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For Immediate Release

March 27, 2012

Jobs are the Key to our Prosperity: Building Trades Council Reacts to Provincial Budget

(Toronto, ON) “The provincial budget announced today by the McGuinty government will help preserve job gains made during this delicate period of economic recovery,” said Patrick Dillon, Business Manager of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario.

“The \$13.9 billion pledge for sustained Infrastructure spending in 2012/13 sends a positive signal to the construction industry, and to trades workers in particular,” said Dillon, adding that “continued investments in roads, transit, schools, and hospitals are in-line with the government’s other priorities to build a prosperous and inclusive Ontario.”

Over the next three years, the budget lays out a plan to create or preserve 100,000 Infrastructure jobs. The government forecasts a modest 1.7 per cent GDP growth rate for 2012/13, and a substantially better 2.2 per cent increase for 2013.

“One of the main challenges for construction however, is to ensure that we have a diverse and well-prepared workforce to deliver complex Infrastructure projects in a safe and professional manner,” noted Dillon.

The budget document conveys the need to reach out to youth, Aboriginal Peoples and women in terms of enticing them to the trades to bolster job creation. “I believe we have a lot of work to do with government and our employer partners to attract and retain a diverse workforce that better reflects our changing society, while promoting the value of safety and workplace training, and I think that the newly-formed College of Trades is well-positioned to lead this process, taking into account participation from workers and employers,” observed Dillon.

The 2012 budget also calls for the creation of a ‘Jobs and Prosperity Council’ that will seek ways of stimulating growth in employment across the province, through stakeholder consultations. Mr. Dillon called this “a step in the right direction,” adding that “creating and sustaining jobs really is the key to prosperity and an overall strong economy, amid global economic challenges.”

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The Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario represents 150,000 trades workers throughout the province.

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