



ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TRADES
ORDRE DES MÉTIERS DE L'ONTARIO

Minutes

Agricultural Equipment Technician Trade Board Meeting

March 25, 2015 at 9:00 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

Resource Persons/Guests in Attendance

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

Staff in Attendance

Alice Power, Program Coordinator¹

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m., welcomed Trade Board members and guests.

Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION MADE BY H. Fraser SECONDED BY B. Long AND CARRIED, the agenda was approved as presented.

2. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Previous Minutes

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY H. Fraser and SECONDED T. Rudavsky AND CARRIED, the minutes of the Trade Board's October 9, 2014 meeting were approved as tabled.

4. Fact Sheet Revision

The re-designed Fact Sheet for the trade of Agricultural Equipment Technician was distributed for review.

5. Common-Core Commercial Vehicle and Equipment Curriculum for level 1 and level 2

It was reported that an information note with the rationale for having a separate curriculum for Agricultural Equipment Technician (AET) and Heavy Duty Equipment Technician (separating these trades from the common-core Commercial Vehicle and Equipment Curriculum) for level 1 and level 2 was presented to the Heads of Apprenticeship (HAT) and accepted. This will be considered when the curriculum is up for revision.

6. College of Trades Update

7.1 Tony Dean Review

An overview of the terms of reference for the Tony Dean review was provided by the Program Coordinator. It was emphasized the review is to clarify and improve processes to review trade classifications, ratios, and scopes of practice; and how these are used to support skill overlaps, establishment of apprenticeship programs, review and amendment, as well as the emerging relationship between the College's enforcement activities and decisions of the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

It was noted that the deadline to provide a written submission to the consultation was March 13, 2015. In April and May, Mr. Dean will be conducting stakeholder consultations across the province and he continues to emphasize the importance of inclusivity and transparency in the consultation process.

7.2 Membership

As of the end of December 2015, there were 237,008 active members in the College; 64,020 apprentices, 2,915 Journey person Candidates, 90 Tradespersons, 169,936 Journey persons and 47 Employers/Sponsors.

The College continues to receive significant call and email volume. Approximately 60,000 calls and 5,500 emails were received in the fourth quarter. The Member Services department is continuing to focus on improving answer times, processing times and email response times. Work is also continuing on the Affinity Program to seek out more benefits for membership in the College. The Trade Board reiterated the need to have a strong Affinity Program to provide an incentive for voluntary trades to become members of the College and, since technicians invest a significant amount of money in their tools, it was suggested that a discount from a tool manufacturer or a large retailer that sells tools would be a good addition to the Affinity Program.

7.3 Compliance & Enforcement Update

An overview of the current College's compliance and enforcement activities was provided. During the period May 2013 to December 31 2014, it was reported that there have been 10,177 field visits conducted by Enforcement Officers; 448 complaints were received; and 342 Provincial Offences Act tickets were issued. It was reported that 2 new enforcement officers were hired in February 2015.

7.4 Communications & Marketing Update

An update on the Communications and Marketing activities was provided. A copy of the Spring edition of the Trades Today magazine was distributed to the Trade Board in which B. Long is featured in the article titled "Tradespersons in voluntary trades benefit from College Membership".

It was noted that the College is continuing its outreach efforts with a strong focus on connecting with youth, aboriginal peoples, new immigrants and women. The College participated in 71 stakeholder events from September to December 2014. Brochures about the College were created and translated into seven languages.

For the benefit of the guests, the youth website www.earnwhileyoulearn.ca and corresponding brochure, “The Apprenticeship Advantage”, were displayed. The website was promoted throughout the province using billboards, posters in shopping malls, subway platforms and in subway cars, as well as on the interior and exterior of buses.

A copy of West Jet’s recently published in-flight magazine article on the benefits to businesses of hiring an apprentice was distributed to the Board. It was noted, that the College had a 30-second on-demand video featured on Air Canada flights in December. The College also had articles in various trade publications and career magazines. All of these efforts are in support of the College’s diversity strategy.

