



## **IBEW Construction Council of Ontario**

### **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Electrical union IBEW CCO endorses Ontario PCs for June election**

*Government's focus on high safety and training standards wins union support*

May 16, 2022 (TORONTO) - The IBEW Construction Council of Ontario (IBEW CCO) announced today its full endorsement of Doug Ford and the Ontario PC party for the June 22 provincial election.

“Premier Ford has proven over the last four years that he not only supports and understands the needs of the electrical trades but has backed it up with positive and meaningful action that is unprecedented in our union’s history,” said James Barry, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the IBEW CCO which serves more than 18,000 women and men working in varied sectors of the electrical industry.

Barry noted that the decision for his union to endorse the Ontario PC Party was also based on the impressive performance of Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development.

“I have never met a more committed Minister in this portfolio, with his fair and balanced approach he has continued to deliver to all his stakeholder groups. From the moment of his appointment, he began travelling across the province to visit training centres, meeting with skilled trades workers and really taking the time to understand our complex issues. The Minister was in regular contact with all IBEW locals across the province,” said Barry.

Barry noted that prior to the Ontario PC party coming into power almost four years ago, the compulsory trades were not a priority and there had been steps taken to erode the value of a Certificate of Qualification and reduce training requirements for licensed electricians.

“The Doug Ford government, including Minister McNaughton, clearly understood the need for high training and safety standards to not only protect workers and the public but to ensure our critical infrastructure like hospitals and schools were built correctly,” added Barry.

During the past four years, the Ford government has invested millions in union electrical safety training, including IBEW programs to ensure apprentices and journeypersons have access to the best training possible.

“The Ontario PC government not only gave us a voice, they also gave us a seat at the table and they actually listened,” said Barry.

Barry noted there is still work to be done to support the electrical trades and he is confident that in the next four years the Ford government is the right choice to make sure the important next steps are implemented.

“Rest assured, I will continue to be a strong advocate on behalf of the unionized electrical trade and will work closely with the government to ensure we continue to be heard,” said Barry.

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