

February 3, 2021

The Honourable Ralph Eichler
Minister of Economic Development & Training
Government of Manitoba

Dear Minister Eichler,

We are writing to you today to express our deep concerns with the communication and decision-making process of the Apprenticeship and Certification Board of Manitoba and specifically the recent regulatory changes involving the ratio of apprentices to journeypersons and other apprenticeship regulatory changes for the construction industry in Manitoba. Our collective associations represent the majority of Manitoba's industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) Construction Industry and are the employers for virtually all construction trade apprentices in Manitoba. Together, our Contractor members and their tradespeople have built and continue to build Manitoba's essential vertical infrastructure including commercial buildings, universities, schools, hospitals, power plants, industrial manufacturing facilities, water treatment facilities, bridges and other provincial assets.

Very recently, our membership has become aware of substantive changes to the apprenticeship system in Manitoba in relation to the allowable ratio of apprentices to journeypersons from a 1:1 ratio, to a 2:1 ratio and other Apprenticeship regulatory changes. These changes can create significant short-and medium-term impacts for apprentices, journeypersons and the contractors that employ them. It is vital that apprenticeship changes happen with full industry engagement and with adequate time for industry to prepare.

Considering large portions of the industry have found themselves unaware of these regulatory changes and given the present uncertain circumstances with respect to the pandemic, **we ask that you work with our industry associations to review the regulatory changes impacting our industry and to review the possible solutions that are available.**

We have witnessed a great deal of turn-over in the Apprenticeship Board and the Apprenticeship Branch over the past few years and it has been difficult, if not impossible, to follow new developments or participate in meaningful consultations with this organization. For these reasons, we would ask that you meet with the parties signed below to consider these important matters.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter for our industry and please contact Ron Hambley, WCA, at rhambley@winnipegconstruction.ca to coordinate further discussion.

Thank you very much,



Ronald Hambley
President



Peter Wightman
Executive Director

Winnipeg Construction Association
(WCA)



Ramona Coey
Executive Director
Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba
(MCAM)

Construction Labour Relations Association of Manitoba
(CLRAM)



Shawn Wood
Executive Director
Construction Association of Rural Manitoba (CARM)



Sudhir Sandhu
Executive Director
Manitoba Building Trades
(MBT)

c.c. The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba