



June 30, 2021

The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Colleges and Universities
College Park 5th Flr,
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Dunlop,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Minister of Colleges and Universities.

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) represents over 200 residential builders of high, mid, and low-rise buildings in the province, focusing on the GTA. Our members build Ontario's communities, homes, and future. We are committed to providing leadership and fostering innovation in the industry through the following six core focuses: Training and Apprenticeship; Government Relations; Labour Relations; Health and Safety; Building Science and Innovation; and Building Code Reform and Technical Standards.

RESCON appreciates and supports the reforms the Ford government has already made to Ontario's training and apprenticeship system by replacing the Ontario College of Trades with the new and improved Skilled Trades Ontario. This long-awaited legislation will help apprentices prepare for in-demand jobs and complete their training faster. It will also make the system more accessible and more manageable for apprentices to navigate, creating a transparent and swift pathway for youth interested in pursuing a career in the skilled trades.

RESCON understands the vital role that Ontario colleges play in educating skilled trade workers and we are close partners to George Brown College, Humber College, and Durham College. We sponsor and advise various construction management and skilled trades programs to ensure that training outcomes from college programs reflect employers' needs and result in employment following graduation. In order to address the skills shortage impacting the residential sector, RESCON has put an enhanced focus on skill set training programs within voluntary trades and has supported employers that hire new grads and provide meaningful on-site training.

As the industry readies for its future, construction leaders are aware that diversity – long described by our elected officials as a tower of strength for Canada – is essential to help fill the 92,500 skilled trades jobs that will open up in Ontario between now and 2030. However, as an industry, we recognize that more significant improvements are needed to change construction culture and make the industry more welcoming and respectful for women and people from racialized communities.

Through RESCON's recently established Anti-Racism Roundtable, we've committed to ensuring our industry is welcoming and respectful of women through improving and updating workplace policies and expanding training opportunities for women.

We look forward to continuing to work with your Ministry as it ensures Ontario is a leading jurisdiction for skills trades training and the creation of skilled-trade careers.



RESCON would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our recent initiatives and collaborate to lead post-secondary students on pathways to success in the construction industry.

Please contact Amina Dibe (dibe@rescon.com) to set up a time that is convenient for a meeting.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Pariser', is positioned below the 'Thank you,' text.

Andrew Pariser
Vice-President

Copy to:

Ari Laskin, Chief of Staff, Minister Dunlop's Office

Chris Scott, Deputy Chief of Staff, Executive Director of Policy