

2026 ONTARIO POLICY PRIORITIES

ADDRESSING THE SKILLED LABOUR SHORTAGE

The equipment industry in Ontario is facing a shortage of skilled workers, particularly service technicians. The labour shortage limits the ability of AED members to service customers, hindering growth, delaying the completion of new major infrastructure projects, and jeopardizing the ability of Ontario farmers to cultivate and harvest their land efficiently. While the provincial government has made targeted investments in apprenticeships, more must be done to encourage all Ontarians to consider careers in the skilled trades. The government must also pursue policies to ensure better collaboration between post-secondary institutions and employers to incentivize individuals to enter the skilled trades. Lastly, the Ontario government must do more to encourage immigration by skilled trade workers to enter Ontario to fill current job vacancies.

PROMOTING THE VALUE OF AED MEMBERS FOR NEW MAJOR PROJECTS ACROSS ONTARIO

AED has and will continue to always promote the value and use of our members as part of government procurement policy. The Government of Ontario's new Buy Ontario Act, mandates that priority for goods and services for all public sector organizations be given first to Ontario and then Canadian suppliers. AED will constantly advocate that all of our members with locations in Ontario be considered eligible and included as "Ontario suppliers" for any and all potential government service contracts. AED members provide expertise and high-quality service to every project they take on across several industries while employing Ontario workers and supporting the provincial economy. That is why we will always make it clear that our members must be included in considerations for any potential public sector contracts.

OPPOSE RIGHT TO REPAIR PROPOSALS

AED opposes Bill 91. The legislation would mandate access to critical emissions and safety systems on tractors and machinery, threatening safety and the environment. For the equipment industry, Bill 91 is completely unnecessary. Dealers and manufacturers already support self-repair and provide access to diagnostic tools, repair information, and parts. Bill 91 is an unprecedented intrusion in the equipment marketplace, threatening the viability of dealerships and well-paying careers in the industry.

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