



Minutes

Arborist Trade Board Meeting

May 21, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.
Humber College, North Campus, Room B211
205 Humber College Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario, M9W 5L7

Trade Board Members in Attendance

John Bellehumeur, Chair
Keith Bessey
Tami Sadonoja
Peter Wynnyczuk
William Whatley

Not in Attendance

Randy Hartmier
Samantha Anderson, Project Director, Dean Review

Resource Persons/Guests in Attendance

Tony Dean Special Advisor
Mark Graves, Humber College

Staff in Attendance

Alice Power, Program Coordinatorⁱ

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The topic of "Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship" was added as an item under Other Business.

ON A MOTION MADE BY W. Whatley SECONDED by P. Wynnyczuk 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 W. Whatley SECONDED BY K. Bessey AND CARRIED, the minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

5. Tree Health Care Technician

T. Sadonoja and M. Graves reported on the development of the concept for a Tree Health Care Technician. It was suggested that the Arborist level 1 in-school curriculum could serve as the core curriculum for the new program. The Trade Board discussed what would be included in the program, specifically concerning course content. It has not yet been determined whether the program is best suited for a diploma or apprenticeship program. The industry needs to be surveyed to determine need, interest and best mode of training delivery. The Trade Board believes that it would be best to have the entire concept of the program prepared before surveying the industry.

6. Level 2 Utility Arborist Program Update

The Program Coordinator distributed a letter from the Service Divisional Board (SDB) to the Chair of the Arborist Trade Board. The letter indicated that after reviewing the Trade Board's recommendation requesting that there be a second Training Delivery Agent (TDA), it was determined that the resolution is outside the College's jurisdiction. However, the SDB would endorse an application for a TDA for the level 2 Utility Arborist program if one is put forward.

It was reported that Humber College is going through the application process to become a TDA for the Utility Arborist program. The TDA application has to be submitted by the end of June. Humber College will approach the SDB for a letter of support. M. Graves will provide a sample support letter for the Trade Board to review.

7. Fact Sheet Revision

The Program Coordinator provided an update on the Fact Sheet Project. It was explained that there is a new process to merge the content with the sector specific template which will streamline the revision of such a large number of documents. The Trade Board was provided with a sample of the new structure and content. It was recognized that certain sections of the Arborist Fact Sheet may need to be shortened to fit into the new structure.

8. Apprenticeships and Municipalities

In recognition of the fact that the Arborist Trade Board has long advocated that municipalities be required to hire apprentices as part of their practice, it was noted that the College's Policy & Research department is preparing an information note (research paper) on this subject. The note will be with regard to potential legislation that would require the participation of apprentices in all publicly-funded infrastructure projects and maintenance work where tradespeople are engaged.

Given that the College has a mandate to promote the trades, staff is recommending that the College ask the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and the Minister of Infrastructure to reintroduce Bill 141, the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, initially introduced by the Government of Ontario on November 26, 2013, and request that the College and its stakeholders be consulted in the development of subsequent regulations.

9. College of Trades Update

9.1 Membership Update

A brief overview of the College's member activities was presented. It was noted that at the end of December 2014, there were 237,008 active members in the College; 64,020 apprentices, 2,915 Journeyman Candidates, 90 Tradespersons, 169,936 Journeymen and 47 Employers/Sponsors.

The College continues to receive significant call and email volume, due largely to the fact that a significant number of apprentices did not renew their membership before the April 8, 2015 deadline and thus are in jeopardy of having their Registered Training Agreement (RTA) cancelled.

9.2 Communications and Marketing Update

An update on communication and marketing activities was provided. The College is continuing its outreach efforts with a strong focus on connecting with youth, aboriginal peoples, new immigrants and women. The College continues to participate in stakeholder events. College brochures have been created and translated into seven languages.

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.

Certificates for business members were 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 Trades "Hire with Confidence" decals to further promote their membership. All members are also receiving stickers and decals when they renew their membership.

9.3 Compliance and Enforcement

An overview of the College's current compliance and enforcement activities was provided. During the period of May 2013 to March 31, 2014, it was reported that there have been 15,378 field visits conducted by Enforcement Officers; 5,394 people were found working in a compulsory trade without authority of credentials to do so; 1,964 calls regarding complaints/incidents were received by the Colleges' Enforcement Call Centre; and 457 Provincial Offences Act tickets were issued. It was reported that 12 new Enforcement Officers were hired in February 2015. It was suggested that information on fines and charges laid should be placed in the Trades Today magazines in addition to on the website.

9.4 Academic Entry Requirements (AER)

With the Dean Review currently in progress, the College's AER consultation has been delayed, but is expected to take place later this year or in 2016. A transitional regulation is in place to preserve the status quo of AER until the College is able to undertake a consultation and subsequently introduce a new regulation addressing the issue.

