

Bill 67 – The Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act

On June 17, 2021, Bill 67 - the *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act* is proposed to replace the *Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act*. Bill 67 is currently in third reading and is expected to receive Royal Assent.

THE ACT

The Act will reduce red tape and introduce more rigour while formalizing the academic credentials granted to apprentices – further supporting the apprentice’s knowledge and skills. The legislation news releases reference the recommendations from the [Skills for Jobs Task Force](#) (completed September 2020). The legislation brings into force the power for the provincial government to provide greater oversight into what trades are considered “skilled” and create greater controls over what courses post-secondary institutions are required to provide and how apprentice progress is tracked.

The legislation will replace the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board (a group comprised of unions and employers) with an Alberta Board of Skilled Trades (a 15-member board selected by the Minister).

The Alberta Board of Skilled Trades will:

- Reinforce the skilled trades as a professional industry.
- Support greater consistency for skilled trades training.
- Create greater transferability of employment and ability.
- Increase access to skilled trades training for workers (who can travel to the city for training).
- Increase learning integration with high school and post-secondary.
- Expand the number of professions that may fall under the legislation (as determined by the Minister).
- Provide a greater opportunity for open shop industry representation at the board level.

Summary

The legislation creates greater consistency for apprentices and provides greater representation for union and non-union industries. The workers, who strive for excellence, and the employers, of every stripe, deserve to have access to training and professional-level resources. Merit will continue to monitor the Act and related regulations as they are developed to ensure they represent the needs of the construction industry.

The link for the Government announcement can be found here ([LINK](#)). Should you have any questions or concerns regarding Bill 67 – The Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act; please contact our advocacy team at advocacy@meritalberta.com or call 780.455.5999.