

2006 Apprenticeship Awards



Outstanding new journeypersons for 2006.

Forty-five new journeypersons from around the province were recognized for their outstanding achievement in the skilled trades at the Sixth Annual Apprenticeship Awards in Regina on Friday, November 3rd. These were the top graduates among the 1,164 new journeypersons certified last year.

The demand for skilled workers has been increasing with the growing economy and retiring baby boomers, but so has the interest in the skilled trades. Over 2,100 new apprentices registered in the trades last year – a new record exceeding the previous year’s intake by over 20 per cent. Total apprenticeship registrations in all levels exceeded 5,900 last year and it continues to show strong growth. Of the new apprentices, 1,108 were Aboriginal people, 872 were women, and 299 were women in predominantly male trades.

“Saskatchewan workers have an excellent reputation for both skills and attitude,” Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission Pat Atkinson said. “The rising number of apprentices in our province is

good news for employers in a tight labour market and provides excellent opportunities for young people to find rewarding employment in Saskatchewan. Our training institutions and our strong economy are helping to provide a bright future for our families and our youth.”

“The foundation of apprenticeship is work-based skills development while working under the supervision of a skilled journeyperson,” Gary Kot, Vice-Chair of the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission Board said. “Since industry determines the standards, training and certification, the awards are a formal opportunity for the Commission, industry and technical training partners to recognize the men and woman who have met or exceeded our standards for training and certification. We are extremely proud of them all.”

Twelve industry associations presented scholarships and awards to recognize outstanding journeyperson’s achievement in cooking, electrical, crane and hoist operator, women in

non-traditional trades, plumbing, steamfitting-pipefitting, roofing, electronics assembling and refrigeration trades.

New to this year’s awards was the \$250 Centennial Merit Scholarship Program Award. These scholarships went to 127 apprentices who achieved the highest mark in each level within each trade. The scholarships were co-sponsored by industry through the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Six young apprentices also received awards for obtaining gold medals in the Skills Canada Saskatchewan competitions in Saskatoon this year. Of them, one also achieved a gold medal in the national competition in Halifax.

For more information about the awards and a list of the recipients, visit www.saskapprenticeship.ca | announcements.

Plans are already underway for the Seventh Annual Awards, set to be held on Friday, October, 26, 2007 at the Turvey Centre, IPSCO. Watch for details in the coming year.

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Innovation in Training

Apprenticeship is fundamentally a work-based training system, in which apprentices spend most of their time learning on-the-job under the supervision of a competent tradesperson. However, technical training is an important part of the program. The Commission is always looking for innovative ways to improve technical training or reduce the impact of technical training on apprentices and employers.

Some examples of innovative initiatives in the past year include rural delivery of Industrial Mechanic (Millwright) level 1 technical training, conversion of Partsperson to an online computer-based program, standardized technical training for Rig Technician, the newest apprenticeship trade, and funding of the mobile training lab at SIAST.

Industrial Mechanic (Millwright): In partnership with Parkland Regional College, Level 1 technical training was delivered at Esterhazy for 11 apprentices, who worked for three local employers. The training was delivered in three week blocks, at a location that was within a reasonable commuting distance for all apprentices. The apprentices did not have to leave home for technical training, and their employers did not lose the support of their workers for an extended period.

Partsperson: The level 1 and 2 Partsperson technical training programs have been converted to an online computer-based format. This makes the program more accessible to apprentices across the province. Partsperson apprenticeship program was fading out for a lack of registrations until the online program was developed in partnership with SIAST. Now apprentices can access technical training anywhere, anytime. They never leave home or work to participate in the program. It has been so successful that apprentices in Manitoba and Alberta have enrolled, and there has been interest from B.C. and Ontario apprentices.

Rig Technician: The newest apprenticeship trade in Saskatchewan will offer training and certification to workers on drilling and service rigs in the oil and gas sector. B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan have taken inter-provincial cooperation to a new level in this trade. Not only are the occupational analysis and journeyman exam common to all provinces, but so is everything else. The sequence of technical training and even the learning resource materials will be the same. Rig Technician apprentices will receive the identical training program no

matter where in Western Canada they take their training. This makes sense for a highly mobile work force that moves frequently across provincial boundaries.

