AORS
PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

August 20, 2026

The Honourable David Piccini
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

Re: Promoting Skilled Trades Careers in Ontario's Municipal Public Works Sector

Dear Minister Piccini:

As we prepare for another school year and look forward to a strong lineup of Level Up career fairs taking place across the province, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) remains committed to promoting the exciting and rewarding career opportunities available in the skilled trades within Ontario's municipalities.

In May 2026, Skills Ontario highlighted the top five skilled trades in demand for 2026, with road construction identified among those in-demand trades. This recognition reinforces what we are hearing directly from municipalities across Ontario: there is a growing need for skilled workers to build, operate and maintain the infrastructure that our communities rely on every day.

With members representing municipal public works professionals in more than 360 municipalities across Ontario, AORS sees firsthand the challenges municipalities are facing in recruiting and retaining skilled workers. Roads, bridges, water systems, storm infrastructure and other municipal assets require a highly skilled workforce, yet many municipalities are competing for the same talent as other sectors.

We believe there is an incredible opportunity to showcase municipal public works as a career pathway for young people entering the workforce. These careers offer meaningful, stable employment while providing individuals with the opportunity to work directly in their communities and make a tangible difference in the quality of life of residents.

AORS is proud to participate in Level Up career fairs in partnership with our local road supervisors associations, providing an opportunity to introduce students and young people to the wide range of careers available in municipal public works. From heavy equipment operation and road construction to mechanics, fleet operations, infrastructure maintenance and supervisory roles, municipal public works offers diverse career opportunities that are often not as well known to students considering their future.

As Ontario continues to invest in infrastructure and address the skilled labour shortage, we believe that promoting careers in the municipal public sector needs to be part of the conversation. AORS would welcome the opportunity to work with the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to help raise awareness of these careers and connect young people with the municipalities and training opportunities that can help launch rewarding careers.

We look forward to continuing our participation in Level Up and exploring opportunities to work collaboratively with the Ministry to promote public-sector skilled trades careers across Ontario.

Thank you for your continued leadership in promoting skilled trades and career opportunities for Ontario's young people. AORS would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to ensure the next generation understands the important and rewarding careers available in municipal public works.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Rife
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Supervisor, Township of North Dumfries

Kelly Elliott
Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via email):

Premier Doug Ford, Province of Ontario

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing

Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation

Honourable Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure

Ian Howcroft, CEO, Skills Ontario

Candice White, CEO & Registrar, Skilled Trades Ontario