



# Minutes

## Agricultural Equipment Technician Trade Board Meeting

July 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.  
Fanshawe College, Motive Power Division  
1764 Oxford Street East, Room Z1029  
London, ON, N5V 2Z5

### Trade Board Members in Attendance

Robert Brown, Chair  
Bryan Long, Vice Chair  
Harvey Fraser  
Todd Rudavsky  
Brett Outram

### Resource Persons/Guests in Attendance

Anson Bailey, Fanshawe College  
Christie Little, Canada East Equipment Dealer's Association (CEEDA)

### Staff in Attendance

Alice Power, Program Coordinator<sup>1</sup>

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#### 1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed Trade Board members and guests. B. Outram was welcomed as a new member of the Agricultural Equipment Technician (AET) Trade Board. It was noted that B. Long would be replacing R. Brown as the Chair at the next meeting.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

An item, *Vice-Chair Election*, was added to the Agenda after Industry Update. **ON A MOTION MADE BY H. Fraser, SECONDED BY B. Outram AND CARRIED**, the agenda was approved as amended.

#### 3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### 4. Previous Minutes

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY B. Long, SECONDED by H. Fraser AND CARRIED**, the minutes of the Trade Board's March 25, 2015 meeting were approved as tabled.

## **5. Fact Sheet Revision**

An overview of the new process for revising and formatting Trade Fact Sheets was explained. It was noted that the description of the trade is missing a bullet point on “precision agricultural systems”. The Program Coordinator indicated that she would make the necessary revision to the Fact Sheet.

## **6. Tony Dean Review**

The Program Coordinator provided a summary of Tony Dean’s Review mandate. B. Long reported that he participated as a guest at the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Trade Board meeting in April in consultation with Tony Dean. The Trade Board discussed the report that B. Long submitted to Tony Dean that highlighted unsafe work practices in the industry.

As part of the discussion, the Trade Board outlined a number of reasons to suggest that the AET trade should be classified as a compulsory trade. The Trade Board emphasized reasons such as, safety and credibility, offering that it would lead to a fair playing field for licensed technicians in the industry as the trade would be enforced. It was brought to the attention of the Trade Board that agricultural equipment dealers, however, may be affected negatively due to the cost of hiring licensed technicians if the trade were to become compulsory.

The Trade Board recognized that to move this recommendation forward, there needs to be a strong rationale for the change, backed up with research and support from the sector. It was noted that the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Trade Board is also discussing the need to become a compulsory trade and is willing to work with the AET to conduct the necessary research.

C. Little indicated she would like to raise the discussion on the unsafe work practices cited in B. Long’s report at the next Canada East Equipment Dealer’s Association (CEEDA) meeting. The Trade Board supported this suggestion.

B. Long was thanked for his time participating in the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician meeting, his report on the consultation, and submission to Tony Dean.

## **7. College of Trades Update**

### **7.1 Registrar’s Report**

Highlights from the Registrar’s Report Q1-2015 and the 2014 Annual Report were provided to the Trade Board.

### **7.2 Membership**

It was reported that as of March 31, 2015, there were 235,290 active members in the College: 61,830 Apprentices, 3,333 Journeyperson Candidates, 92 Tradespersons, 169,987 Journeypersons and 48 Employers/Sponsors.

The Certificate of Qualification has been reformatted to provide a landscape view. For applicable trades, the C of Q will have a Red Seal endorsement sticker affixed to it. There will also be new wallet cards issued which will include measures to impede fraud.

The College is continuing to research third party offers for members through the Membership Affinity Program. Meeting participants reiterated that a discount on tools would be the most tangible benefit for members. It was noted, however, that some members have experienced difficulty attempting to obtain discounts on tools from manufacturers.

### **7.3 Compliance & Enforcement Update**

A brief update on the Compliance and Enforcement activities was presented. It was reported that 10 new Enforcement Officers were hired in the first quarter. This will provide more College presence throughout the province and will help to address the increase in complaints and incidents being reported. The majority of complaints have come from the Construction sector followed by Motive Power, Service and Industrial.

The Compliance and Enforcement group has been working with the Complaints Committee of the Board of Governors to develop a streamlined process for handling formal complaints about members of the College. In addition, for non-members of the College, as of March 31, 2015, 235 Part I tickets and Part II summonses have been issued under the Provincial Offences Act.

### **7.4 Communications & Marketing Update**

An update on Communications and Marketing activities was provided. The focus for Communication and Marketing in the first quarter has been to help members recognize the value of membership in the College and increase public awareness of the College.

