



May 11, 2015

The Honorable Gary Goodyear
Minister of State (Federal Economic Development
Agency for Southern Ontario)
Ottawa, Ontario
e-mail: gary.goodyear@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister:

The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries strongly supports the development of “CTMA Training & Development Centres” that could be a first major step in improving how we provide training for manufacturing skills that are vital for the success of the many industrial sectors in Canada and abroad.

The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries is an association of 180 leading Canadian suppliers to the nuclear industry in Canada and the international marketplace. OCI member companies collectively employ more than 12,000 highly skilled and specialized people who manufacture major equipment and components and provide engineering services and support for CANDU and other nuclear power plants in Canada and around the world.

I believe that we need to change the way that we deliver specialty trades training in order to attract youth into the high technology based manufacturing industry. I believe that we can close the “skilled trade’s gap” by enabling young men and women to work at real full time jobs and to acquire on the job training on today’s advanced machinery.

There are a significant number of skilled workers within the machine tool, die mould, aerospace, and nuclear industries that are approaching retirement age. We therefore urgently need to transfer their skills quickly and efficiently to a new generation of trainees or apprentices.

Superior training and skills development is a key factor in keeping Canadian companies competitive in today’s global marketplace. I recently led a 15 company Nuclear Trade Mission to South Korea where we could observe first-hand how skilled the South Korea labor force has become in the 30 years since Canada supplied four CANDU nuclear plants to that country. Skills training is a key factor in keeping Canadian companies competitive in today’s global marketplace.

Once a successful CTMA Training & Development Centre is established this training centre model could then be repeated in other areas of the province, perhaps in Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, Cambridge, Durham, Peterborough the GTA and others.

Careers in the nuclear industry are well-paid full-time positions that add value to our economy. I therefore encourage you to support the proposal put forward by the Canadian Tooling Manufacturing Association for the Fed Dev Program to provide annual funding for a number of “CTMA Training & Development Centres” at optimal locations across Ontario.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Oberth
President

Cc Rob Cattle CTMA

