

# STAEA Update

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Industry Information Session

November 29, 2022



# Objective

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- Share information related to the new Ministry of Skilled Trades and Professions.
- Provide an update on the recent work of the Alberta Board of Skilled Trades (ABST).
- Provide update and discuss ongoing work in STP & AIT.

# Government Re-org & Focus

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# Government Reorganization

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- On October 11, 2022, Danielle Smith was sworn in as Alberta's 19<sup>th</sup> Premier.
- On October 24, 2022, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training moved to the new Ministry of Skilled Trades and Professions (STP) under Minister Madu.
- On November 15, 2022, Ministers received mandate letters which identified Government's focus and each Ministries' priorities.

# Minister's Mandate Letter (AIT Focus)

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- Be a lead advocate and champion of the skilled trades and professions and ensure Albertan's, as early as junior high, recognize apprenticeship education as a desirable education pathway that leads to rewarding careers.
- Ensure the skilled trades meet the evolving needs of the economy
- Invest in innovation of the skilled trades to ensure journeypersons obtain the skills required of the modern economy.
- Complete the implementation of the new *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act*.

# Minister's Mandate Letter

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- Implement the *Labour Mobility Act* to attract talent and skilled workers to Alberta.
- Ensure fast track pathways exist to recognize out-of-province and out-of-country credentials.
- Work alongside Alberta Health to develop foreign credentials for frontline health care professionals.

# Minister's Mandate Letter

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- Continue the work on the Fairness for Newcomers Office and implementation of the *Fair Registration Practices Act*.
- Implement the *Professional Governance Act* to standardize governance of professional regulatory organizations.
- Lead initiatives that support under-represented Albertans' participation in the economy.

# Alberta Board of Skilled Trades

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# ABST Update

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- 15 members appointed in Spring 2022, purpose is to engage with industry and provide recommendations to the Minister to improve the skilled trades and certification system in Alberta.
- Meetings are monthly, with a current focus on governance and standing committee structures/functions, and designing an industry engagement system to maximize value of industry input and support advice giving and decision-making.

# ABST Committees

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- ABST is actively defining the scope and terms for three standing subcommittees of the Board to support its business operations:
  - Board Operations: Ensure ABST is effective is effective in meeting its mandate and promote opportunities in the skilled trades.
  - Industry Standards: Provide recommendations on new trade designations, restricted activities and classes of individuals, and sets certifications standards and scopes of professions.
  - Industry Network: Establish and maintain the structure for ABST's industry advisory network consultation.

# ABST Industry Network

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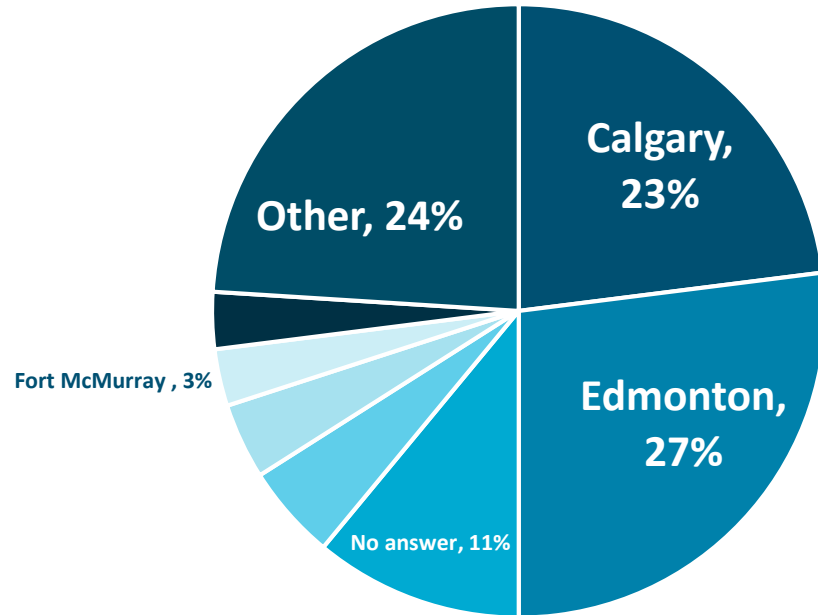
- Department has set up a Trades & Apprenticeship Community of Expertise (TACE) to allow skilled tradespersons in Alberta to sign up for various engagements.
- ABST sent engagement survey to TACE members in September to help inform their network model.
- ABST is actively reviewing survey results, reports, and stakeholder submissions to inform its official industry network strategy.
- Please provide input to [Board.SkilledTrades@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Board.SkilledTrades@gov.ab.ca)

# ABST Engagement Survey

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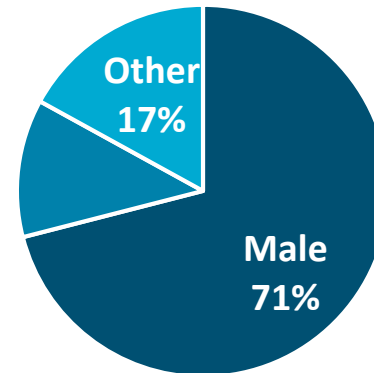
- Invite went to 2,834 members of industry who were asked to share thoughts and ideas about the best ways to elicit input from industry under the new STAE Act.
- Response rate was 26%, which is below the average of 33% for this type of engagement.
- Topics covered included best methods of contact, different formats for providing input, and any suggestions they have to improve the process.
- Survey was open for 14 days and closed on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

# Who Responded?



Other includes over 190 other locations around Alberta

6% are Indigenous



Other includes not answered and non-binary

# Survey Conclusions

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- Former system was not perfect and many flaws were noted
- Industry however found it difficult to envision new possibilities for engagement
- Perceived shortcomings could be best addressed with a more flexible system that allows for a wider range of industry to provide input (flexible options for input that don't require missing work)
- Industry wants to know that the input provided makes a difference

# STP Priorities

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# TrailBlazer's Update

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- In development for 18 months – extensive engagement with industry, PSIs, and internal partners
- Preparations have continued, the participatory portion slated for Jan/Feb 2023
- AEPs that are part of the Beta are Ironworker(S/O), Automotive Service Technician (AST), and the Plumber/Gasfitter programs
- Identified industry partners (TrailBlazers) – Ironworker Local 720, the Kaizan Group (AST), and several smaller companies for Plumber/Gasfitter
- Full rollout to begin in 2023-24 – 4-6 programs/year until complete



# Assessment Review

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- Timelines
  - Phase 1 Recommendations to Minister in time for any September 2023 implementation
  - Phase 2: Broader review of all assessments used in the apprenticeship system to follow
- Analyzing internal data
- E-scan with jurisdictional partners
- Open Call: Requesting industry data on the impacts of the period exam pause.
  - Respond to email by January 31, 2023.
- Survey to system partners

# STP Priorities

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- Hosting monthly Industry Education Sessions and quarterly Leadership Information Sessions to provide information and Q/A opportunities on STAEA topics.
- Industry engagement to support the period exam assessment project is ongoing and will help inform Minister's decision in the new year.
- Field staff currently are focused on engaging with clients to provide STAEA information and support.
- Dept. is preparing for budget 2023 opportunities under the new Ministry.
- STAEA Implementation: Continuing to implement modernizing features, updated operational processes, and digital tools.

# Questions?

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