

RACE TO THE BOTTOM

Union vs. Non-union Construction is a No Brainer

The unionized construction industry has always been a path to the middle class. Generations of workers have been able to make a decent wage, earn benefits and work on safe, professional job sites as they built our communities. The work force was historically dominated by white males, but that dynamic has shifted. In recent years, the union construction workforce has seen a shift, minority and its diversity is growing with the industry's investment in workforce development, recruitment and apprenticeship opportunities.

From a worker's perspective, the discussion of union vs non-union construction is a no brainer. Workers who lack representation from a collective bargaining unit are forced to work under more dangerous conditions and for lower wages. The philosophy of non-union jobs is a race to the bottom.

~ Empire Report – Lou Coletti, President & CEO Building Trades Employers Association, New York City

Looking for a Government Commitment

Core to the values shared by the stakeholders of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario (PBCTCO) and the Construction Employers Coordinating Council of Ontario (CECCO) are the rights and safety of Ontario's construction workers. Shared goals include protecting construction workers' collective voice in the workplace, helping to ensure that workers are well-trained to meet industry needs, and promoting healthy and safe working conditions with decent wages, pensions and benefits while maintaining the profitability and competitiveness of the construction sector.

Such goals safeguard Ontario's middle class, providing an example for other jurisdictions to follow. Moreover, the effective partnerships that have been established between building trades unions and signatory contractors help achieve and sustain public and private infrastructure needs that are critically important to the residents of Ontario and to the successful functioning of the economy.

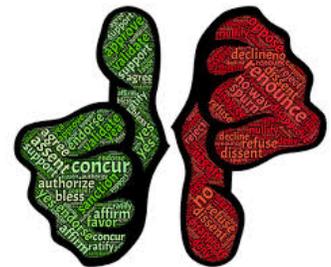
PBCTCO and CECCO are jointly committed to the highest level of trades qualification and certification in Ontario's construction industry, driven by apprenticeship, training, health and safety.

ICI Construction Negotiations 2022

This ICI bargaining round is an anomaly when one considers the bargaining history. Over the past 20 years, of the 25 individual construction trades involved in ICI construction there have been only ten trade work stoppages. This is a very small number when compared to other bargaining sectors.

What is happening with the ICI construction negotiations this round? Certainly, the rising cost of living and interest rates are contributing to the unrest. But is it more than that? Tentative agreements have been reached by the appointed labour and management groups, only to see the union's membership reject the recommended settlements at their ratification meetings. Quite possibly there has been a change in the membership demographics that management and labour failed to recognize, and perhaps the bar for expectations may have been raised too high.

We will come to resolution and move forward jointly for the betterment of the industry.



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