



IBEW British Columbia Provincial Council

March 4, 2022

Skills for Success Program
Coordination Unit Mailstop 402 National Grants & Contributions Delivery Centre (ESDC)
140 Promenade du Portage Phase IV 4th Floor
Gatineau QC K1A 0J9

Re: Apprentice Resiliency Training to Increase Skills for Success

Dear Sir/Madam;

On behalf of the British Columbia Provincial Council of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, I wish to express our enthusiasm for partnership with the Western Joint Electrical Training Society (WJETS) on the aforementioned project leading to increased apprentice resiliency.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was established in B.C. in 1901. IBEW locals are based in Langley, Kamloops, Nelson, Port Coquitlam and Victoria. The Provincial Council comprises the business managers from all five locals. Together, we represent more than 12,000 British Columbians in various electrical occupations including: construction, power-line construction, power and gas utilities, as well as marine shipyards, cable-vision, railway, motor-winding, electrical wholesale, security, HVAC and electrical workers in all 3 levels of government. Together, IBEW 213 Lower Mainland, 230: Vancouver Island, 993: Northern BC and Yukon, and 1003: Kootenays represent electrical specialists employed by approximately 75 signatory contractors. This accounts for the majority of the industrial, commercial and institutional electrical work completed in our regions. As the IBEW, we are confident in our ability to equip our workforce with the training, skills and mentorship required for success on all levels. We are committed to providing the required project supports to build resiliency amongst our apprentices through promotion and course rollout across our locals.

Over the past three years, IBEW locals 230 and 993 have sponsored over 150 Workplace Alternative Trades Training (WATT) program graduates into electrical pre-apprenticeships with a rate of success of over 97%. These individuals, the vast majority of whom would not have otherwise had access to the trade due to a multitude of barriers, were dispatched to IBEW signatory contractors with all the necessary preliminary training, financial and emotional supports in place to succeed on the path to Red Seal Certification. We are proud to be shaping the future of Electrical Apprenticeship in British Columbia in partnership with WJETS to create a more accessible and applied pathway to careers in the skilled trades. Recently an emerging issue affecting apprenticeship completions has presented with alarming frequency. The development of Foundational and Transferable Skills related to Apprentice personal and professional resiliency is atop the priorities of the labour movement today as we work to support the healthy growth and sustainability of the skilled trades workforce.

We are encouraged to have the opportunity to extend our support and continue to remove barriers to apprenticeship success. It is also critically important to the long-term sustainability of our organization, and the electrical workforce in British Columbia, that we are able to effectively engage new entrants of all skill levels into the apprenticeship system.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Venoit".

Phil Venoit, RSE
Chair, IBEW BC Provincial Council