



Minutes

Arborist

Trade Board Meeting

January 15, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Infrastructure Health & Safety Association
5110 Creebank Road, Suite 400 Mississauga L4W 0A1
Meeting Room C

Trade Board Members in Attendance

John Bellehumeur, Chair
Tami Sadonoja
Peter Wynnyczuk
William Whatley

Not in Attendance

Keith Bessey
Randy Hartmier
Mark Graves

Resource Persons/Guests in Attendance

None

Staff in Attendance

Alice Power, Program Coordinator¹

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION MADE BY T. Sadonoja SECONDED by W. Whatley AND CARRIED, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

¹ Recording Officer.

4. Previous Minutes

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY W. Whatley SECONDED BY T.Sadonoja AND CARRIED, the minutes of the June 20, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.

5. Tree Health Care Technician

T. Sadonoja reported that the Tree Health Care Technician subcommittee met in August 2014 and further refined the concept for the program. The Trade Board discussed the content of potential training courses. It was determined that the next steps were to validate with industry the need for these employees and the training delivery method (apprenticeship, diploma or co-op diploma). The subcommittee is to develop a needs assessment survey and determine ways to conduct the survey.

The Program Coordinator advised that a new trade development process is being developed by College staff. She agreed to provide a sample of an environmental scan that could be used as a guide.

6. Level 2 Utility Arborist Program Update

It was noted that Hydro One and Sault College are the only training delivery agents (TDAs) that offer Level 2 Utility Arborist (UA) in-school training. Sault College is offering the program every other year. Students completing Fleming College's diploma program are challenging the exemption exams and then writing the Utility Arborist Certification of Qualification (CofQ) examination.

The Trade Board reiterated the need to have an additional Level 2 UA program available so that more employees/apprentices can get the certification. Independent employers need to have employees with a UA (CofQ) in order to bid on work contracted out by Utility companies and Municipalities. Without an additional training provider, it is challenging for independent contractors to get employees certified. It was reported that Fleming College would run a program if it was guaranteed a set number of students.

The Trade Board asked if the UA Trade Board was considering a classification change and provided its perspectives on this.

7. Fact Sheet Revision

The new template for the fact sheets for the trades of Arborist and Utility Arborist were presented to the Board. It was reported that the College's Communications and Marketing department has been asked to consider reformatting the fact sheets.

8. College of Trades Update

8.1 Strategic Plan

The College's strategic goals were presented to the Trade Board.

8.2 Review of College Processes

It was reported that on October 23, 2014, the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU) appointed Tony Dean to conduct a technical review of certain processes within the College. Mr. Dean is focusing on how decisions are made regarding scopes of practice and trade classification reviews. The College is supportive of this review and looks forward to working with Mr. Dean. A website has been set up to provide regular updates on the review's progress.

8.3 Membership

It was reported that as of October 31, 2014, there were 55,000 active apprentices. It was noted that there was a high loss rate of deemed apprentices, particularly in the voluntary trades and when the Registered Training Agreements that were older than 5 years.

8.4 Compliance and Enforcement Update

An overview of current College's compliance and enforcement activities was provided. During the period May 2013 to November 2014 there were 12,623 field visits conducted by enforcement officers; 153 complaints received; and 382 Provincial Offences Act tickets were issued and 26 Prosecutions are currently underway.

8.5 Communications & Marketing Update

An update on the College's communications and marketing initiatives was provided. The new website for youth: www.earnwhileyoulearn.ca and corresponding brochure: "The Apprenticeship Advantage" were introduced to the Board. It was also reported that the College launched a multi-faceted media campaign on September 29, 2014 to promote the site throughout Ontario. The College will also have articles in various trade publications and career magazines.

8.6 Academic Entry Requirements

It was reported that the public consultation on the academic entry requirements (AER) of each trade prescribed under the *Ontario College of Trades and Apprenticeship Act, 2009* has been postponed.

