



February 12, 2020
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Secretariat
Frost Building North, 3rd Floor
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Z1

Submitted electronically.

RE: 2021 Budget Consultations

Workforce 2030 coalition partners and participants are pleased to contribute to Ontario's 2021 budget consultation. We are an Ontario-based coalition of educators, workers and employers working to catalyze and support the building sector workforce development with an emphasis on low-carbon, high-value jobs.

Workforce 2030 asks the Ontario government to address immediate labour market demand and urgently invest in worker upskilling and re-employment for energy efficient building retrofits and new low-carbon construction. Without this investment, Ontario risks losing its competitive advantage in a global context that is rapidly and irrefutably transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

To retrofit Canada's nearly 500,000 commercial and institutional buildings, and 14 million residential dwellings by 2030 will require one million additional workers involved in low-carbon, green building projects – a 200 per cent increase from current levels. In Ontario, a recovery plan centred on green buildings could create 600,000 green building jobs, accounting for 57 per cent of total construction jobs in the province.

To take advantage of the opportunity, Workforce 2030 asks the province to:

1. Support rapid skills training for displaced workers' transition to green building jobs

- **Strengthen skilled trades and professional education opportunities** by supporting training centers and colleges to update and deliver content related to high-performance construction, building operations and strategies for energy reduction and conservation.



- **Subsidize vocational and professional training uptake for incumbent building sector workers and new entrants.** Efforts should focus on building in-demand skills that support re-employment performing state-of-good-repair work such as energy efficiency building retrofits, indoor air quality improvements, and new low-carbon construction. The Province should prioritize support for underrepresented groups, especially women and racialized youth, and those hardest hit by the pandemic including workers from the retail, hospitality, and manufacturing sectors.

2. Invest to secure and future-proof Ontario's role in the new low-carbon economy

- **Support the sector to develop occupation-specific roadmaps and workforce development action plans** by funding an industry-led process to identify how new technologies, such as modular building, mass timber, and electrification of heating, are changing occupations ranging from construction trades to architecture and engineering. The process will identify the most effective education and training pathways available to continuously and expeditiously update professional skills as markets and technologies evolve. The resulting roadmaps would lead to a better understanding of current and future education and training needs, informing industry-led action plans and adding precision to government investment decisions.

Workforce 2030 looks forward to working with the ministries of Labour, Training and Skills Development, Colleges and Universities, Education, and Environment, Conservation and Parks to action the coalition's recommended priorities. We can strengthen government workforce programs' outcomes and implementation by actioning skills training through consortia of our members, convening diverse stakeholders, and contributing expert perspectives from our coalition partners and participants.

Through key investments in workforce redeployment and readiness, Ontario can not only get people back to work but simultaneously enhance regional workforce competitiveness, support innovation and inclusiveness the building sector and position the Province effectively for the low-carbon economy. Workforce 2030 looks forward to working with the Ontario government to help advance a green economy and job growth agenda.



Workforce 2030 Foundational Partner and Participating organizations and their senior representatives endorsing this letter

David Gardner, Business Manager, Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 95

Lee Caprio, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 353

Roselle Martino, Vice President Policy, Toronto Region Board of Trade

John Cartwright, President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council

Mike Yorke, President, Carpenters District Council of Ontario

Sandro Perruzza, CEO of Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

Richard Lyall, CEO, Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON)

Giovanni Cautillo, President of the Ontario General Contractors Association (OGCA)

Steve Shallhorn, Executive Director, Labour Education Centre

Linda Franklin, President and CEO, Ontario Colleges

Bala Gnanam, Vice President - Energy, Environment & Advocacy, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA Toronto)

Akua Schatz, VP, Market Engagement and Advocacy, Canada Green Building Council

Sandy MacLeod, President and CEO, Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI)

Jay Nordenstrom, Executive Director of NAIMA Canada (representing the mineral fiber insulation manufacturers)

Tony Cupido, Research Chair, Sustainability, Mohawk College

Julia Langer, CEO, The Atmospheric Fund (TAF)

Rosemarie Powel, Executive Director, Toronto Community Benefits Network

Surabhi Jain, Executive Director, Toronto's Workforce Funder Collaborative

Corey Diamond, Executive Director, Efficiency Canada

Chris Ballard, CEO, Passive House Canada

Dr. Yogendra Chaudhry, Vice President, Professional Services, ECO Canada

Emmay Mah, Executive Director, Toronto Environmental Alliance