

February 5, 2007

Honorable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario**RE: EASTERN ONTARIO CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION TRADES AND BUILDING
SCIENCES**

The present state of the industry is that construction is almost a dirty word. We have to change the mistrust of people from the student to the adult and one big step would be a state of the art facility.

Why does the construction need this school?

From the point of view of R.W. Tomlinson, we have started to see great difficulty in finding people who can be certified as quality control technicians or estimators.

Young minds in many cases don't know where they are going in life. It is our responsibility to provide them with a proper understanding of what is available. A facility such as this will have all aspects of construction under one roof. When a student starts college here, he will be able to see through the general programs the many aspects of construction. In this way we can influence the young minds that are so eager to learn.

We are a union company and believe it or not, we are presently at a state that no one in our labour force can be promoted to foreman. This tells me two things. Firstly, the unions are not providing proper training and secondly, no new blood is joining the workforce. This is not acceptable. R.W. Tomlinson can carry out training and we do, but, we can only supply the basics. Isn't it better that an individual be given all the information in a controlled environment and then get job specific training on a construction site. Present trends in construction bring people straight into construction. No wonder 23% of all injuries are new employees under 25 years of age. Lets train them not maim them.

Why is Algonquin the spot? In Ottawa, it is the only real sizeable college. It has a good name and the time is right.

If we wait and don't carry out our responsibility to our young people, then we are negligent. It may cost money, but it will cost a lot more money if we don't have the right people to construct things in the future. That is where we are headed now. Don't let it happen.

Thank you,



L.W. Hendriks P. Eng.
Executive Vice President