



PKHBA

Peterborough & The Kawarthas
Home Builders Association

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13 May 2024

Impacts of Fleming College's Program Suspension on the Building Industry in Peterborough & Kawartha Lakes

Peterborough & the Kawarthas Home Builders Association (PKHBA) has deep concern regarding the recent announcement of the suspension of many of the programs at Fleming College, including the Heavy Equipment Techniques and other trade programs. As a stakeholder invested in the growth of our community and the education of our youth, we urge Fleming to reconsider this decision and reinstate the Heavy Equipment Techniques program.

Fleming College's Mission states they are "to empower our students with the innovative education, research and real-world experiences they need to build...better communities" from the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan.¹ PKHBA Members are also building our communities. Collaboration between educational institutions and local businesses is essential for our community to thrive. Over half of the programs being suspended support the residential construction industry. PKHBA is appalled and concerned about this decision due to the repercussions of losing these programs. This decision will affect our community in many ways: teachers lose their jobs; students go further away to get their education and may not settle back

¹ <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2020-2025-strategic-mandate-agreement-sir-sandford-fleming-college-applied-arts-and-technology>

in the Kawarthas; the industry must attract talent from outside our area; and our municipalities lose the economic benefits of a thriving college.

The Kawarthas is one of the fastest growing regions in Ontario. The City of Kawartha Lakes has over 18,000 new units in the planning process to be built over the next decade;² the City of Peterborough has over 6,000 units and similar plans are upcoming for the County of Peterborough.³

All of these units, which number in the thousands, will need heavy equipment operators to move soils for both greenfield and infill developments in our community. We need to work together to build our community for the future. The impacts of growth multiply, bringing more people and more opportunities to our community.⁴ The Kawarthas offer an amazing live-work-play lifestyle. We need to work together to continue to build complete communities in The Kawarthas. Canceling these programs is disregarding our partnership and opportunities for the future growth of our communities

The Heavy Equipment Techniques program at Fleming College has been instrumental in launching countless graduates into successful careers within the field. Notably, it has served as a vital pathway for students from Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board (PVNC), Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB), and Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) to gain the necessary skills and knowledge for employment in the heavy equipment industry.

The collaboration between Fleming College and its team of dedicated instructors and industry partners has been exemplary. Through their expertise and guidance, students have received a high-quality education that has prepared them for the demands of the workforce. The program's reputation for excellence has attracted promising individuals, as evidenced by the strong interest in the upcoming intake for January 2025.

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<https://www.kawarthalakes.ca/Modules/News/en/alertsandpublicnotices?CategoryNames=Public+Notices&datepicker-month-select=4&datepicker-year-select=2024&datepicker-month-select=4&datepicker-year-select=2024&TagWhiteList=>

³ <https://www.peterborough.ca/en/doing-business/current-development-applications.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.pkhba.com/article/benefits-of-growth>

Suspending the Heavy Equipment Techniques program not only deprives current and prospective students of valuable educational opportunities but also creates a significant inconvenience for those who now must travel long distances to access similar training. Given the pressing need for skilled workers in this specialty, the discontinuation of the program is both surprising and concerning.

The impact of reinstating the Heavy Equipment Techniques program extends beyond the walls of Fleming College—it is an investment in the future workforce of our region and an affirmation of our commitment to providing accessible, high-quality education. PKHBA is hopeful that you will take action to preserve this invaluable program for the benefit of our students and our community.

Sincerely,

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MPP Laurie Scott, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock

MPP Dave Smith, Peterborough Kawartha

The Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of College and Universities

About Peterborough & the Kawarthas Home Builders Association

Peterborough & the Kawarthas Home Builders Association (PKHBA) represents over 115 member companies consisting of builders, renovators, tradespeople, and industry professionals. PKHBA's mission is to associate the residential construction industry to create a collaborative, supportive forum to facilitate the development of sustainable businesses for our members, and exchange experiences, information and best practices. Together we are building communities in the Peterborough Region and City of Kawartha Lakes.

Appendix

Fleming Programs that support residential construction in The Kawarthas

1. Conservation and Environmental Law Enforcement (NRL)
2. Ecological Restoration (ERJ)
3. Ecosystem Management Technology (EMX, EPX, EPD, EMD)
4. Electrical Power Generation (EPG)
5. Environmental Technician (ETN)
6. Environmental Technology (ETY)
7. Environmental Visual Communication (EVC)
8. GAS Environmental & Natural Resource Studies (GSN)
9. GIS Applications (GIA) & GIS Applications Online (GAO)
10. GIS Cartographic (GC)
11. Health, Safety and Environmental Compliance (HSE)
12. Heavy Equipment Techniques (MPH)
13. Supply Chain (SCL)
14. Urban Forestry (UF)
15. Urban Forestry Technician (UFT)
16. Waste Resource Management (SWM)