IBEW Training Concern Update

ECAS member open shop contractors have been working with Merit Saskatchewan to address concerns with the Ministry adding IBEW led apprenticeship training to the SATCC. Concerns include:

- Implementation of alternate training with no industry consultation
- Not offering additional training seats to SaskPoly
- Different delivery than Saskpoly apprentices
- Lack of an employer approval process
- Threat of Poaching

The ECAS board has supported Merit Contractors and is signatory to concerns and recommendations going forward.

MERIT Contractors Association of Saskatchewan, submitted the following recommendations to enhance transparency, neutrality, and fairness in Saskatchewan's apprenticeship training system. These proposals aim to ensure that all apprentices—regardless of training provider—receive impartial, high-quality education that is free from undue influence:

1. Employer Approval Requirement in MyATC
2. Labelling of IBEW Training
3. Anonymous Reporting Mechanism
4. Post-Training Follow-Up
5. Instructor Disclosure and Neutrality
6. Curriculum Review and Standardization
7. Transparency and Reporting Requirements
8. Prohibition on Union Hall-Based Training
9. Restriction on Union Messaging
10. Training Seat Allocation for IBEW
11. Equity in Student Support Services
12. Instructor and Program Vetting
13. Curriculum Approval Prior to Delivery
14. Ongoing Monitoring and Employer Feedback

To date, meetings with the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training have resulted in a few changes, positive news that concerns are being heard.

SATCC has added additional training seats for electrical apprentices and we would like to think our lobbying helped them be offered to SaskPoly. We will be supporting Sask Poly in an effort to demonstrate industry support in as many ways as possible.

The Ministry will be directing the SATCC to adjust its online portal so that employers must approve apprenticeship training for their employees.
SATCC is also directed to make the training provider more visible to ensure apprentices know upfront where they are registering.

Thanks to Denise Gamble from Merit and our ECAS contractors and board members for their work on this issue.