Mobile Training Lab: The Commission is contributing \$150,000 to the purchase of a mobile training lab at SIAST. The lab will be used to deliver technical training for a variety of apprenticeship trades, including welder, industrial mechanic, electrician and some piping trades. It can be set up anywhere in the province accessible by road, and comes with its own tool crib and power supply. The mobile lab is presently set up at a mine site in Northern Saskatchewan, where technical training for two different apprenticeship trades is being delivered.

The needs of employers and apprentices are constantly changing. The Commission is innovating in response to these needs, and at the same time paying attention to quality and positive outcomes. Industry's standards for training and certification must always be maintained. Innovation is a new way of doing business at the Commission. It can be expensive, but if the quality is maintained and the outcomes are good, the benefits usually outweigh the costs.

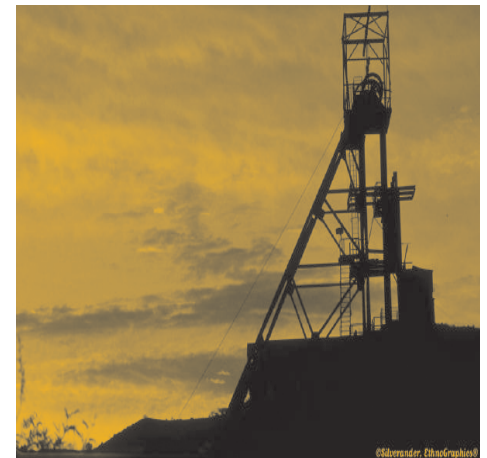
Trades Update - Rig Technician

Recently, the Rig Technician trade was approved for designation by the Commission Board of Directors. The new trade, which comprises three distinct levels and certifications, will complement Saskatchewan's rapidly growing oil and gas industry.

Apprenticeship training will be delivered by a unique consortium of regional colleges. The training will be provided in three

locations within the province, located in areas which have significant drilling activity. Non-apprentices will have the opportunity to challenge certification exams if they wish to do so.

The new trade also features common curricula and examinations with the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, and the Northwest Territories. This will provide a significant benefit to aiding the mobility of workers in western Canada.



Land platform

Profiling our Partners

This section of our newsletter provides the reader with information on one of our partners and how they interact with the Commission. This time we profile the Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada.

The Commission is currently contributing to a Task Force on Workforce Development in the oil and gas sector. This project is led by the Petroleum Human Resources Council of Canada



Petroleum
Human Resources
Council of Canada

seven key issues:

1. Promoting careers in the industry
2. Gaining access to a non-traditional workforce
3. Addressing the growing skill shortages
4. Maintaining valid labour market information
5. Recognizing shifting skill requirements
6. Enhancing mobility of the workforce
7. Designing creative human resources practices

and managed by a consortium of Saskatoon-based consulting firms.

The Council is a national, not-for-profit collaborative forum that addresses human resources issues within the petroleum industry. The Council is a sector council funded by the Government of Canada's Sectoral Council Program. Industry partners comprise 10 major national and regional organizations and one union. Some of the Council's members include the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors (CAODC), the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), the Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (SEPAC), the Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) and the Chemical, Energy and Paperworkers (CEP) union. The key sectors of the industry represented at the table include exploration, development, production, service, pipeline transmission and bitumen extraction.

The Petroleum HR Council has been given a mandate to assess the needs of the industry and to develop the strategies to attract, develop and retain workers in what has at times been viewed as an unstable industry to work in. The landmark 2003 study *The Decade Ahead* raised awareness on

The Petroleum HR Council is based in Calgary, Alberta and the Executive Director and CEO is Cheryl Knight. More information is available at www.petrohrsc.ca or by calling 403-537-1230.

Trade News

Partsperson apprenticeship training in Saskatchewan is now offered as distance education in Levels One and Two, with Level Three in the development stage of being completely online training. Partsperson apprentices in the province, and in other jurisdictions, are increasingly able to access training without leaving their own communities. In the last year and a half, the Partsperson Trade Board has assisted in the development of a new National Occupational Analysis for the trade, and with a new interprovincial examination bank, soon to be implemented.

