



Minutes

Utility Arborist

Trade Board Meeting

April 23, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.
Fleming College, Frost Campus
200 Albert Street South, Room 252, P.O. Box 8000
Lindsay, ON, K9V 5G6

Trade Board Members in Attendance

Mike Greer, Chair
Ian George, Vice-Chair
Blair Brassard
Alan Lalonde
Terry Tysick

Trade Board Members not in Attendance

Mike Raaymaker

Resource Persons/Guests in Attendance

Rob Brewer, Chair, Service Divisional Board
Mark Graves, Humber College
Joe Outram, Fleming College
Peter Wynnyczuk, Arborist Trade Board
Brian Saxon, Fleming College

Staff in Attendance

Alice Power, Program Coordinator

1. Call to Order/Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed members, guests, and College staff.

2. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY T. Tysick, SECONDED A. Lalonde AND CARRIED, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Conflict of Interest

For the benefit of the new members, an explanation of conflict of interest was provided. No

conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Previous Minutes

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY T. Tysick, SECONDED BY A. Lalonde AND CARRIED, the draft minutes of the Trade Board's December 5, 2013 meeting were approved as tabled.

5. Level 2 Utility Arborist Program Update

There is more demand from companies/municipalities to have individuals qualified in both arborist and utility arborist trades.

The Trade Board and the representatives from Arborist Training Delivery Agents (TDAs) discussed the challenges in getting Colleges to offer the Level 2 Utility Arborist program. The program is expensive to run and there is some concern about the risk associated with the program. Also, Colleges require a minimum number of apprentices in the program for it to be cost effective.

Members of the Trade Board stated that Utility Arborists now work all year long therefore, the traditional block model of delivering the in-school program, where apprentices attend school from January to March for example, is not ideal. Various alternative delivery options were discussed. The program could be delivered in two-week segments, one day per week, or could be offered through Continuing Education and delivered on-site.

Apprentices who have completed the certificate program (the program has a co-op component) are eligible to write the Level 2 Utility Arborist Exemption test at Fleming College.

The Board identified that the challenge is to determine an estimate of apprentices on the waiting list, or who would be interested taking the Level 2 program.

A subcommittee of the Board was formed to conduct an informal survey with employers to determine the number of apprentices waiting to take Utility Arborist training.

6. Fact Sheet Revision

The Board was presented with Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) Fact Sheet that is used to promote the trade. Members agreed to review and provide comments on the trade program description to the Program Coordinator.

7. Red Seal Program – Update on Project

The revised criteria for a trade pursuing entry into the Red Seal program was explained. At present, British Columbia is the only other province to run an apprenticeship program for the trade. A letter has been prepared that will be sent to industry contacts in other provinces on behalf of the Utility Arborist Trade Board and Arborist Trade Board to inform them that arborists in Ontario are interested in pursuing the Red Seal designation. The reasons and benefits are to be presented in the letter and they will be asked to advocate to their government to have a provincially-run apprenticeship program.

8. College of Trades Update

8.1 The Registrar's Report

R. Brewer provided an overview of the Registrar's Report for January/February 2014.

8.2 Deemed Apprentices

Members of the Trade Board were informed that the College employed various methods of communication (letters, emails and automated telephone calls) to reach deemed apprentices to ensure that they were aware of the requirement to pay a membership fee to the Ontario College of Trades by April 8, 2014.

8.3 Membership

The Member Services department at the College continues to make changes to the operation to improve customer service. Several changes in how the College communicates to expiring members, including to deemed apprentices, were made to ensure that they are receiving the message. The majority of deemed apprentices have renewed their membership.

New affinity programs are being offered by the College, including individual and commercial insurance.

8.3 Enforcement Update

An update on the current work of the Compliance and Enforcement Division was provided. It was noted that there are enforcement statistics posted to the College's website. Currently the College has 41 Enforcement Officers and two Court Officers; 5,947 field inspections and compliance promotion visits were conducted across the province over the past year.

8.5 Communications & Marketing Update

A brief overview of the College's communication and marketing activities was provided. It was noted that the website continues to evolve and new information is added continually. The new quarterly journal/newsletter has been well received by members. The Communications and Marketing division is interested in receiving content ideas and stories from members.

