

6-71 Bank Street

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

K1P 5N2

Toll free: 1-888-757-1119

abacusdata.ca

Let's Build Canada Member Survey Results

Methodology

The following survey was conducted by Abacus Data on behalf of Let's Build Canada. The survey was conducted from August 12th to 28th 2021 with a sample of n=867 members of Let's Build Canada's affiliate unions, which represents approximately 200,000 individuals in the skilled trades.

Individuals were invited to complete the online survey via email invite from Abacus Data or their affiliate union.

In total, 1,210 members who were invited to complete the survey entered the survey. We are unable to determine how many were initially invited due to the mixed recruitment methodology. Of the 1,210 who started the survey, 867 or 71.6% completed it, 317 and 343 or 28.3% partially completed the survey. The survey was live from August 12th at 9am EST to August 28th at 11:59pm EST.

Only respondents who had completed the full set of questions were used in the analysis of data, all partial responses were removed in the data analysis. The data were not weighted.

Let's Build Canada: 12-111 Fourth Avenue, Suite 272, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2S 3P5
Abacus Data: 71 Bank St #6, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5N2

Topline Results

1. We want to know about some challenges you may be experiencing when it comes to finding work. Thinking about the last 5 years, have you encountered any of the following challenges?

a) Having to travel to another region of the province or country to find work you are eligible for

Yes, frequently	38%
Yes, sometimes	27%
No, not that often	13%
No, not at all	22%

b) Having to incur travel costs when traveling for work

Yes, frequently	40%
Yes, sometimes	28%
No, not that often	15%
No, not at all	17%

c) A lack of work opportunities near where you live

Yes, frequently	44%
Yes, sometimes	28%
No, not that often	14%
No, not at all	13%

d) A declining number of job opportunities in the sector that you usually work

Yes, frequently	42%
Yes, sometimes	30%
No, not that often	15%
No, not at all	13%

e) A greater number of opportunities requiring you to retrain or reskill, such as a shift to renewable energy projects/practices

Yes, frequently	12%
Yes, sometimes	23%
No, not that often	35%
No, not at all	29%

f) A lack of quality (favourable shifts, overtime opportunity) work opportunities near where you live

Yes, frequently	42%
Yes, sometimes	29%
No, not that often	17%
No, not at all	12%

2. In the last 5 years, have you ever taken a job that was...

a) Within your area (less than 80 km from where you live)

Yes	68%
No	32%

b) Nearby (80 km to 150km to where you live)

Yes	60%
No	40%

c) In another region of your province/territory (over 150 km away)

Yes	65%
No	35%

d) In another province/territory		
Yes		37%
No		63%
e) In other country		
Yes		5%
No		95%
3. In the last 5 years, have you had to pay out-of-pocket for any of the following expenses when working away from home (more than 80km away)? Please select all that apply:		
Gas		63%
Meals, food and beverages (non-alcoholic)		53%
Accommodations (hotels, short term apartment stays)		32%
Transportation tickets (flights, train tickets, etc.)		26%
Rentals or bus fare		11%
None of the above		30%
4. In a typical year, how much do you think you spend out-of-pocket for travel related expenses for work? This includes travel expenses you have to cover when working on a project that is more than 80km from where you live.		
Average		\$2,317
5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?		
a) It is very common for me to have to travel for work .		
Strongly agree		50%
Somewhat agree		27%
Somewhat disagree		12%
Strongly disagree		11%
b) It is very common for me to have to travel to find work .		
Strongly agree		40%
Somewhat agree		27%
Somewhat disagree		16%
Strongly disagree		17%

c) There aren't always work opportunities where I live, work shortages are common.

Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	31%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	11%

d) I've seen job opportunities I am qualified for but haven't applied to because of the costs I will have to pay for travel, accommodation, etc. if I take on the job.

Strongly agree	25%
Somewhat agree	28%
Somewhat disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	27%

e) I've declined work opportunities because of the costs I will have to pay for travel, accommodation, etc. if I take on the job.

Strongly agree	23%
Somewhat agree	29%
Somewhat disagree	18%
Strongly disagree	30%

6. One possible solution for helping workers is to allow them to deduct costs associated with work travel. This deduction is already available to individuals like salespeople and would allow you to claim any out-of-pocket travel expenses you have when travelling for work like hotels, flights and food. Based on this description, would allowing you to claim work related travel costs....

a) Help you to seek out work with travel costs that you wouldn't have otherwise considered.

Yes, definitely	49%
Yes, somewhat	29%
No, not really	9%
No, not at all	4%
Not applicable	5%
Unsure	4%

b) Help you to seek out work that would require you to travel to places with labour shortages.

Yes, definitely	49%
Yes, somewhat	28%
No, not really	10%
No, not at all	3%
Not applicable	6%
Unsure	4%

c) Give you access to a greater number of job opportunities.

Yes, definitely	46%
Yes, somewhat	29%
No, not really	13%
No, not at all	3%
Not applicable	5%
Unsure	4%

7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) I'm concerned about the costs of retraining, new certifications etc. as jobs shift towards green economy projects (renewable sector, green infrastructure, retrofitting, etc.).

Strongly agree	39%
Somewhat agree	32%
Somewhat disagree	19%
Strongly disagree	10%

b) I've seen a growing number of opportunities for me in the renewable sector/green infrastructure/retrofitting that require the skills I already have.

Strongly agree	13%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	26%
Strongly disagree	27%

c) I've seen opportunities for me in the renewable sector/green infrastructure/retrofitting, that require me to obtain new skills or upskill from my current job.

Strongly agree	12%
Somewhat agree	32%
Somewhat disagree	32%
Strongly disagree	24%

d) I'm concerned that jobs in the renewable/green sector will not pay as well.

Strongly agree	42%
Somewhat agree	34%
Somewhat disagree	17%
Strongly disagree	8%

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

a) The EI program needs reform

Strongly agree	49%
Somewhat agree	38%
Somewhat disagree	11%
Strongly disagree	2%

b) The EI program should have greater flexibility (e.g., Removing age limits, being able to receive EI benefits while retraining/upskilling)

Strongly agree	63%
Somewhat agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	2%

c) EI payments are too slow

Strongly agree	34%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	23%
Strongly disagree	7%

d) The federal government should have a dedicated skilled trades representative/advisor on the EI (working group, board, committee)

Strongly agree	65%
Somewhat agree	28%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	3%

e) The clawback on separation monies should be permanently removed

Strongly agree	49%
Somewhat agree	37%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	4%

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- a) I want to see more Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs)/Workforce Development Agreements (WDAs), which increases opportunities for apprentices and underrepresented groups, on federal infrastructure projects.

Strongly agree	49%
Somewhat agree	35%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	6%

- b) I want to see more government financial supports for apprenticeships.

Strongly agree	61%
Somewhat agree	28%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	2%

- c) I want to see more government support for oil and gas sector workers as Canada moves to a greener economy.

Strongly agree	70%
Somewhat agree	21%
Somewhat disagree	5%
Strongly disagree	3%

- d) I want to see more government investment in green energy like small modular reactors, carbon capture, and industrial retrofitting to put more Canadians to work.

Strongly agree	55%
Somewhat agree	29%
Somewhat disagree	7%
Strongly disagree	8%