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For Immediate Release

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2014 Budget Encouraging for Workers: Dillon

(Toronto, ON) “Today’s budget announcement to dedicate over \$130 billion towards public infrastructure projects over the next 10 years shows the government’s firm commitment to invest in workers,” said Patrick Dillon, Business Manager of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario, adding that “this sends a positive signal to the construction industry.”

“These investments support 110,000 jobs annually in Ontario’s construction industry, at a time when the province is steadily bouncing back from the 2008 global recession,” noted Dillon. The government forecasts real GDP to grow at 2.1% this year, followed by 2.5% growth in 2015.

Finance Minister Charles Sousa also announced that the province will rely on dedicated funds to help finance transit and other infrastructure both within and outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA). “Our Council fully supports dedicated funds, including the 7.5 cent per litre share of the gasoline tax to fund transit in the GTHA as well as roads, bridges and highways throughout Ontario,” said Dillon. It is estimated that \$29 billion will be allocated towards these investments in the next 10 years, helping to ease gridlock and attract further investments.

“With youth unemployment at 15.4%, we are also very pleased to see an explicit commitment in the budget to leverage the government’s procurement policies in attracting young people to the trades, in addition to boosting employment opportunities among women, Aboriginals, and veterans,” observed Dillon, adding that “businesses, organized labour, and government must continue to work together in implementing projects that strengthen apprenticeship training while building communities.”

“It is my hope that the political parties will work together to pass this budget for the sake of Ontarians who are eager to maximize job opportunities to support their families and build a better province,” concluded Dillon.

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The Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario represents 150,000 trades workers throughout the province. For more information, please contact Patrick Dillon:

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