



Minutes

Utility Arborist

Trade Board Meeting

March 19, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Health & Safety Association (IHSA), Meeting Room A

5110 Creekbank Road, Suite 400

Mississauga, ON, L4W 0A1

Trade Board Members in Attendance

Ian George, Chair

Blair Brassard, Vice-Chair

Mike Greer

Alan Lalonde

Mike Raaymaker

Trade Board Members not in Attendance

Terry Tysick

Resource Persons/Guests in Attendance

Samantha Anderson, Project Director, Dean Review

Tony Dean, Reviewer, Dean Review

Peter Wynnyczuk, Arborist Trade Board

Staff in Attendance

Alice Power, Program Coordinatorⁱ

Ricardo Paniagua, Program Coordinator

1. Call to Order/Welcome

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

2. Approval of Agenda

ON A MOTION MADE BY B. Brassard, SECONDED M. Raaymaker AND CARRIED, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

4. Previous Minutes

ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY B. Brassard, SECONDED BY M. Greer AND CARRIED, the draft minutes of the Trade Board’s September 11, 2014 meeting were approved as tabled.

5. Level 2 Utility Arborist Survey of Interest

B. Brassard reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The project to send out a survey to employers to get an estimate of the number of apprentices waiting to take the Utility Arborist Level 2 in-school training was on hold. The continuing challenge is to get another Training Delivery Agent (TDA) to offer the second level of training. TDAs are looking for assurances that there are sufficient numbers to run the program.

The Trade Board discussed concerns that the traditional block model of delivering the in-school program may not be the most effective. B. Brassard suggested the need to have alternative models of program delivery that can be tailored to the region, for example, 2 weeks of school and 2 weeks on the job may work for a TDA in Sault Ste. Marie, but not necessarily work for Hydro One.

R. Paniagua explained the various pathways to becoming certified, including the use of exemption tests and the Trade Equivalency Assessment (TEA) process.

The Trade Board discussed ways to measure the need for the program. The Trade Board requested that apprenticeship numbers for the trade by geographic region would be of assistance to identify potential apprentices that may be interested or who may be waiting to take the Level 2 training. It was also suggested that the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) may have data on companies that employ Utility Arborists.

The Trade Board decided to continue discussions with potential TDAs.

6. Fact Sheet Revision

The revised Fact Sheet template with the new graphics header for the Service Sector was presented to the Trade Board.

7. College of Trades Update

7.1 Review of College Processes - Tony Dean Review

The Reviewer’s Update and Work Plan was provided to the Trade Board.

7.2 Membership

As of the end of December 2015 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 Trade Board expressed an interest in knowing the percentage of members that are in compulsory trades and voluntary trades.

The College continues to receive significant call and email volume; approximately 60,000 calls and 5,500 emails were received in the fourth quarter of 2014. The Member Services department is continuing to focus on improving answer times, processing times and email response time. Work is also continuing on the Affinity Program to seek out more benefits for membership in the College.

7.3 Compliance and Enforcement Update

An overview of the current College's compliance and enforcement activities was provided. During the period May 2013 to December 2014, 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 10 new Enforcement Officers were hired in February 2015.

7.4 Communications and Marketing Update

It was noted that the College is continuing its outreach efforts with a focus on connecting with youth, Aboriginal Peoples, new immigrants and women. In the fourth quarter, the College participated in 71 stakeholder events. Brochures about the College were created and translated into seven languages.

The new website for youth: www.earnwhileyoulearn.ca and corresponding brochure, "The Apprenticeship Advantage", was introduced to the Trade Board. The website has been 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.

It was questioned whether statistics are available on the number of hits the specific trade videos are receiving. The Trade Board is interested in knowing the numbers of hits that were received on the arborist video in particular.

It was further mentioned that the November 2014 edition of West Jet's in-flight magazine had an article on the benefits to businesses of hiring an apprentice as well as being a member of the College. In December 2014, the College had a 30-second video featured in all flights on Air Canada. The College has had articles in various trade publications and career magazines as well. 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.

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

7.5 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 that year. The centralized processing of all Trade Equivalency Assessment (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.

7.6 Financial Resource List for Apprentices and Employers

A copy of the Financial Incentives and Grants list for apprentices and employers was presented. 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).

7.7 Academic Entry Requirements (AER)

With the Dean Review currently in progress, the College's Academic Eligibility Requirements (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 status quo of AER until the College is able to undertake a consultation and subsequently create regulation as is deemed appropriate.

7.8 Reclassification - Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer (SFPI)

It was reported that a new regulation O. Reg. 20/15 entitled, Compulsory and Voluntary Trades, was officially published on February 2, 2015. This provides legal notice of the change of the classification of the SFPT trade from voluntary to compulsory. The College is taking a two-year phased in approach to implementation.

7.9 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. It was noted that there will be additional training to support the Trade Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs in the future. It was agreed that the materials in the presentation could be discussed at the next meeting if required.

8. Dean Review

T. Dean provided an overview of the purpose of his review with emphasis on the following points for consideration: to clarify and improve processes for reviewing trade classifications, ratios, and scopes of practice; how these are used to support skill overlaps, establishment of apprenticeship programs, as well as the emerging relationship of the College's enforcement activities and past decisions of the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

T. Dean noted that the deadline to provide written submissions was March 13, 2015 and that in April and May he will be focused on stakeholder consultations across the province. It was emphasized that the process for conducting the review was as significant as the mandate for the review, in order to ensure that the review is inclusive and transparent.

The Trade Board provided their views on what is working well and what is not in connection with the apprenticeship system in Ontario.

9. Divisional Board Update

The Service Divisional Board meeting was held on March 5, 2015. Highlights from the meeting were provided.

10. Program Update

It was reported that the Programs Department has re-branded all Training Standards and Curriculum Standards in 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 Boards and Divisional Boards in 2014. The format of the apprenticeship logbook is also being revised.

The Program Coordinator provided available membership statistics for the period of April 8, 2013 to January 31, 2015.

11. Training Delivery Agents (TDA) Update

No report.

12. MTCU Update

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 Committee Update

It was reported that the Arborist Safe Work Practices (ASWP) Committee is discussing the need to revise its guidelines.

14. Working at Heights Consultation

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

15. Electrical Safety Rule Book

It was reiterated that the only major change is that the section on “hold offs” was removed.

16. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Update

The areas of infection have increased significantly and yet there is no central regulating authority.

17. Ontario Urban Forest 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 connect these engaged citizens. The students will be updating the existing municipal and regional/county bylaws related to tree protection in Ontario. Results are to be posted on a map later this year. It was further reported that the students are creating a video that will help individuals identify heritage trees.

18. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting has been scheduled for September 10, 2015.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

“Ian George”

Ian George, Chair

September 10, 2015

Date

¹ Recording Officer