



MEMBER BULLETIN

March 20, 2019

Provincial Education Reforms Include a Renewed Focus on Accessing Careers in the Skilled Trades

On March 15, the Minister of Education Lisa Thompson provided a first look at the government's education reform plans. The strategy includes a number of significant changes including; increases to class size caps for grades 4-12; the introduction of mandatory financial literacy training in Grade 10; a "back-to-basics" math curriculum; and, most importantly, a renewed focus on skilled trades training, including experiential training beginning in elementary schools.

While the specifics of what "expanded access to the skilled trades in elementary and secondary school" means, the Minister was clear in her recognition that one of the major employment growth sectors over the next two decades will be in the skilled trades. As such, the government is focussing on bringing trades training back into schools and enhancing the information available to students, parents, and guidance councillors on career opportunities in the skilled trades.

These curriculum changes aim to address misconceptions about what a career in the skilled trades entail. We are continuing to work with the Ministry of Education, through our involvement in the Ontario Skilled Trades Alliance, on the practical roll-out of this big-picture strategy. We will continue to update members as this roll-out takes shape.

If you have any questions about these education reforms or any other government policy work presently being undertaken by the OSWCA, please contact Patrick McManus (905-629-7766 ext. 222 or patrick.mcmanus@oswca.org).