 14, 2013 Premier Clark and Premier Redford met in Kelowna and committed to creating a ministerial working group on skills training, immigration, and labour to ensure that British Columbia and Alberta have the tools needed to support their respective economies. The two provinces have a long history of cooperation on areas of mutual interest, including an agreement on a joint labour force strategy developed in the fall of 2012 (attached as Appendix B) through the New West Partnership (including British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan).

DISCUSSION:

Building off the labour market strategy developed through the New West Partnership, there is an opportunity to leverage shared priorities and develop a joint plan to ensure that both British Columbia and Alberta have the labour force necessary for growing their economy.

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KEY MESSAGING:

- **British Columbia is committed to working together with Alberta on skills training and immigration challenges to support the growth of our respective economies and to provide solutions for the significant skills shortages occurring in the northern regions of our provinces, particularly as it relates to the emerging LNG sector in BC.**
- **As a starting point for collaboration, BC is interested in discussing joint approaches for ensuring a renewed LMA will support our specific labour force objectives,**

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ATTACHMENTS: Appendix A – Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk Bio
Appendix B –
Appendix C –

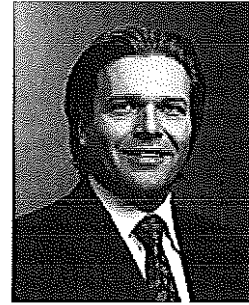
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Contact: Shannon Baskerville, ADM, Labour Market & Immigration Division
Telephone: 250 387-5640

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APPENDIX A

Biography for the Hon. Thomas Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise & Advance Education for the Government of Alberta



Thomas Lukaszuk was elected to his fourth term on April 23, 2012. On May 8, 2012, he was sworn in as Deputy Premier and on February 4, 2013, he assumed additional responsibilities as Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education.

His ministry portfolio includes apprenticeship and trades, immigration, economic development, post secondary education and research and innovation.

Through his apprenticeship and trades as well as his immigration portfolios, Minister Lukaszuk is responsible for the following:

Apprenticeship and Trades

- Develops program standards with industry.
- Counsels apprentices and employers.
- Provides funding for approved programs.
- Certifies apprentices and occupational trainees.

Immigration

- Provides information about the immigration process for Canada and Alberta, as well as about programs and services designed to help immigrants before and after they arrive.
- Provides useful resources to guide new immigrants through Alberta's immigration process.
- Provides a range of programs and services to new immigrants.
- Helps ensure that valued foreign workers needed to support Alberta's labour market can become permanent residents through the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program.
- Recognizes foreign-earned qualifications.
- Provides an advisory educational assessment service that compares educational qualifications from other countries to provincial educational standards
- Creates new opportunities for international workers and Alberta employers alike via the Temporary Foreign Workers Program.

Pages 16 through 18 redacted for the following reasons:

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APPENDIX C

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MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING
AND MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR LABOUR
MEETING NOTE

Cliff # 100531
Date: August 28, 2013

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training, and Minister Responsible for Labour

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: Friday, August 30, 2013, 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES: Ken Morland, Branch Manager, Sterling Crane; Fraser Cocks, Executive Director, and Gunner Marden, Director, Strategic Initiatives, BC Association for Crane Safety (BCACS)

ISSUE(S): Working relationship with the Industry Training Authority (ITA)

BACKGROUND:

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) is responsible for program standards development and certification of mobile crane operators (with four different designations), tower crane operators, and boom truck operators. BCACS is contracted by WorkSafeBC to complete the safety related assessment and registration of crane operators required under Part 14 of WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Act Regulation (Cranes and Hoists).

BCACS is active in projects related to alleviating skilled crane operator shortages, including assisting with the third phase of a project funded by JTST under the Foreign Qualifications Recognition program. This project is examining the possible recognition under WorkSafeBC and ITA requirements of suitably trained USA certified crane operators to work in BC. BCACS also has an important role in building relationships and monitoring changes in other jurisdictions, and serving as an advisory body on regulatory and safety matters.

BCACS has a similar relationship to ITA as the Industry Training Organizations (ITOs). ITOs provide industry input into program standards, assessment, certification and policy changes related to the industry requirements for crane trades. BCACS also assesses program standards, but with an eye to ensuring they meet the safety requirement stipulated under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations.

Ken Morland is the Chair of the BC Construction Association North and is also incoming Chair for BCACS. From its start in 1954, Sterling Crane has grown to become one of the world's largest crane rental supply companies and offer a safe, competitive advantage to heavy lift projects throughout North America, India and Australia.

DISCUSSION:

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SUGGESTED RESPONSE/KEY MESSAGING:

- I appreciate the significant work and important role that BCACS plays to regulate health and safety standards related to the crane trades.

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- As you know there will be a review of the role and function of the ITA in the upcoming months and associations such as yours can be included in the consultation process. When he or she is announced I encourage you to pass your comments along to the ITA Independent Review Leader.

Contact: Shannon Baskerville, ADM, Labour Market Immigration Division
Telephone: (office) 250 387-5640 Cell: s17

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BACKGROUND:

- The Minister will be meeting with Jack Davidson, President of the BC Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association on October 3, 2013.
- Founded in 1966, The B.C. Road Builders & Heavy Construction Association (BCRBHCA) is a non-profit organization that represents firms involved in asphalt and concrete manufacturing, grading, paving, utility construction, road and bridge building/maintenance, blasting, and the supply of related goods and services. The association's mandate is to communicate with the public and with government about critical transportation issues. The association includes over 200 members representing privatized highway maintenance contractors, construction contractors, underground/utility contractors, paving contractors and the various service & supply companies to the industry.
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DISCUSSION:

- BC One Call is a province-wide non-profit organization established in 1994 to provide companies, contractors, and individuals such as homeowners with a means to request information on the location of underground services which may be on their worksite prior to any ground disturbance or digging. BC One Call is a communications link between those who plan to undertake excavation and the owners of underground facilities. The BC One Call does not provide location information of buried facilities – such as gas and oil lines, electrical cables, etc. However, in its role as the communications link between excavators and owners of underground facilities who have (or should have) accurate information on these buried facilities, the organization plays an important role in helping to minimize accident risks involving buried facilities.
- BC One Call currently has 115 registered members who are owners of buried facilities. The largest members include Telus, Fortis, and BC Hydro.
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SUGGESTED RESPONSE

- I appreciate that BC One Call is an important communications link between those who plan to undertake excavation and the owners of underground facilities.

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- I would encourage the Association to contact the Minister of Natural Gas Development (Responsible for Housing) and bring this important matter to his attention.