The **Meatcutter** Trade Board was recognized at this year's SATCC Awards Night for its enthusiastic and tireless support of apprenticeship training. This dedicated board has provided the expertise to develop a provincial Occupational Analysis, testing materials and promotional

materials for their trade. In addition, they have continued to endorse this new trade with partnerships in the various communities and associations in Saskatchewan.

In 2005, the Cosmetology and Barber Stylist trades amalgamated nationally to form the **Hairstylist** trade. In Saskatchewan, these two trades endorsed the amalgamation, and 2006 has been the first full year of operation for the merged Hairstylist Trade Board. Noteworthy over the past year has been the board's involvement in the new Hairstylist National Occupational Analysis and in the new bank of examination questions for use interprovincially.

The **Cook** Trade Board and SIAST Cook Program Heads have worked closely together over the past year to develop a new program content outline for apprenticeship training. The new



Apprentice cook

program is intended to build on basic skills throughout the three levels of training. The trade board has also peer reviewed an extensive examination bank for the recently implemented interprovincial journeyman exam.

Saskatchewan is the national host for five interprovincial "Red Seal" trades, including **Concrete Finisher**. In late November, staff from the program development section led a workshop in Ottawa to develop new examination questions. The workshop was attended by representatives of most jurisdictions in Canada, and exceeded expectations. Once editing, review and translation is completed, new interprovincial examinations will be available for use across the country.

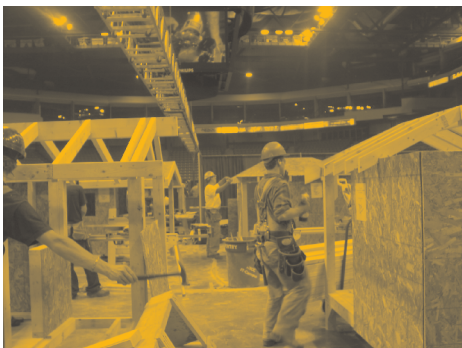
Saskatoon Apprenticeship Office on the Move . . .

The Saskatoon office, located for many years at the Sturdy Stone Centre, closed on November 30, 2006. The office relocated to 1630 Quebec Avenue effective Monday December 4, 2006.

All phone numbers and e-mail addresses remained the same.

New Faces in 2006

- Sharon Chuka, Training Administrator retired October 31, 2006 after 44 years of commitment to the apprenticeship program!
- Cindy Cole took over as Training Administrator, October 15, 2006
- Glen Graham, ATC Consultant, Saskatoon, July 31, 2006
- Dennis Pastl, ATC Consultant, La Ronge, April 30, 2006
- Jennifer Scullen, Term Research Officer, May 1, 2006
- Rennie Zabolotney, Youth Apprenticeship Team Lead, September 17, 2006



2006 National Skills Competitions in Halifax.

National Skills Competition '07

Saskatoon is gearing up to host the 2007 Skills Canada National Competition, June 6-9, 2007 at Prairieland Park.

The competition involves more than 400 high school and post-secondary competitors from across Canada, plus technical advisors and judges. Skills Canada Saskatchewan (SCS) is currently organizing technical committees and raising funds. SCS is a not-for-profit organization that is supported by the provincial and federal governments, as well as industry. However, the success of this undertaking depends on the donation of time, money and equipment for people like you!

To find out how you can help, please visit <http://www.skillscanada.com> or call 306-352-0260.

SYA . . .

The commission announced the Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship (SYA) program was available on a province-wide basis for all high school students in the 2006-2007 school year.

The program is designed to expose students to the exciting opportunities skilled trades have to offer. SYA enhances student career development by exploring the world of opportunities skilled trades offer Saskatchewan youth.

Big benefits are provided for students that take part in this new and exciting program. Anyone that receives a certificate and indentures as an apprentice in Saskatchewan within three years, will have their registration fee waived (\$150.00), their first level of technical training waived (\$30.00 per week), and will receive up to 300 hours of trade time credit towards their journey person certification.

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