

Ontario Pipe Trades Council endorses PCs for re-election

Government's strong support for UA's workforce wins OPTC support

May 18, 2022 (TORONTO) - The Ontario Pipe Trades Council (OPTC) of the United Association (UA) of journeypersons and apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting industry today announced its full endorsement of Doug Ford, Monte McNaughton and the Ontario PC party for the provincial election.

“Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton have given historic support for Ontario’s compulsory construction trades through strong legislative trades protection, backstopped with a once in generation lift for all UA locals in Ontario. Never in our history has the Government provided so much support for the training and equipment needs of UA’s workforce,” said James Hogarth, Business Manager of the OPTC representing over 22,000 skilled, unionized professionals in the piping trades.

Hogarth stressed that both Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton have demonstrated their iron-clad commitment to working with the piping trades for made-in-Ontario solutions in the construction industry.

“Both Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton have tirelessly visited UA training centres across the province, meeting with skilled trades workers, constantly consulting with UA business managers and truly showing they are willing to learn about and act on the issues impacting the pipe trades sector,” said Hogarth.

Hogarth noted that the previous Liberal Government had advanced an agenda to erode the value of the compulsory construction trades and closed the door on consulting the unionized pipe trades.

“Through the leadership of Premier Ford and Minister McNaughton, the PC Government has demonstrated its commitment to the safety and training of Ontario’s construction workers and provided a needed boost for workers building Ontario,” said Hogarth.

The PC Government has invested millions in UA’s safety and training programs to ensure the pipe trades workforce is well-prepared to meet the demands of Ontario’s infrastructure needs.

Hogarth noted that much work needs to be done to ensure a strong enforcement regime is built along with made-in-Ontario policies to support Ontario’s skilled trades workers and he believes the PC Party is the best choice to follow-through on these commitments.

The OPTC and their skilled unionized tradesmen and women represent Plumbers, Steamfitters, Welders, Sprinkler Fitters, Refrigeration and HVAC Mechanics throughout Ontario.

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