8.7 Trade Board Chair and Vice-Chair Training

The Program Coordinator distributed the information that was presented at the Chair and Vice-Chair training session held on September 11, 2014. The Trade Board discussed the various conflict of interest scenarios provided. It was noted that there will be additional training to support the Trade Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs in the future.

8.8 Financial Resource List for Apprentices and Employers

A copy of the list of financial incentives and grants for apprentices and employers was presented to the Board. It was noted that in its 2014 Budget, the Government of Ontario committed to undertaking a review of business tax expenditures. This includes the Apprenticeship Training Tax Credit (ATTC). It was suggested that information about incentives and subsidies that are available does not seem to be reaching apprentices, including limited awareness among apprentices about the subsidy for travel.

9. Divisional Board Update

The Service Divisional Board (SDB) met on November 14, 2014. The minutes of that meeting will be sent to the Trade Board when available. It was reported that the Trade Board's concern about municipalities not supporting apprenticeship was raised with the SDB. The Trade Board discussed the need for municipalities to recognize and support apprenticeship through sponsorship, job postings and putting CofQ requirements in job descriptions. It was suggested that there also needs to be support for apprenticeship by management and the unions in Municipalities for this to succeed.

It was questioned whether there was a mechanism to distribute information on the "Green" trade apprenticeship program (Arborist, Utility Arborist and Horticultural Technician) to the 441 municipalities, conservation authorities and school boards. The Program Coordinator will share this idea/request with College management and the SDB.

10. Program Update

The Program Coordinator provided available apprentice statistics for the period of April 2013 to November 30, 2014. The Board was also informed about the new format of the apprenticeship log books.

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

An update was not provided.

12. MTCU Update

The Program Coordinator provided an overview of some current MTCU apprenticeship initiatives. It was noted that the Apprenticeship Training Guide for Sponsors is being revised. The guide will include an overview of the apprenticeship process, registering and managing apprentices, completion of training, benefits to the sponsors, and role of the College, etc. An essential skills assessment for apprentices is also being considered.

It was reported that Ontario employers can apply for the [Canada-Ontario Job Grant](#) to invest in skills training for new and existing employees. The information is available on the MTCU website. The Job Grant will provide direct financial support to individual employers who wish to purchase training for their employees. The funding provides up to \$10,000 in government support per person for training costs, but requires employers to contribute one-third of the total costs.

13. Arborist Safe Work Practices (ASWP) Committee Update

It was reported that the ASWP Committee is discussing the need to revise the guidelines. Mike Greer is now Chair of the Committee. Certain Trade Board members expressed an interest in participating.

It was also noted that Landscape Ontario has traditionally run a safety council meeting twice a year that arborists and the Ministry of Labour attends. The Program Coordinator will contact Landscape Ontario to find out if and when a future meeting has been scheduled.

14. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

Brief updates were provided on the effect of the infestation of EAB in their areas and how their respective municipalities' are responding to the challenge. It was noted that trees that were treated (injected) have a longer life span; however, the tree needs to be injected annually. The areas of infection have increased significantly and yet there is no central regulating authority to combat the problem.

15. Ontario Urban Forestry Council (OUFC) Update

Students in Fleming College's Environmental Management program are engaged in a project to use technology to connect regional groups interested in tree preservation. The objective of the project is to set up an interactive website that identifies tree advocates/interest groups within various geographical areas within the province and connects them. The students will be updating the existing municipal and regional/county by-laws related to tree protection in Ontario. Results are to be posted on a map later this year.

16. Other Business

It was reported that Fall Arrest training is now mandatory for all employees working at heights and need to have this completed by April 2017. If an employee has taken working at heights training within the past two years, the individual has a longer window of time to complete the training.

17. Next Scheduled Meeting and Location

The next meeting has been scheduled for May 21, 2015 at a location to be determined.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

“John Bellehumeur”

John Bellehumeur, Chair

May 22, 2015

Date