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FEATURES OF ONTARIO'S FRAMEWORK FOR THE SKILLED TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM

Schedule 40 of Bill 100, the government's budget bill, proposes a new statute, the Modernizing the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Act, 2019 (MSTAA).

If passed, MSTAA will replace the Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act, 2009. The MSTAA is framework legislation for the new skilled trades and apprenticeship system. It will be fleshed out through regulations. Here are some of the important features of the MSTAA:

- MSTAA gives significant power to the Minister and also to the "Registrar", a new position within the Ontario Public Service
- The MSTAA introduces the concept of "skill sets" which will be prescribed by regulation
- Trades will also be prescribed by regulation
- Both skill sets and trades will be made up of "activities" and the activities of a skill set or trade will be defined by Ministerial policy
- "Restricted activities", which will be defined by regulation, will replace compulsory trades; restricted activities may be included in a trade or skill set by regulation; a restricted activity can be included in one or more skill sets or trades
- Journey person to apprentice ratios may be prescribed for skill sets and trades and they may be 1:1 or other than 1:1
- The Registrar will establish an apprenticeship program for each trade and skill set
- The Minister will have the authority to approve in-class training providers
- The Registrar will be responsible for administering the MSTAA and the duties of the role are specified
- The Registrar has the authority to appoint inspectors who may inspect or investigate
- The Registrar and inspectors have the authority to issue compliance orders, notices of contravention and administrative monetary penalties
- There are no boards and committees proposed under the MSTAA but the Minister has the power to strike committees to advise him/her or the Registrar
- Cabinet will have the authority to delegate some of the Registrar's functions to an "administrative authority" through an "administrative agreement"
- The transition from the OCoT model to this new model is complex and the MSTAA proposes many transitional provisions

EXPECT SPEEDY PASSAGE OF BUDGET BILL

Bill 100, Protecting What Matters Most (Budget Measures), 2019 is the government's budget Bill. It is the legislation that, if passed, will put many of the things that appear in the budget document, into law. Bill 100 is a very big (178 pages) omnibus Bill (amends 61 statutes) that was introduced in the Legislature on April 11th and is currently in the Second Reading debate phase of the legislative process. We expect the Bill to be referred to Committee which will hold two days of public hearings and conduct a clause by clause review. The Bill will be reported back to the House not later than May 15th for Third Reading.

NEW IHSA SERVICES TO SUPPORT CoR CERTIFICATION

The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) and the construction industry have made significant strides since the IHSA first brought the Certificate of Recognition (CoR) program to Ontario about 8 years ago.

Today there are 350 companies that have successfully completed the program's requirements and are now using CoR to improve their health and safety performance. In addition, there are another 1,200 companies that are working towards their CoR certification.

On the buyers' side, the Toronto Transit Commission will require CoR for all projects with a value of \$25M or more as of July 2019. Metrolinx already requires CoR on all projects. The City of Toronto requires CoR on all of its major infrastructure projects; Brampton on projects valued at \$25M+; as of September of this year, Mississauga \$25M+; York Region \$150K+; Infrastructure Ontario and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority continue to roll out CoR; and the Town of Milton as of

January 2020 will require CoR on all projects valued at \$500K+ for general contractors and major subs.

According to the IHSA, you can anticipate CoR becoming a requirement in Hamilton, Waterloo Region, the Region of Peel, Ottawa, London and elsewhere. CoR is coming to a public buyer near you.

As CoR expands, the IHSA is taking on a new role that could be a revenue generating opportunity for your association. The IHSA will be offering a seminar series for companies that need a lot of help. It consists of 5 half day seminars. The seminar series leads into a workshop series consisting of 5 full day workshops. Depending on their level of readiness, companies can enter the workshop series directly.

You may receive a call from Ken Rayner or Paul Casey from the IHSA to provide more details about these programs and to explain the opportunity they might present to your association.

LARGEST SKILLS COMPETITION IN CANADA SET FOR MAY 6-8 IN TORONTO

Skills Ontario, Canada's largest and most successful promoter of careers in the skilled trades to young people, will be holding its 30th annual Skills Ontario Competition at the Toronto Congress Centre from May 6th to May 8th. Here's the skinny:

- More than 2,400 primary, secondary and post-secondary students will participate
- Students from across Ontario will be competing in approximately 65 skills competitions, many in the construction sector including electrical, carpentry, plumbing, sheet metal and masonry

- Students will compete for medals, monetary awards and job offers
- Gold medallists in select contests go on to represent Ontario at the Skills Canada National Competition May 28-29 in Halifax
- The event is expected to draw more than 35,000 spectators

If you have never attended the Skills Ontario Competition and are interested in the skilled trades, this is a "must see" event. Attend and you are sure to be impressed.

FEDERAL BUDGET BILL INCLUDES PROMPT PAYMENT

The federal government's budget Bill, Bill C97, was introduced and passed first reading on April 8th. Division 26 of Part 4 of the Bill enacts the Federal Prompt Payment for Construction Work Act in order to establish a regime to provide prompt payments to contractors and subcontractors for construction work performed for the purposes of a construction project in respect of federal real property or federal immovables and a regime to resolve disputes over the non-payment of that construction work. It appears to be based on the Ontario framework for payment and adjudication. The Federal Prompt Payment for Construction Work Act will come into force when proclaimed.