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## **Building Trades Council Welcomes Worker Protection Legislation**

(Toronto, ON) “The Ontario Building Trades Council welcomes the Stronger *Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act*, and it is my sincere hope that this legislation receives all-party support,” said Patrick Dillon, Business Manager of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario.

Bill 146 removes a \$10,000 cap on the recovery of unpaid wages, in addition to increasing the time limit from 1 year to 2 years, in which workers can seek to recover wages owed to them by their employers. The proposed legislation also protects workers from being charged recruitment fees by temporary work agencies, and prohibits employers from withholding temporary foreign workers’ personal documents, like passports.

“It is critically important that workers and employers who play by the rules are given a fair chance to succeed” noted Dillon, adding that “Bill 146 goes after unscrupulous employers who hire temp agencies to circumvent their own health and safety responsibilities towards their workers.”

With respect to the construction industry, the Bill proposes to shorten the Open Period from 90 days to 60 days. “A shorter raiding period is something that our Council has called for, most recently through a formal Resolution at Convention, and we believe that this change helps reinforce both workers’ and employers’ basic priorities: fair wages, improved working conditions, and a stable economy,” 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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