



ELECTRICAL
CONTRACTORS
ASSOCIATION OF
ONTARIO

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The Honorable Monte McNaughton, M.P.P
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development
Government of Ontario
400 University Avenue, 14th Floor
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1T7

Sent by E-mail: monte.mcnaughton@pc.ola.org

April 8, 2020

Dear Minister McNaughton,

RE: Difficult Decisions in Difficult Circumstances- a job well done!

I write to you in my capacity as the Executive Director of the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO) and on behalf of our 550+ members who serve the electrical needs of Ontarians, as well as on my own behalf, to thank you for your outstanding leadership, open consultations, and sage decision-making during this pandemic.

COVID 19 has presented us with an unimaginable set of circumstances; circumstances that could have easily brought the construction industry and Province of Ontario to a complete standstill. The interests, considerations, and outcomes that you must consider prior to any actions are, we are certain, far beyond our knowledge. While we know that you have so much to contemplate each step of the way in these circumstances, it is comforting, encouraging, and inspiring to know that the Minister responsible for our sector of the community, and his staff, is fully cognizant of the needs of the construction industry.

As I wrote to the Premier, what is most impressive is that you and your team haven't simply listened to ECAO- you have heard us! It is easy to listen, yet not hear. Consulting can be rather illusory. And, saying that you know what an industry requires can be hollow. Yet, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, under your leadership, has heard, truly consulted, and fully understood our place in this fluid situation. For that we are also very grateful.

As a result of so many conversations and communications with our members, our labour (and other) partners, our allies, and my peers; I can confidently pass along to you that your entire team has been nothing short of outstanding. Nonetheless, and on a more personal note, I want to identify one of your group who has been particularly accessible, compassionate, and helpful- Walid Abou-Hamde. I cannot write enough about Walid and his commitment to your office and our industry prior to and, most importantly, during this pandemic! He is, quite simply, an impressive individual who continues to impress with his understanding, intellectual analysis, and practical considerations.



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You should also know that we are extremely proud of the leadership of our Premier, the Honourable Doug Ford. As referenced above, we have also written the Premier with our gratitude for his stellar guidance of Ontario in recent weeks.

In short, ECAO thanks you and continues to provide our support to you and your team! We are confident that Ontario will emerge from this pandemic as a more dynamic, unified, and powerful society!

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R.G. Aitken' followed by a period.

Graeme Aitken,
Executive Director
Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario