

**From:** [Lethbridge-East](#)  
**To:** [apca@apca.ca](mailto:apca@apca.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education (STAE) Act – Bill 67  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 03, 2021 6:01:11 PM

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Dear Mr. Schiffers,

Thank you for reaching out to my office in regard to Bill 67 and apprenticeship education in Alberta.

As your attached letter stated, the present Alberta Apprenticeship Industry Training Act needs to be updated to allow for and encourage change, while avoiding any negative impacts to the workforce and economy. These are two factors we've kept as priorities during our review of the Act.

I appreciate your feedback and input as professionals in the Apprenticeship Industry – you are exactly the people we need to hear from regarding this legislation. I've heard the shared concern by some in industry that this legislation has the potential to undermine apprenticeship in Alberta and create a path to the de-regulation of all trades, which is another point referenced in your letter. As a product of the apprenticeship system myself and a decades-long history working in the construction industry, I understand this concern. Still, I can assure you that this legislation is about improving existing apprenticeship education and expanding it into other professions.

I genuinely believe that expanding apprenticeship-style programs provides students with more opportunities for hands-on learning from experts in their field and directly applies to real-world settings. Additionally, developing this model of learning to fit a broader range of occupations is a leading initiative under the *Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs* strategy and responds to the recommendations of the *Skills for Jobs Task Force*.

In my opinion, and the opinion of my colleagues, Bill 67 will have a positive impact on the economy.

As a further note, new certificate and diploma programs can submit proposals to provide a majority of education through paid on-the-job mentorship. Approved program proposals will qualify for grant funding to support program design and implementation. This is not a sudden transition for other professions, it's a coordinated plan that will go through the appropriate regulatory and approval processes.

Thank you for taking the time to reach out, I hope this helps with any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

**Nathan Neudorf, MLA**  
Lethbridge East



ALBERTA

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**From:** apca@apca.ca <apca@apca.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 15, 2021 3:43 PM

**To:** AE.Minister@gov.ab.ca

**Cc:** Calgary-Elbow <Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca>; Calgary-Bow <Calgary.Bow@assembly.ab.ca>; Calgary-Varsity <Calgary.Varsity@assembly.ab.ca>; Grande Prairie-Wapiti <GrandePrairie.Wapiti@assembly.ab.ca>; Strathcona-Sherwood Park <Strathcona.Sherwoodpark@assembly.ab.ca>; Taber-Warner <Taber.Warner@assembly.ab.ca>; Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock <Athabasca.Barrhead.Westlock@assembly.ab.ca>; Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville <FortSaskatchewan.Vegreville@assembly.ab.ca>; Cypress-Medicine Hat <Cypress.MedicineHat@assembly.ab.ca>; Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview <Edmonton.BeverlyClareview@assembly.ab.ca>; Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood <Edmonton.HighlandsNorwood@assembly.ab.ca>; Livingstone-Macleod <Livingstone.Macleod@assembly.ab.ca>; Banff-Kananaskis <Banff.Kananaskis@assembly.ab.ca>; Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright <Vermilion.Lloydminster.Wainwright@assembly.ab.ca>; Edmonton-Manning <Edmonton.Manning@assembly.ab.ca>; Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock <Athabasca.Barrhead.Westlock@assembly.ab.ca>; Sherwood Park <Sherwood.Park@assembly.ab.ca>; Lethbridge-East <Lethbridge.East@assembly.ab.ca>; Edmonton-Castle Downs <Edmonton.Castledowns@assembly.ab.ca>; premier@gov.ab.ca

**Subject:** Re: Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education (STAE) Act – Bill 67

**Importance:** High

Dear Minister Nicolaidis:

On behalf of the Alberta Painting Contractors Association, we understand the need to review the current *Alberta Apprenticeship Industry Training Act* and applaud your efforts in this regard. We agree that the present *Act* needs to be updated to allow for and encourage change. However, with any change, it is equally important to mitigate unintended consequences and the impact these may have on our workforce and the economy.

While we support the intent of Bill 67 will have a positive impact on the economy, there is a concern this legislation, as proposed, has the potential to undermine apprenticeship in Alberta and create a path to de-regulation of all trades. Therefore, as a stakeholder in the apprenticeship system, we strongly suggest the regulations to the *Act* include:

1. The Board of fifteen, appointed by the Minister, shall include not less than eight different industry representatives from eight different trades.
2. In order to ensure a skilled and ready workforce, apprenticeship training must continue to

have the hands-on practical elements taught as part of the in-class sessions.

3. The regulations for each of the existing journeyman programs shall have an industry committee unique to their trade to create and control the content of the journeyman program. In addition, trades must continue to have:
  - a. Influence over the new and existing content of the programs via industry committees.
  - b. A manageable and efficient process to alter and improve programs on a regular basis that includes the participation of instructors/training providers.
  - c. Allowance to prescribe their own period exams in addition to the Red Seal Exams.
  - d. A transparent and efficient protocol that allows for timely population of the advisory committees and allows equal representation of workers and industry employers.
4. In order to maintain high standards for health, safety and quality, micro-credentialing should:
  - a. Only be considered as an add-on to existing journeyman designations and not an alternate path to becoming a journeyman.
  - b. Not be allowed for regulated and or restricted designations within specific trades.
5. For compulsory trades: a. Changes to regulated and restricted designations within a specific trade's scope of work can only be implemented with input from stakeholder consultations and industry committees.
6. Occupations must have a clear path to journeyperson spelled out in the Trade Regulations.
7. New programs should have their own advisory panels that always include industry.
8. No changes to the current apprenticeship sponsorship program, as it currently functions in an effective and efficient manner.

We make these recommendations based on our practical experience with the apprenticeship system, knowing that they will have positive impacts on changes the legislation will deliver. We believe it is critical these changes be included in the regulations for the benefit of all industries that rely heavily on apprentices. The continued involvement of trade employers and employees in the design and delivery of apprenticeship programs will maximize the quality and efficiency of the apprentices' education and their transition into Journeypersons.

We look forward to your response at the earliest opportunity and would be happy to engage with you or your department officials, should you deem it beneficial.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal stroke at the bottom.

Dave Schiffers, President  
Alberta Painting Contractors Association

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