



**ONTARIO ELECTRICAL LEAGUE**

To Promote, Strengthen and Represent the Electrical Industry in Ontario

## **OEL Applauds the Ford Government's New Job-Creating "Making Ontario Open for Business Act"**

October 24, 2018 (Toronto, ON) - The Ontario Electrical League (OEL) welcomes the Ontario Government's ground-breaking new legislation, the "Making Ontario Open for Business Act," as a transformative bill that will bring literally thousands of young Ontarians into the Skilled Trades. This Bill removes restrictions on entering the trades by lowering the journeyman to apprentice ratios in Ontario's skilled trades to 1:1.

"This new Bill will see hundreds if not thousands of young Ontarians start working in the skilled trades in the near future," said OEL President Stephen Sell. "There is a huge demand for new electricians and in the mechanical trades – this Bill allows our members to hire young Ontarians and train them for these rewarding and well-paid careers."

Sell said the OEL members had been extremely frustrated by the previous Liberal Government's complicated, confusing ratio restrictions and the red tape and paperwork involved with hiring apprentices. These unreasonable rules had prevented many OEL members from hiring apprentices and growing their businesses.

A recent summer of 2018 survey of 127 OEL electrical contractor members earlier this year showed that 73 per cent of them would hire more apprentices if the ratio rules were changed. This would add up to a total of 307 additional electrical apprentices for these employers.

"OEL and its members have worked long and hard with government, regulators, industry, educators and other stakeholders to bring the problems with the current apprenticeship system to light," said Sell. "The change to the 1:1 ratio is a long overdue step in the right direction for both employers and apprentices."

"As an action item, we are encouraging all OEL members to reach out to their local Member of Provincial Parliament and urge them to grant speedy passage to this important new law," said Sell.

OEL looks forward to working with the government to modernize the apprenticeship system.

The new legislation and related regulatory changes were announced yesterday (October 23) and still need to be passed by the Ontario Legislature. For more information, read [Ontario Government news release](#).

### **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 electrical contractors, electricians, apprentices, electrical utilities, electrical generators, electrical inspectors, electrical distributors, manufacturers, manufacturers' representatives, consulting engineers, educators and service companies.

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