It was reported that there has been a steady increase in web activity on the main College website from January to March 2015. The youth-focused website ([earnwhileyoulearn.ca](http://earnwhileyoulearn.ca)) had 8,283 visitors; of those visitors there were 3,854 who viewed the Spring issue of the Trades Today magazine, representing an increase of 67% from the number of views of the Fall issue. There is also an increased awareness of the Public Registry on the website with visits to the site up by 45% to 300,000 in the first quarter.

It was mentioned that the College is partnering with a music production company to produce a video that will focus on all the trades it takes to put on various music events and productions

The results of IPSOS Reid poll conducted in April 2015 for the College were presented. It was noted that the College's radio advertisement, "Hire with Confidence Through the Public Register", featuring findings of the recent IPSOS Reid poll, is currently airing on radio stations throughout the province.

### **7.5 Evaluation and Assessment Update**

It was reported that the new Trade Equivalency Assessment Guide (TEA) was posted to the College's website at the end of March. The guide will help individuals prepare their application package for assessment. The TEA Department is participating in a project to make provincial and territorial Foreign Qualification Recognition processes more consistent through the development of an optimal assessment model.

## **8. Divisional Board Update**

The Motive Power Divisional Board met on June 17, 2015. The minutes of that meeting will be forwarded to the Trade Board when available.

## **9. Program Update**

### **9.1 Program Membership Statistics**

The Program Coordinator provided College membership statistics for the AET trade for the period April 8, 2013 to June 30, 2015.

### **9.2 Apprenticeship Training Standard Log**

The new format for the AET Apprenticeship Training Standard log book was presented. The Trade Board agreed with the changes made to the introduction and the trainer sign-offs and remarked that the new size was more practical.

### **9.3 Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO)**

The College has been working with HEQCO to develop detailed information on the trades and the various pathways to certification. When completed, this information could potentially be housed on the College website.

### **9.4 Exam Counselling**

It was reported that in the short term, the College is discussing a partnership with Employment Ontario for their employees to provide examination counselling assistance to Apprentices and Journeyperson Candidates.

## **10. Red Seal**

### **10.1 Red Seal Endorsement (RSE)**

It was reported that the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship has announced that the official recognition of the “RSE” acronym can be used by Red Seal C of Q holders. This will be used like other professions and accredited groups’ use of an official acronym to confirm their certification and/or accreditation.

### **10.2 Harmonization**

A brief presentation of the Red Seal Harmonization project was provided. The Heavy Duty Equipment Technician program (HDET) is one of the trades that is part of the project. The initial result from an analysis of how the HDET program is structured across the country was presented to the Trade Board. It was observed that in most jurisdictions, the HDET program shared a common core curriculum, including Ontario, where AET for example, shares the first two levels of the in-school program with the HDET program.

It was also noted that while Ontario’s benchmark requirement for on-the-job skills are comparable with other provinces (7000 to 7200 hours on average), the requirement for the in-school hours (720 hours) is considerably less than many other jurisdictions. In four jurisdictions, the in-school requirement for HDET is 960 hours, for another two jurisdictions it is 930 hours, while in two other provinces the in-school requirements were significantly greater.

## **11. Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) Update**

### Fanshawe College

A. Bailey provided an update on the AET programs at Fanshawe College, as follows:

- 17 Farm Program and 16 John Deere Program apprentices graduated in the Spring
- 20 Level 1 John Deere apprentices are starting in September, with 5 on the waiting list
- 16, possibly 17 students, are currently in the Level 2 John Deere Program in September
- Starting Level 1 CVAE starting in November – anticipate this will be at capacity

It was noted that there has been a significant increase in call volume and email inquiries from parents of apprentices enrolled in the program, with approximately 7 to 8 times more calls and emails from parents.

The Trade Board discussed the lack of Colleges offering the in-school portion of the AET apprenticeship program in the Eastern part of the province. It was noted that there is an increase in apprentices coming to Fanshawe College from the Eastern region.

It was mentioned that other Colleges have shown little interest in running the AET program due to the cost of starting the program, the physical capacity that is required, and that there are a limited number of apprentices. It was noted that some apprentices are being sent to Loyalist or Centennial College to complete the Heavy Duty Equipment or Truck and Coach Program rather than the AET program.

**12. Industry Update**

The Trade Board discussed various issues and trends in the industry.

**13. Vice-Chair Election**

Todd Rudavsky was elected as Vice-Chair of the Trade Board.

**14. Next Scheduled Meeting and Location**

The next meeting is set for October 14, 2015 at Fanshawe College.

**15. Adjournment**

**ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY B. Long, SECONDED BY T. Rudavsky AND CARRIED,** the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.m.

“Rob Brown”

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Rob Brown, Chair

October 28, 2015

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Date

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i Recording Officer