

OCC Energy Task Force Provincial Electrical Contractor Licensing

Issue:

The province should undertake to improve the licensing system for electrical contractors by seeking to replace the municipal licensing system for electrical contractors with a mandatory province-wide system.

Background:

The existing certification and licensing regulatory framework for electrical contractors is inconsistent and inefficient. Currently, licensing for electrical contractors is under the jurisdiction of municipalities. Some municipalities require that electrical contractors obtain a license to work in a given district while other municipalities do not. This creates barriers to labour mobility. Contractors may be barred from working in some municipalities while others can simultaneously encroach on the contracts available in their municipalities if no license is required. Under this system there is little enforcement of current requirements causing significant safety concerns.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. *Continue with their legislation (proposed streamlining of electrical contractor licenses to a province wide standard). This should include the elimination of municipal licensing for electrical contractors.*
2. *Set a target for implementation of two years as opposed to five (as outlined in the legislation).*