



POWER WORKERS' UNION

November 3, 2004

The Honourable Jim Watson
Minister of Consumer and Business Services
35th Floor, 250 Yonge Street, Eaton Tower
Toronto, Ontario
M5B 2N5

Dear Minister Watson:

I am writing to express support for the "Ministry of Consumer and Business Service Statute Law Amendment Act 2004" as it relates to amendments to the Electricity Act that would establish a province-wide and uniform system of licensing electrical contractors and electricians administered by the Electrical Safety Authority.

These changes will have a number of positive impacts for consumers, workers and government in Ontario. To name a few:

1. The establishment of province-wide standards for the licensing of electrical contractors will replace the fragmented and inconsistent system of municipal licensing. It will close gaps in the current municipal licensing system where no licensing standards exist today, raise the bar on existing standards, and through the Electrical Safety Authority, ensure consistent and uniform administration and enforcement.
2. Uniform standards and consistent enforcement will improve the safety for workers in the electrical industry. In addition to the initial improvements to the current system of contractor licensing, this legislation will enable (over the 5-year implementation process) further improvements to the licensing and certification standards for electrical workers and further improve safety for workers.
3. Consumers will be better served, in terms of improved electrical safety and consumer protection.
4. This legislation will assist the government and the Workers Safety and Insurance Board in capturing revenue lost through the underground economy.
5. The Electrical Safety Authority is already mandated by the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services to ensure the safety of electrical installations across Ontario. This is an important initiative for ESA in terms of appropriately expanding its regulatory scope to better ensure electrical safety for Ontarians.

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Don MacKinnon

VICE PRESIDENTS
Peter Falconer
Peter Kelly
Mel Hyatt

We encourage the Minister to move forward with this bill and we would encourage all party support.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don MacKinnon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Don MacKinnon
President

c: P. Marcucci