A video was produced that features consumer advocate, Peter Silverman and the College’s Director of Compliance and Enforcement, Bob Onyschuk, speaking to the value of the College’s Public Register for anyone who is looking to hire a skilled tradesperson. The video is on YouTube and will be featured on a number of television programs in March, including HGTV and CHCH.

Certificates for business members have been created and are now being mailed to members to showcase their commitment to professionalism within the industry. Businesses are also being sent new College of Trade decals, “Hire with Confidence”, to further promote their membership. All members are also receiving stickers and decals when they renew their membership.

7.5 Academic Entry Requirements (AER)

It was reported that due to the Dean Review currently in progress, the College’s AER consultation has been delayed, but is still part of the College’s projects for 2015/2016. Transitional regulation is in place to preserve the AER status quo until the College is able to undertake a consultation and subsequently formulate an appropriate regulation.

7.6 Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer – Classification Review Update

The Trade Board was advised that on February 2, 2015, the new regulation O. Reg. 20/15 titled, Compulsory and Voluntary Trades, was officially published, providing legal notice of the change of the classification of Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer from voluntary to compulsory in February 2017. A phased two-year implementation approach has been adopted.

7.7 Evaluation and Assessment Update

The College’s Trade Equivalency Assessment (TEA) department has received more than 4,500 applications since its launch in April 2014, of which over 3,000 were processed in 2014 alone. The centralized processing of all TEA applications has led to a more consistent approach for reviewing and processing submissions. It is expected that there will be a significant increase in applications with respect to Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer (SFPI) as it moves towards becoming a compulsory trade in February 2017.

7. Divisional Board Update

The Motive Power Divisional Board met on March 2, 2015. The minutes of that meeting will be forwarded to the Trade Board when available.

8. Program Update

The Program Coordinator reported that 2012 National Occupational Analysis (NOA) for the trade will be up for a review in the latter part of the year. Ontario will assist in the Industry Review. The Program Coordinator asked the Trade Board to review the Task Profile on the current NOA and begin to identify possible changes.

It was reported that the Standards Department has been re-branding Training Standards and Curriculum Standards to reflect the new College format, revised and released 50 exemption exams, updated 18 Curriculum Standards and Training Standards, and addressed more than 200 inquiries from Trade Board and Divisional Boards in 2014.

A copy of the proposed logbook was circulated. The Trade Board provided comments and suggestions for formatting changes to the document. In general, the Trade Board was in favour of the new format for the logbook.

9. Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) Update

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

- John Deere Program level 3 is currently running with 14 students;
- AET apprenticeship level 1 training program ran from November to December 2014; and
- There are currently 17 students in the AET apprenticeship level 2 training program.

It was reported that the biggest complaint from apprentices that have written the Red Seal exam is the fact that they would be disqualified if they mark up the question booklet, yet they have been taught examination test strategies that include underlining key words and striking off incorrect responses to help the process of elimination. The Program Coordinator indicated that she would bring this issue forward at the College.

10. MTCU Update

A brief overview of the new re-appointment process was discussed. It was noted that current members of the Trade Board have been actively encouraging colleagues and contacts in the industry to apply for the two vacancies on the Trade Board.

11. Industry Update

C. Little provided a brief update on the recent activities of the Canada East Dealer's Association (CEEDA). The Trade Board discussed various issues and trends in the industry. It was mentioned that the low value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar has had a significant negative impact on the industry due to the substantial increase in the cost of purchasing US-manufactured products and hence farmers are putting off purchasing new equipment. Manufacturers that have Canadian subsidiaries have not been affected to the same extent by the currency situation.

12. Next Scheduled Meeting and Location

The next meetings were set for July 9, 2015 and October 14, 2015 at Fanshawe College.

13. Adjournment

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY B T. Rudavsky, SECONDED BY H. Fraser AND CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned.

“Robert Brown”

Robert Brown, Chair

July 9, 2015

Date

¹ Recording Officer