



For Immediate Release
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Skilled Labour Shortage Remains a Concern for Saskatchewan Contractors

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan - Merit Contractors of Saskatchewan today released the results of a membership survey indicating that 66% of those who responded believe the shortage of skilled labour in Saskatchewan is still a significant issue for their businesses.

When asked in a recent survey, "What is the current state of our province's skilled labour shortage?" 13% of Merit Saskatchewan contractors felt the shortage was still as bad as ever and 53% said that although there had been some improvement, they are still challenged to find skilled workers.

Merit Contractors' Executive Director Karen Low said the results are an important economic indicator.

"This tells us that despite a lot of talk and commentary of economic slowdown, our industry is still busy, our members still have work to do and they continue to have difficulty finding skilled employees to fill available jobs.

This is an issue the provincial government should not lose sight of or think has lessened in importance," Low said.

38% of respondents reported that it is still hard to find experienced managers but easier to fill apprentice or labourer jobs while only 2% said they have no problem finding skilled people to fill jobs.

Low said their association recognizes the importance of their industry's role in helping to train and attract people to work in their industry.

"We offer education bursaries for trades people working for our contractors and training programs for our members and their staff," Low said.

"But we also need to work together with the provincial and local governments to support economic development initiatives that will continue to attract skilled labour to our province and education programs that encourage people to choose to work in the construction trades."

Merit Contractors Association represents the open shop construction sector, consisting of 80% of all construction companies in Saskatchewan.

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