



Jason Amesbury, Business Manager

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To: All UA Local 516 Contractors and Members

Every so often, it is necessary to provide clarification on relationships and responsibilities between parties that conduct business together. This letter is to provide such clarification for our contractors and our members in regards to JARTS, the UA Canada Canadian Training Fund, and the JATF.

JARTS, as a private business, provides training to apprentices and journeymen across our industry regardless of union or non-union affiliation. **The cost of each Apprenticeship course is shared by the individual apprentice and the Industry Training Authority (ITA).** UA Local 516 sends its apprentices to be trained and educated at JARTS, and will continue to do so because JARTS provides the best **Apprenticeship training** in the industry. JARTS also offers Pre-Apprenticeship and Pre-Employment courses to individuals who are wishing to enter our industry. **These courses are solely paid for by the individual themselves.** Both courses provide an advantage to employers by providing entry-level persons with basic skills and knowledge prior to employment.

UA Canada has funds specifically set aside for grants to provide training for its membership through the Canadian Training Fund. Typically, the funds flow to a JATC (Journeyman and Apprentice Training Committee) Trust Fund, which then pays the training provider upon service. Previous management of UA Local 516 unilaterally abolished the JATC years ago. When the JATC ceased operating, the essential element of accountability which a Trust Fund provides was eliminated. As a result, our eligibility for the aforementioned grants was forgone and our Local became limited in regards to opportunities for new training initiatives and new technologies that could have benefited our members had we retained the JATC. UA Canada or a UA Local cannot disperse training funds for members without the protection of a Trust Fund. Furthermore, there arises a Canada Revenue Agency tax liability for the local union where there is no protection for the monies unless there is a joint training fund with Employer and Union representatives with a trust fund under the Perpetuity Act of BC.

The JATF (Journeyman and Apprentice Training Fund) was created earlier this year to re-establish the protection and accountability of a Training Trust Fund. Eligibility to receive grants from the Canadian Training Fund was restored. Union contractors contribute on behalf of members to the JATF to cover eligible costs directly related to the extra-curricular, ongoing education of UA Local 516 Apprentices and Journeymen. Local 516 and the JATF are responsible for the management of the funds. Although requested multiple times, zero accountability has been offered by JARTS as to the past use of the funds provided for the training of UA Local 516 members. As a result of this clear lack of transparency, alternative vehicles for **extra-curricular, union member only training** are currently being considered.

UA Local 516 has always supported and will continue to support all programs that help to strengthen and foster our industry. We will continue to work to ensure the existing successful programs continue well into the future.

Any and all enquiries regarding training eligibility and reimbursement should be directed to training@ua516.org