



May 2010

Information Bulletin

Apprenticeship Training Overview

Saskatchewan continues to experience high demand for skilled trades people.

- The number of apprentices registered with the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) increased to 9,089 as of April 2010 from 5,436 as of June 30, 2005.
- A summary of all 2009-10 numbers, such as registrations and completions, will be available when the fiscal year end calculations are released late October 2010.

Regulation Amendment - Journeyman to Apprentice Ratios

Saskatchewan's economy is strong and the need for skilled tradespersons is at an all time high. In response to industry requests, the ratio of journeymen to apprentices in designated trades changed effective May 6, 2010. The ratio is now one journeyman to two apprentices, previously it was one journeyman to one apprentice, for 27 of the 47 designated trades and 16 of the 23 subtrades in Saskatchewan.

This change will enable more people to register as apprentices and receive skills training while contributing to safe workplaces and Saskatchewan's growing economy.

For a list of the designated trades affected, visit the "Announcements" page at www.saskapprenticeship.ca.

ISEC Annual Meeting

From August 9 – 12, 2010, the Commission will host the Interprovincial Standards and Examination Committee (ISEC) in Saskatoon. The committee, which meets annually, is made up of the senior examination officers from each province and territory, and representatives of HRSDC. Chris Stubbs, Assistant Director, Program Development with the SATCC, is currently the Vice-Chair of this committee and will become the Chair effective August 2010.

Construction Sector Council (CSC) Mentorship Program

The CSC has developed a program that creates an environment for experienced tradespersons to mentor new learners to become safe, skilled and effective skilled trade workers.

Mentoring is the on-the-job transfer of technical knowledge, trade skills and workplace behavior from an experienced tradesperson to a new worker. Four Saskatchewan companies piloted the CSC Mentorship Program with guidance and support from the SATCC and the Saskatchewan Construction Association. The Saskatchewan Pilot confirmed that the products produced by the CSC were beneficial to the overall process of mentorship in the construction industry.

Many suggestions were also offered from pilot project participants to improve the program. Materials are now available from the CSC at www.csc-ca.org.

Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship Program

The Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship (SYA) Program raises awareness of apprenticeship among Saskatchewan high school students by helping young people discover and explore career options in the skilled trades. By exploring the world of opportunities skilled trades can offer, the SYA enhances career development of Saskatchewan youth. As of April 30, 2010, 237 schools and 5,262 students were participating in the program.

This spring, the program will be piloted at both the Saskatoon and Regina Trades and Skills Centres. These centres provide short, bridging training for young adults wishing to find jobs in the trades. The addition of the SYA program gives the students knowledge about apprenticeship training and how to become an apprentice.

Since the program's inception, 7,384 students in grades 10 – 12 have registered and a total of 1,537 graduates have received certificates. Of these, 204 have registered as Saskatchewan apprentices.

Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship Industry Scholarship Program

In June 2010, 40 industry scholarships valued at \$1,000 each will be awarded

to high school graduates who completed the SYA Program. This is the second consecutive year in which the scholarships have been offered.

To April 30, 2010, industry has donated \$150,000 to the scholarship fund. More donations are anticipated.

To qualify, the graduates must have completed high school and hold a completed youth apprenticeship passport. In order to redeem the scholarship, the scholarship winners must have been registered apprentices for at least one year or have completed one year of post-secondary training in a designated skilled trade.

Bi-Provincial Try-A-Trade Expo

Forecasts indicate the construction industries in Saskatchewan and Alberta will need an additional 38,700 workers to meet the anticipated retirements and job growth projected to 2017. There is fierce competition with all other industries in attracting youth, so the construction industry decided to be proactive. With this, the Lloydminster Construction Association (LCA), the SATCC and affiliated industry trade associations partnered in the "TRY-A-TRADE CAREER EXPO" held in Lloydminster on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiatives

The Commission released its annual call for Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiatives (AAI) proposals in late February 2010 with a deadline for responses of

May 30, 2010. The proposals will be reviewed by the AAI Committee by June 30, 2010.

Ongoing Development of National Examination Item Banks and Hosting Responsibilities

The Commission's Program Development Officers provide ongoing support to Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and other provinces/territories to develop examination item banks.

Of the Red Seal examination item banks that Saskatchewan is responsible for, a number have been reviewed, edited and/or released:

- Hairstylist – This examination has been peer reviewed and is in final translation and quality control before release (target Summer 2010); and,
- Mobile Crane Operator – The new examination bank is slated for peer review to be completed in May 2010.

The Tools for the Job

The SATCC and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology commissioned research on the feasibility to deliver apprenticeship technical training online. The study was initiated to develop a measured, evidence-based response to the opportunities and challenges that online training may represent for the Saskatchewan apprenticeship system. Results from "*The Tools for the Job*" discussion paper are complete and now available on the SATCC website at www.saskapprenticeship.ca | publications | other reports.

Communications and Marketing

The SATCC initiated a variety of communications tactics to promote apprenticeship, some of which are new to the Commission.

The Commission launched a bus advertising campaign May 1/10, which will run until June 30/10. Twelve buses in Regina, twelve in Saskatoon and five in Moose Jaw will feature employer-directed ads on bus tails to "Hire an Apprentice" and youth-directed ads in the bus interior to "Become an Apprentice."

On May 1st, the SATCC also launched a Facebook page. Given youth are active users of Facebook, it is anticipated that it will be an effective venue to reach them and increase their awareness about apprenticeship and the SYA program.

A new DVD is being developed to promote careers in the skilled trades to youth. It will feature about eight young people working in a variety of skilled trades. The DVD will be implemented into the SYA presentations to high school students beginning in September 2010.

A campaign to promote apprenticeship to youth, women in non-traditional trades and Aboriginal people runs throughout the year in daily, weekly and Aboriginal newspapers.