



January 17, 2019

The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Children and Women's Issues
438 University Ave, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON
M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Dunlop,

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 16th.

Your involvement helped make the event a success and we hope that the government will continue to be a part of this very important conversation. Carving a pathway for young people to enter careers in the skilled construction trades is of prime importance to the sustainability of our 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.

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 women do not face barriers to entering the skilled trades.

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 or by phone at (1) 202-250-9803.

Thank you,

Andrew Pariser
Vice-President
RESCON

Copy to:

Rebecca Lum, Manager of Policy & Stakeholders, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services