



ONTARIO ELECTRICAL LEAGUE

To Promote, Strengthen and Represent the Electrical Industry in Ontario

Ontario Electrical League celebrates a successful year of 1:1 journey person to apprentice ratios, unveils new contractor survey results

TORONTO, November 21, 2019 – The Ontario Electrical League (OEL) is revealing a new report from a survey conducted to its contractor members, showcasing the success of Bill 47, *Making Ontario Open for Business Act*. Introduced a year ago, one of the largest changes from Bill 47 was the establishment of 1:1 journey person to apprentice ratios, replacing what was formerly a confusing and restricting ratio structure.

Conducted in October 2019, the report showed that 75 per cent of surveyed contractor members have hired at least one apprentice. Over a hundred apprentices have been hired, with an average of 2.95 apprentices per respondent.

“Now more than ever, one of the most emphasized topics of conversation among the trades is preparing today’s generation for the future,” said Stephen Sell, OEL President. “One-to-one ratios not only allow people to land coveted apprenticeships, but it may just influence those that could be considering a career in the skilled trades – who are now much more inclined to pursue one knowing that a major roadblock has been lifted.”

In a May 2018 survey, the OEL sought to establish how they could best display and address the struggle that contractors were facing from restricted ratios. They asked over 100 OEL members how many additional apprentices they would hire if journey person to apprentice ratios were changed, in which the average response was two. A total of 73 per cent indicated they would hire more apprentices if they were allowed the option. Both the OEL’s May 2018 survey and October 2019 survey showed similar results, the latter echoing the proposed hiring numbers indicated by members earlier.

(more)

Bill 47 received Royal Assent on November 21, 2018, paving the way for emerging apprentices to receive the necessary training needed to become licensed in their respective fields and allowing employers across Ontario to properly hire and train the next generation of tradespeople without unnecessary ratio setbacks.

-30-

About the Ontario Electrical League

The Ontario Electrical League is a non-profit provincial organization, dedicated to over 20 chapters and more than 12,000 individual members from the electrical industry. League members include contractors, electricians, apprentices, utilities, generators, inspectors, distributors, manufacturers, manufacturers' representatives, consulting engineers, educators and service companies.

Media Contact

Bao Xiong

Communications Specialist and Chapter Support, Ontario Electrical League

bao.xiong@oel.org | 905-238-1382