

The Honorable Christy Clark, Premier
Province of BC
Box 9041
Station PROV GOV
Victoria, BC

August 12 2013

I am writing to you in regards to the BC Safety Authorities (BCSA) recent action to recognize restricted Electrical Work Practitioner certificates issued by the Applied Science Technologist's & Technicians of BC.(ASTTBC)

As a graduate of an Electronic Technician program, then later completing an apprenticeship as a Red Seal Journeyman Electrician. I can tell you from experience that Technician and the Technologists do not have the safety training required to protect themselves or the public from the dangers associated with electricity.

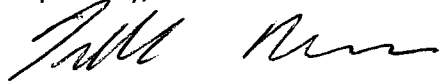
I am lucky to be able to write this letter today. When I was taken on as a first year apprentice it was assumed that I understood the dangers of electricity because of my Technician background. I was assigned a small job to install a plug in an existing circuit. During the course of this job I became locked on to a power source in a ceiling space and could not move. It was only by luck that an air conditioner on the same circuit started up causing the circuit to trip releasing me to come tumbling down through the T- bar ceiling. I learned a valuable lesson that day. The Journeyman that is training me can save my life and I should ask questions.

Now 25 years later I can share my experiences with up and coming apprentices and help train them to work safely in this sometimes unpredictable Trade. Without requiring an electrical worker to be trained on the job in real life situations where they can be shown the tricks, dangers, and pitfalls; this Province will be taking a huge step backwards in the safety of both workers and the general public. The BC Electrical Apprenticeship Program has proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Canadian Red Seal Program is amongst the best in the world.

The ASTTBC is not a training authority in BC and has no way of knowing if these Electrical Work Practitioners have sufficient training to make them safe to perform this work. These are skills that are learned over time working with a Trained Professional. We have the BC Training Authority that should be the only institute allowed to issue credentials for regulated work in BC. The checks and balances provided in this program ensures a good balance of Technical and Field training to ensure that Electrical Workers in BC can protect themselves and the public.

I believe the BCSA is overstepping its mandate by recognizing a certificate that is presently the mandate of the BC Training Authority and the Red Seal Program. If Technicians and Technologist's would like to move into the Electrical Field of work, have them do as I did and get the proper training. It could just save some lives.

Respectfully,



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Honourable Shirley Bond , Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour
Rick May, President, Electrical Inspectors Association of BC
Catherine Roome, President and CEO, BCSA
Kevin Evans, CEO, Industry Training Authority.