



May 20, 2021

Hon. Amarjot Sandhu
Chair
c/o Julia Douglas, Clerk
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Submitted electronically

RE: Bill 288, *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, 2021*

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) is pleased to provide comments to the Committee regarding Bill 288, *Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act*.

RCCAO is a unique alliance of key labour and management stakeholders derived from the residential and civil construction sectors. We work together with government and industry experts to offer realistic solutions to problems in the areas of infrastructure delivery, growth planning, labour shortages and regulatory reform.

RCCAO commends the government's commitment to improving the skilled trades process and system in Ontario. Bill 288 takes important steps toward simplifying and streamlining the provincial skilled trades and apprenticeship system. The proposed legislation and initiatives within it, especially around having clear and consistent pathways to entering the system, are crucial to ensuring that Ontario has the workforce necessary to support the province's infrastructure needs and pandemic recovery efforts.

As infrastructure investments and projects remain a focal point for the next several years, industry will need significant number of workers to keep pace with this work. According to BuildForce Canada outlook for 2021-2030, during this period, industry will need to hire, train and retain more than 116,200 additional workers and to replace the 92,500 workers – 21% of the current labour force – expected to retire.

These statistics reflect the importance of having a skilled trades and apprenticeship system that is responsive and streamlined. RCCAO believes that the proposed legislation is a step in the right direction to fulfilling these parameters. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the Government of Ontario on this issue and appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Standing Committee.

Regards,

Nadia Todorova
Executive Director