



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

December 20, 2006

Mr. Kim Richardson
KRTS Transportation Specialists Inc.
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The Honourable Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.

Haldimand—Norfolk

Dear Mr. Richardson,

Congratulations to all of the participants of today's roundtable discussing the trucking industry as a career path. It truly is an exciting time for the industry in Canada.

Within the first 100 days of taking office, the Conservative government has invested more than \$500 million into two new and bold initiatives which will benefit more than 100,000 apprentices over the next two years. This investment will help address the growing shortage in the skilled trades. We're also proud that some 700,000 tradesmen and women across the country will be able to save on the cost of work-related tools through our new \$500 tool tax deduction.

The Government of Canada renewed its support to apprenticeships and skilled trades at the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF). The board meeting brings together key stakeholders and partners from all segments of Canada's apprenticeship community.

There have been many new and exciting initiatives made through the Red Seal Program across Canada. For example, we've introduced an Apprenticeship Incentive Grant to provide apprentices with \$1,000 for each of their first two years in a Red Seal apprenticeship program. This incentive, which becomes effective on January 1, 2007, will help first and second-year apprentices with the cost of tuition, travel and new tools.

I had the great pleasure of meeting a number of people from the transportation industry and I am impressed by the initiative taken by the apprenticeship industry committee for commercial drivers in the Province of Ontario. Our Government is truly committed to all trades. I recognize the great importance that the trucking industry has on the Canadian economy, and look forward to future meetings to hear your ideas and incentives for the future of this valuable industry.

Sincerely,

Hon. Diane Finley, P.C., M.P.
Haldimand-Norfolk
Minister of Human Resources
And Social Development

House of Commons

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