

From: STAE Act <STAE.Act@gov.ab.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2021 9:57 AM
To: apca@apca.ca
Cc: STAE Act <STAE.Act@gov.ab.ca>
Subject: RE: Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education (STAE) Act – Bill 67

Hi Dave:

Thank you for writing to the Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education, regarding the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education (STAE) Act. Minister Nicolaidis has shared your email with the STAE Act team to respond. We are pleased to provide some information.

We appreciate you taking the time to share these perspectives. It is vital we have a clear understanding of any barriers or challenges that may result from implementing changes. The input provided is very valued. We will consider it as we work to develop the regulations and policies under the act. In addition, we will share the recommendations related to areas under the authority of new Alberta Board of Skilled Trades with board members once they are appointed.

Because the STAE Act is a flexible, enabling piece of legislation, most of the details will fall in regulation and policy. We are in the process of concluding our preliminary stakeholder engagement and will begin developing regulations and policy based on that feedback. We do intend to come back to stakeholders in the fall.

Your email expresses concern that the STAE Act has the potential to undermine apprenticeship in Alberta and create a path to deregulation of all trades. This is not the intent. One of the key purposes of this new act is to create more opportunities to apply the apprenticeship model to a broader suite of occupations. Both the Premier and the Minister strongly support the current apprenticeship model of learning and would like more occupations beyond our traditional occupations to benefit from this learning model. It is anticipated that the program will grow rather than reduce.

When the new act comes into force, all activities currently within the scope of compulsory certification trades will continue to be restricted, meaning they may only be performed by a registered apprentice or certified journeyman. Going forward, the new Alberta Board of Skilled Trades will, upon consulting with industry, be able to recommend any further changes to these restricted activities. This will add flexibility to our skilled trades system by allowing each designated trade to have a mix of restricted and unrestricted activities that best suit the needs of industry.

The overall objective of this legislative renewal (identified by the [Skills for Jobs Task Force](#)) is to strengthen and increase opportunities in Alberta's apprenticeship education and skilled trades system. The act was designed to add flexibility so that the system can evolve and be more responsive to changing needs of students, industry, employers, and educators. We appreciate the thought you have put into providing recommendations to help ensure that the current strengths of Alberta's system are not eroded with this added flexibility; government absolutely shares this goal.

The STAE Act should come into force in early 2022, with many of the regulations, board orders, and policies in place. Program and system transformation will continue throughout 2022 and likely for years to come.

Thank you again for writing.

