



ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TRADES
ORDRE DES MÉTIERS DE L'ONTARIO

Minutes

Agricultural Equipment Technician Trade Board Meeting

October 28, 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

Bryon Long, Chair
Todd Rudavsky, Vice Chair
Robert Brown
Harvey Fraser
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 Coordinator¹

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed Trade Board members and guests.

2. Approval of Agenda

The Chair requested that an item, "Update on Chair and Vice-Chair Training", be added to the Agenda under College 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 H. Fraser, SECONDED BY B. Long AND CARRIED, the minutes of the Trade Board's July 9, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

5. Fact Sheet Revision

The Program Coordinator indicated that new Trade Fact Sheets are available on the College website.

6. Tony Dean Review

The Reviewer's updates from July and August were discussed. It was noted that Mr. Dean is considering the potential for voluntary trades to select elements of their Scopes of Practices (SoPs) to be made compulsory, rather than the entire scope, or vice-versa (i.e. that compulsory elements could be made voluntary). This could be an alternative to the current "all or nothing" approach to SoPs in the classification review process. The Program Coordinator reported that the College is expecting the report from Tony Dean fairly soon.

The Chair advised that a letter was sent to CEEDA on behalf of the Trade Board that provided the Trade Board's rationale for the Agricultural Equipment Technician (AET) trade to become compulsory. C. Little provided CEEDA's Board of Directors' response to the letter.

The Trade Board noted that the tone of the letter was positive and significantly different from the reaction four years ago when this issue was discussed at CEEDA's annual meeting. The main concern expressed by CEEDA's Board of Directors was how the skill and experience of a technician without a Certificate of Qualification (CofQ) would be recognized. It was noted that this factor would be considered as part of the process and that the College has a TEA process (Trade Equivalency and Assessment). The Trade Board agreed to continue the discussion after considering Tony Dean's Report.

7. College of Trades Update

7.1 Registrar's Report

Highlights from the Registrar's Report Q3-2015 were provided to the Trade Board.

7.2 Membership

The Trade Board was briefed on the most recent membership numbers in the College. It was reported that there was a slight increase at the end of the third quarter of 2015 with a total of 230, 732 active members in the College. It was noted that many technicians are still questioning the value of being a member of the College.

7.3 Compliance & Enforcement Update

A brief update on Compliance and Enforcement activities was presented.

7.4 Communications & Marketing Update

The Program Coordinator distributed the College's new brochure, "Discover Ontario's Skilled Trades" to the Trade Board. An overview of Communication and Marketing's recent activities was presented. It was reported that there was a steady increase in web activity on the main College website, noting in particular the increase in readers of the Fall Trade's Today magazine. The new videos, "Tune in Trade Up" and "Veterans and the Skilled Trades" were also presented to the Trade Board.

7.5 Evaluation and Assessment Update

The Chair reported that he had recently applied for a Trade Equivalency Assessment for Heavy Duty Equipment Technician and explained the process to the Trade Board.

7.6 Pathways to Apprenticeship Project

The Program Coordinator provided an update on the partnership project between the College and the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO). The goal of the “Pathways to Apprenticeship” project is to develop an online and/or print resource for prospective Apprentices. It was noted that 16 trades have been identified for this project. Consultants have asked to meet with the respective Trade Boards to discuss Apprentice hiring practices, expectations regarding expected attitudes and behaviours, and the supports and success factors on the job.

7.7 Chair and Vice-Chair Training

The Chair provided an overview of the training and information provided at the September 23, 2015 Chair and Vice-Chair Training session.

8. Divisional Board Update

The Motive Power Divisional Board Minutes from June 17, 2015 were reviewed by the Trade Board.

9. Program Update

9.1 Program Membership Statistics

The Program Coordinator provided College membership statistics for the Agricultural Equipment Technician trade for the period April 8, 2013 to September 30, 2015.

9.2 Apprenticeship Training Standard Log

The new format for the Apprenticeship Training Standard Log book was presented to the Trade Board.

9.3 Exam Guide

The latest version of the Examination Preparation Guide was reviewed with the Trade Board.

9.4 Harmonization

It was noted that the Program Coordinator is meeting with an instructor A. Bailey of Fanshawe College after the Trade Board meeting to continue mapping the AET curriculum against the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician curriculum that is being harmonized across jurisdictions.

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

A. Bailey reported that Fanshawe College is currently running a level 1 John Deere program with 20 Apprentices, and 16 Apprentices in the level 2 program.

The level 1 apprenticeship program that commences on November 30, 2015 has 20 Apprentices enrolled, with 9 Apprentices currently on the wait list. The level 2 AET program commencing in January 2016 currently has 19 Apprentices who have enrolled and paid for the program.

The Trade Board had a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of having a core curriculum. They acknowledged that historically, this model was used due to limited numbers of AETs and as such, the program can be filled by Apprentices enrolled in 4 trades. This also provided greater accessibility for Apprentices for level 1 and 2 as more Training Delivery Agents (TDAs) offer the program throughout the province. Currently, Fanshawe College is the only TDA for AET.

Trade Board members believe that there are now large enough numbers of Apprentices to support a trade-specific program for all three levels of the program. While Apprentices on the waiting list

will acquire more on the job experience, some may also become discouraged at having to wait two or three years to start the program.

The challenge is that the TDA has a limited number of seats available in any given year. The Trade Board advocated that there needs to either be another TDA for AET or that more seats are made available at Fanshawe College.

It was suggested that CEEDA could determine the need and support of the industry in the Eastern region. Based on the results, CEEDA could advocate with local Colleges and MTCU for a TDA in that part of the province or to increase the seats purchased at Fanshawe College.

It noted that level 3 of the AET curriculum has very little theory on Agricultural Equipment. The expectation is that the Apprentice will learn this on the job. Although the curriculum for level 2 is scheduled to be revised in 2016, it was suggested that that will still not provide the additional time required to include all of the theory required. The AET curriculum needs to be revised starting from level 1 in order to incorporate the performance objectives that would be required.

11. Industry Update

The Trade Board discussed various issues and trends in the industry. It was reported that the industry is in a downward market. With the low Canadian dollar, the price of machinery has increased significantly while the revenue from many commodities such as beef has decreased leading to declining sales of farm machinery.

12. Next Scheduled Meeting and Location

The next meeting is set for March 31, 2016 at Fanshawe College.

13. Adjournment

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY H. Fraser, SECONDED BY R. Brown AND CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

“Bryan Long”

Bryan Long, Chair

April 27, 2016

Date

¹ Recording Officer