



# RESCON<sup>®</sup>

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION  
COUNCIL OF ONTARIO

September 29, 2011

To All RESCON Members:

Please find attached three articles in relation to the College of Trades. As you are aware, RESCON in coalition with several other large construction employer associations recently released a press release demanding that the College of Trades be radically overhauled or abolished. I have attached the relevant section of the Editorial Section of the National Post for your reference.

*“It is with his fifth pledge — the creation of 200,000 new skilled trades positions for registered apprentices — that Mr. Hudak offers a glimpse of the forward and creative thinking that will be needed by the next government.*

*With it, he offers solutions to a problem that the Liberals cannot solve because they are beholden to special interests whose agenda runs contrary to the general interest.*

*In 2009, Mr. McGuinty established the College of Trades, an unwieldy body dominated by representatives of compulsory certified trades which sets apprentice ratios in the province. Vested interest has kept the ratio of journeymen to apprentices much higher in Ontario than in other provinces, with the aim of driving up wages. For example, in Ontario there are five journeymen bricklayers for every apprentice, compared to 1:1 in Nova Scotia and 1:2 in Alberta. The attempt to artificially stifle the number of apprentices will have a long-term cost — Mr. Hudak cited an Ontario Ministry of Finance study that suggests there will be over one million unfilled, skilled job vacancies by 2021.*

*The Tory plan is to move administration of apprenticeships from the College of Trades and reduce the journeyman-apprentice ratio to 1:1 — a cost-neutral move that would open up thousands of new apprenticeship spaces. The move has the support of the Ontario construction employers and the undying hostility of the unions — which, in itself, suggests this is a good policy.”*

For the full article, please click here: <http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/2011/09/29/john-ivison-hudaks-apprentice-plan-offers-spark-of-hope/>

In addition, below news release which summarizes the Ontario PC Party official position with respect to the College of Trades.

<http://www.ontariopc.com/news/dalton-mcguinty-will-block-200000-skilled-worker-jobs/>

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at (905) 760 7777 ext 103.

Sincerely

Jason Ottey