



NOVA SCOTIA

Labour and Advanced Education Office of the Minister

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our file number:

Letter to Stakeholders

Re: Apprenticeship Harmonization Project

As you know, the Atlantic Apprenticeship Harmonization Project has been tasked with coordinating efforts to harmonize processes and standards, to achieve increased availability of training, higher apprenticeship completion rates, and increased labour mobility for apprentices across Atlantic Canada.

The four year project aims to harmonize ten apprenticeship occupations. In February 2014, the Provinces agreed to move forward in the first two years harmonizing four trades: bricklayer, cook, instrumentation and control technician, and construction electrician.

The additional six trades for harmonization have been selected collaboratively through a series of meaningful criteria, including their direct relation to the labour market in Atlantic Canada.

The six additional trades are:

- Carpenter
- Metal Fabricator
- Welder
- Steamfitter - Pipefitter
- Plumber
- Industrial Electrician

In order to effectively remove barriers to job creation caused by different apprenticeship systems across the country, the Atlantic Trades Advisory Committees will be established to ensure the open communication and consultation with trade-specific related stakeholders.

The Atlantic Trade Advisory Committees will be comprised of twelve key stakeholders, including one employer representative, one employee representative, and one training provider representative from each of the Atlantic Provinces. These committees will be tasked with providing recommendations for the harmonization of specific items related to training including: trade name, hours, curriculum standard, curriculum sequencing, log books and exam data banks.

In the coming weeks, respective provincial Apprenticeship Boards will proceed with a call for expression of interest, which will outline the roles and expectations of committee members for trade specific stakeholders, as well as the process to apply for a committee position. The Apprenticeship Boards will be responsible for making the subsequent appointments to the committees.

Harmonized apprentice systems will help more Canadians gain the skills and experience they need to find available jobs. Employers and other stakeholders will benefit from the harmonization of policies and standards across Atlantic Canada. With these occupations as a starting point, we are optimistic about the broader changes we can make together to enhance the apprenticeship system in Atlantic Canada.

We want to thank all industry stakeholders for this commitment to improving labour training and advancing a more collaborative approach to economic development in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Regan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Kelly Regan
Minister of Labour and Advanced Education