9.5 Re-classification Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer (SFPI)

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 the Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer trade from voluntary to compulsory in February 2017. A phased two-year implementation approach has been adopted.

9.6 Evaluation and Assessment Update

The Evaluation and Assessment Department has received more than 4,500 applications since starting in April 2014, of which over 3,000 were processed in 2014. The centralized processing of all Trade Equivalency Assessment (TEA) and TEA portfolios 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 Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer becoming a compulsory trade on February 2, 2017.

10. Tony Dean Review

T. Dean thanked the Board for taking the time to consult with him. He recognized early on that Trade Boards are a significant aspect of the governance of the College and it was essential to hear their perspectives. He then described the terms of reference for his review, indicating that he is focused on four key elements: to clarify and improve the College's trade classification review process, journey-person-to-apprentice ratio review process, and scopes of practice and how these are used to address various skills overlaps, the establishment of apprenticeship programs, and the relationship between the College's enforcement activities and decisions of the Labour Relations Board.

T. Dean provided a brief overview of the consultation to date. He advised that he has met with 38 Trade Boards and over 100 other external stakeholder organizations. The review team is starting to form some ideas and identify themes, but recommendations are far from being determined.

11. Divisional Board Update

An overview of some of the agenda items and discussions at the Service Divisional Board meeting on November 14, 2014 were presented to the Trade Board. It was reported that the College, on behalf of the Service Divisional Board, has written letters to the Ministry of Finance, initially, asking to be part of the consultation on any changes to the tax credit and, more recently, asking about the eligibility criteria for this tax credit since the majority of Service sector trades are not eligible.

12. Program Update

The Program Coordinator reported on available membership statistics for the period of April 8 2013 to April 20, 2013. The Trade Board discussed the development of the CofQ examination for the trade and examination item analysis (i.e. exam questions). It was noted that the Trade Board is responsible for determining when the examination needs to be reviewed similar to their role in recommending when the apprenticeship Training Standard is in need of revision. It was emphasized that these recommendations are taken into consideration as part of the Standards Department's planning process.

It was further reported that the provincial government plans to further support the apprenticeship system by investing \$13 million over two years for pre-apprenticeship programs and \$19 million over three years to increase the "per diem" for apprenticeship classroom training. An additional \$23 million over two years has been allocated to the Apprenticeship Enhancement Fund to help colleges and other delivery agents train more people using better equipment.

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

M. Graves asked if the Trade Board believes that the Working at Heights training should be integrated into the Arborist curriculum or should it be left as the employer's responsibility and be a prerequisite for apprentices starting their level 1 in-school training. A discussion followed, and M. Graves agreed to review the curriculum to determine if there are components of the level 1 arborist curriculum that are compliant with the training required by the Working at Heights program and identify any gaps. It was agreed that this would be presented at the next meeting and that the Chair of the Utility Arborist Trade Board will be invited to participate in that discussion.

14. Arborist Safe Work Practices (ASWP) Committee Update

P. Wynnyczuk provided a report from the Arborist Safe Work Practices Committee meeting. It was noted that the Safe Work Practices document is being updated on an ongoing basis. The Ministry of Labour is still pursuing its “blitz’s” in workplaces again this year.

15. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

The effects of the EAB infestation are being felt across south and central Ontario due to significant losses of the Ash species. There is still no coordinating agency taking responsibility to manage this continuing environmental and forest health concern. Municipalities and large property owners continue to deal with EAB with limited support. Areas of infestation increased significantly since the new Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) regulated area was implemented in April 2014. Consumers and industry have to follow the regulation with regards to the movement of wood outside of the yellow area on the map on their website in order to limit the spread of EAB.

16. Ontario Urban Forestry Council (OUFC) Update

P. Wynnyczuk advised that students in Fleming College’s Environmental Management program are continuing their work on compiling data with regard to existing by-laws related to the management of trees from the 444 municipalities in the province. The collected data is to be placed on the interactive OUFC map to help connect interested parties to the by-laws and local tree interest community groups. The timeline for map implementation is the summer of 2015.

The President of the Ontario Urban Forestry Council has sent a letter to the Premier with respect to the possible licensing of tree services in Ontario.

It was noted that the Heritage Tree Program (in collaboration with Forests Ontario) has received greater attention through the LEAF (Local Appreciation and Enhancement of Forests) Tree Hunt Program that was launched this spring.

17. Other Business

P. Wynnyczuk reported that the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade is seeking nominations for the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship. This is to be awarded to those who through exceptional long-term efforts have made outstanding contributions to community life. Recipients will be presented their medal at a ceremony at Queens Park in the fall of 2015.

18. Next Scheduled Meeting and Location

The next meeting has been scheduled for September 24, 2015 in St. Catharines, Ontario.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

“John Bellehumeur”

John Bellehumeur, Chair

September 18, 2015

Date

i Recording Officer