The College uses media channels (e.g. social media, OYAP brochure, and working with school Boards) to target youth, as well underrepresented groups such as women and new Canadians, to encourage them to consider a career in the trades.

8.5 Legal Interpretation of Overlapping Scopes of Practice

The Board was provided with a brief overview of the Legal Interpretation Principles on Overlapping Scopes of Practice.

8.6 Trade Equivalency Assessment

The College's new Trade Equivalency Assessment (TEA) process was introduced to the Board. Responsibility for credential validation transfers from MTCU to the College on April 9, 2014.

8.7 Exam Guidance Manual

The College has developed an Exam Preparation Guide which is available on the website. The guide provides study tips to for individuals preparing to write the Certification and Qualification examination.

9. **Divisional Board Update**

R. Brewer provided an update on the April 16, 2014 Service Divisional Board (SDB) meeting. Members of the SDB have been participating in service sector Trade Board meetings to introduce themselves to the members. SDB members felt it was important to reach out to the Trade Boards. The next Divisional Board meeting is on November 6, 2014.

10. Program Update

The Program Coordinator provided members with the available apprentice statistics for the period. As of January 1, 2014 Employment Insurance (EI) reference codes will be included in the Offer of Classroom Training that is sent by MTCU to Ontario apprentices attending full-time, in-school training. Only apprentices who are participating in full-time (block) classroom training will receive an EI reference code.

11. TDA Update

Fleming College has 60 students in Arboriculture related programs each year.

It was reported that applications for entry into Colleges have decreased as demographics of the general population have changed. As a result, Colleges need to broaden their market, for example, by targeting individuals interested in upgrading their skills and ensuring flexibility of delivery to accommodate these individuals.

Another theme is for Colleges to offer joint College/University degrees such as the program offered by Fleming College and the University of New Brunswick.

Arborist Safe Work Practices Committee Update

A report from the Arborist Safe Work Practices Committee (ASWP) was presented.

As a result of a significant number of critical injuries in the trade over the past several years, the ASWP organized a facilitated discussion with industry on January 24, 2014. There was a presentation by Ministry of Labour (MOL) and the College made a presentation on the considerations in a trade classification review. Participants discussed how to improve the safety of the trade. Discussion included different reporting by WSIB, for example, having arborist companies mandated to be registered by WSIB; and reclassification of the trade as compulsory.

Working at Heights

At the January 24, 2013 ASWP meeting, MOL representatives introduced the training standards for the training for workers who work at heights. The Training Provider Standard outlines the requirements that must be met by training providers who are seeking approval by the Chief Prevention Officer (CPO) to deliver an approved working at heights training program. It was noted that ASWP will be submitting a written response to the MOL Working at Heights consultation that ends on April 24, 2014.

Inspection Schedule

MOL will be inspecting Arborists in the Eastern Region. A link to the MOL inspection schedule was sent to the Board.

Electrical Safety Rule Book

Electrical Safety Rule Book was revised. The only major change was that the “EUSA hold offs” was removed.

12. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

The Board was informed about Canadian Food Inspection Agency’s (CFIA) extended boundaries for moving wood due to the risk of spreading EAB to other areas of the province. It was noted that

there is a need for a coordinated response by municipalities on how to handle the infected trees, particularly with respect to informing homeowners.

13. Ontario Urban Forest Council Update

Ontario Urban Forest Council is sponsoring a study on the effects of EAB on Ash trees as it relates to structural integrity. The concern is over worker/homeowner safety as it relates to tree failure while work is underway. The concept is to test trees at various stages of infestation of EAB to determine the advancement of structural weakness. A few test sites in the province have been identified to conduct this testing. A proposal for funding to continue more extensive research will be initiated shortly. The goal is clarify the risks associated with climbing or working on and around EAB-infested Ash trees and what safety mechanisms would have to be used to reduce risk of personal injury or property damage.

14. ISA conference Update

Members who attended the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) conference provided their impressions of the presentations they attended.

15. Next Scheduled Meeting and Location

The next meeting is to be scheduled for September 11, 2014 at a location to be determined.

16. Adjournment

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY B. Brassard, SECONDED BY T. Tysick AND CARRIED, the meeting was adjourned.

“Mike Greer”

Mike Greer, Chair

September 11, 2014

Date