



January 17, 2019

Jane McKenna  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development  
Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development  
400 University Ave, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1T7

Dear Jane McKenna,

**RE: Job Talks Construction Video Series Launch**

We would like to thank you for participating at RESCON's Job Talks Construction Video Series Launch event on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Your involvement helped make the event a success and we hope that the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development will continue to be a part of this very important conversation. Promoting pathways for young people and job seekers to enter careers in the skilled construction trades is of prime importance to the sustainability of the residential construction industry and the continued prosperity of the province.

Your points were very well received, and we appreciate the government's support and work on the training and education file, specifically with the Ministry's recent skilled trades marketing and promotion campaign, *Find a Career You Wouldn't Trade*.

The success of the event reflects the importance of the issue not only to the construction industry, but to many other business, education and academic facets in Ontario. The Job Talks Construction Video Series, launched in partnership with seven other construction associations, profiles careers in the construction skilled trades, and its success is a testament of the positive outcomes when industry works together.

The video series is a continuation of a partnership between RESCON and Job Talks, beginning with the release of the [\*Retaining Employees in the Skilled Trades\*](#) report in March 2019. The report summarizes findings from a comprehensive survey of construction workers in the residential and infrastructure-related skilled trades across the GTA. The report found that these construction workers are amongst the highest satisfied compared to workers from other sectors.



The report included the following key findings and recommendations:

- Increase the number of shop classes within secondary schools.
- Promote construction jobs to all students, whether they are book-smart, hands-on, tech-savvy, or entrepreneurial.
- Only 8% of workers surveyed were positively influenced by a guidance counselor.
- 96% of workers surveyed attribute shortages of workers to stigma and negative parental influence.

In addition to our partnership with Job Talks, RESCON also has partnerships with Humber College, Durham College and George Brown College, in which we directly assist students and graduates with finding employment in the construction industry. Our sponsorship of the Women in the Trades (WIST) program out of the Centre for Skills Development and Training in Burlington, sees the annual graduation and placement of up to 15 women in the construction industry across the Halton region.

To continue the conversation and progress on this topic we would like to meet with you and your team to discuss ways to ensure that we work collaboratively to lead young people on pathways to success. We look forward to working with your Ministry as it continues to ensure young people and job seekers are aware of the many careers in the skilled trades across the province.

Please contact Amina Dibe to set up a time that is convenient for a meeting. She can be reached via email at [dibe@rescon.com](mailto:dibe@rescon.com) or by phone at (1) 202-250-9803.

Thank you,

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

Andrew Pariser  
Vice-President  
RESCON

**Copy to:**

Walid Abou-Hamde, Senior Manager of Stakeholder Relations, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Ben Lamb, MPP Liaison, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development