



IBEW British Columbia Provincial Council

June 11, 2021

RE: Support for Tradespeople

BC's Premier announced that Skilled Trades Certification is an important government initiative and will be launching a new certification system in the coming months for 10 Skilled Trades. British Columbia had 11 "compulsory" trades, originally introduced in the mid-70's by the Social Credit government as "Designated" Trades. Then in 2003, the BC Liberal government was duped into believing that "Red Seal" was synonymous with "red tape" and quashed the "compulsory" requirement deregulating the province's apprenticeship system.

The new Skilled Trades Certification will legally require the 10 specific trades like industrial electricians, construction electricians and power line technicians to go through a standard training program known as an "apprenticeship" to work in the electrical trade. Apprentices will rotate between training in college and working in the field for 4 to 5 years before they earn their Red Seal Certificate. This used to be the minimal requirement to do electrical work, which ensured a high standard of quality and safety.

BC is currently the only province in Canada that does not require trade certification for electricians. Skilled trades certification will instill confidence again in investors looking to build in BC, lower liability for employers, result in safer construction sites and fewer customer complaints, and justify higher wages – something we could all use to set down roots and raise a family.

BC's NDP government has committed to supporting skilled trades workers and we look forward to seeing them implement the new certification system, which will address skilled labour shortages and help rebuild our economy.

Phil M. Venoit
BC Chair,
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers