

**Ministry of Training,  
Colleges and Universities**

**Ministère de la Formation  
et des Collèges et Universités**



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Dear stakeholder,

The McGuinty government recognizes that a strong and modern skilled trades sector is vital to Ontario's economic prosperity. To that end, the government is introducing legislation today that, if passed, would establish the Ontario College of Trades, a regulatory college that would help modernize the province's apprenticeship and skilled trades system.

The College would encourage more people to work in the trades and help the system better serve employers, skilled tradespeople, apprentices and consumers. It would put skilled trades on a similar footing with teachers, doctors and nurses, who have their own professional regulatory colleges.

Creating the College of Trades was a key recommendation of the Compulsory Certification Review (Armstrong Report) released in May 2008. Following the release of this report, the government announced it would introduce legislation to move forward on the recommendation.

Kevin Whitaker, Chair of the Ontario Labour Relations Board, was appointed in September 2008 to advise the College's governance structure, scope and mandate. Mr. Whitaker made recommendations after consulting with employers, labour, skilled tradespeople and training providers.

The proposed *Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act, 2009* takes a balanced approach to governance that considers the needs of employers, employees, apprentices, the economy and the public.

The College would:

- Promote careers in the trades and attract more people to them, especially youth and underrepresented groups.
- Set training and certification standards to serve the skilled trades sector and the public interest.
- Conduct research to help make sure Ontario has the right workers for the future.
- Establish an open, systematic and transparent process to deal with critical issues affecting the trades sector such as compulsory certification and apprenticeship ratios.

The government has already taken significant steps to ensure Ontario has the skilled workers it needs for the future. The proposed Ontario College of Trades would build on this success and give the sector a more prominent role in recruitment, governance, certification and training.

Thank you for your continued interest in this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Milloy".

John Milloy  
Minister