

## Message from Regional Manager

### Jeff Richardson



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the situation in the Halifax Regional Municipality deteriorates, we have made the decision to temporarily close the doors of the Sackville Hall to the public. Angela is still there to answer any questions and accept payments over the phone; you can reach her at (902) 454-5100 or at [afindall@acrc.ca](mailto:afindall@acrc.ca). Remember: You can still pay your monthly dues online, by mailing a check or money order, or with a credit card over the phone. We thank you for your understanding during these crucial times.

I'm happy to say the new Collective Agreement was ratified on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with 55% in favor. This agreement is a five-year contract and came into effect on May 1. We are expecting to have the agreement available at [acrc.ca](http://acrc.ca) within the next week.

We will be going ahead with the nomination meetings at the Sackville and Stellarton locations on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, but we will allow only one nominee and nominator in at a time. The pair will come in, announce nomination, and then leave, allowing the next pair to enter. Masks and sanitizing will be required upon entering the building. Call Ange or Stacey with any questions.

We have all had to make a lot of changes and go without during this pandemic. We are all tired, missing our loved ones, and want things to go back to normal. The finish line is in sight. If we are vigilant, follow directives, and get vaccines when available, we will soon see the changes we are hoping for.

In Solidarity,

*Jeff Richardson*



## Carpenter Millwright College

Well Trained. Work Ready.

Summer is just around the corner, as we continue to battle this Global Pandemic, it is now being referred to as COVID-21 in some news outlets, as the strains have changed, and are more aggressive, more contagious.

We all would like to enjoy our summer months with family and friends. Vaccines are now on the roll out, and we hope to see quick results in our efforts to fight this. Here at the Carpenter Millwright College we are taking every precaution we can to keep our students and staff safe during these times. If you are eligible to get a vaccine, then please do before you register and attend classes at the CMC if at all possible.

We are still running many of our courses here at the CMC. Our doors are temporarily closed to all public traffic, and you are ONLY able to call or email us at the CMCNS until further notice, we update our FB Page (Like and Follow Carpenter Millwright College NS) as restrictions change. Call 902 252 3553, email Len Ibryden@cmcns.ca or Brianna bmacdonald@cmcns.ca if you need assistance, or wish to register for any future classes.

Our class sizes are still reduced capacity to ensure the safety of our staff and students and physical distancing measures, as well as 100% Masks required, in the classroom, in the shops, AND outside training.

Before you attend any training here at the CMC, please make sure you have completed the UBCJA Covid19 Preparedness Online Quiz. The quiz will be sent out to you via email, a few days in advance before your course start date. When you enter the building ensure to sanitize and sign in before going to your class. All students/members must wear their face mask at all times during your time here at the CMC. This protocol now includes wearing your mask while seated in the classroom as well. We hope in the near future we will not have to be enforcing these rules, but for now we have the best intention to keep everyone safe.

Please make sure to keep your training up to date! It is important to call in advance due to the small class sizes. When you call to register please have your Union ID Number with you or even memorize it! This makes it easier for us to be quicker and more efficient to get the answers you need.

Stay Safe & Work Ready.



## Underground Activity in Ontario's Construction Industry Costs Us All

The underground economy in Ontario's construction industry undermines the province's fiscal position and hurts legitimate contractors. A new study, commissioned by the Ontario Construction Secretariat, estimates that annual revenue losses due to underground activity have increased by 30% over the past decade.

**FACT** Between 2013 and 2017, the Province of Ontario and Federal Government lost between \$1.8 billion and \$3.1 billion annually as a result of contractors operating in the underground economy. This represents an increase of 30% since our last study in 2009 when annual revenue losses were in the order of \$1.4-\$2.4 billion.



**FACT** The primary driver of the underground economy is employers improperly classifying their workers as 'Independent Operators' rather than employees. **Floor Covering Installers, Tilers, Painters, and Carpenters** are particularly vulnerable to this illegal practice.

**FACT** Only 22% of 'Independent Operators' are registered with the WSIB. Close to 84,000 independent operators are not paying WSIB premiums.

**FACT** Unscrupulous contractors who illegally style workers as 'independent operators' rather than employees enjoy an unfair competitive advantage over legitimate contractors who comply with their WSIB, payroll and employment standards obligations.

### WHAT CAN WE DO?

Continued enforcement efforts are required to rein in the underground economy and create a level playing field for legitimate contractors who support health and safety and apprenticeship programs. **Get the Facts!**

Source: Ontario Construction Secretariat, Prism Economics & Analysis, The Underground Economy in Ontario's Construction Industry, 2019

