



Report from NETAC

Submitted by: Victoria Chester

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The National Education & Training Advisory Committee met on May 27, 2011. The following issues were discussed:

- 1) Labour Force and Apprenticeship;
- 2) Course Development; and
- 3) Workplace Health and Safety.

LABOUR FORCE and APPRENTICESHIP

The Committee had a group discussion on meeting the human resource needs of the Residential Construction Industry. CHBA reviewed the following:

- 1) **Recognition of Provincial Trades** - The Committee was informed of the CHBA letter to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) and the Co-Chairs of the Forum of Labour market asking to extend federal and provincial apprenticeship grants and incentives to all provincially designated trades in the Residential Construction Industry. This included expansion of the Red Seal trades into sub-categories, or specialty categories that would better serve the Residential Construction Industry.

The Forum responded in writing on January 11, 2011, and acknowledged the issues raised by CHBA. The Forum also encouraged the Association to work with the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) to seek recognition of more trades under the Red Seal Program. In April 2011, CHBA responded to the Forum's January 2011 letter seeking the Minister's assistance in achieving clarity on a number of fundamental questions related to both the CCDA and the Red Seal Program and asking the federal government to consider extending eligibility for federal apprenticeship-related support to those trades that achieve interprovincial recognition under the terms of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).

Additionally on June 14th the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) circulated a request seeking further input from stakeholders on their plans to strengthen the Red Seal Program. CHBA members were asked solicit information from the members, to help the CCDA ensure its work reflects the needs and priorities of the industry.

Input from members can be provided by **July 15th** through a survey that can be found at <http://strengtheningtheredseal.ascentum.com/survey/>

It was recommended that the provincial education and training advisory committees plan their human resource development based on the 2007 CHBA Human Resource Development Action Plan.

- 2) **Presentations to Provincial Governments** - Each provincial representative on the Committee gave a verbal report on presentations made by the provincial association to the respective Provincial Government on initiatives to support the development of skilled trade people in the Residential Construction Industry.

- 3) **Industry Investments in Trades Training** - Each provincial representative reported on programs or initiatives that support trades people in the Residential Construction Industry. The Executive Board requested additional information on the concrete examples of CHBA Provincial, local and individual CHBA members actions towards Trades Training, demonstrating that the industry is making investments (financial and other forms of contributions) in that respect. These reports are due by September 30, 2011.

CHBA - Nova Scotia shared their successful Career Fair "Real Jobs for Real Money". High school students walked through display of different hands-on trade demonstrations. The Career Fair received good media coverage. The Premier of Nova Scotia was in attendance and addressed the students encouraging them to enter the trades. CHBA - Nova Scotia has their media kit available to anyone interested in doing a career fair.

4) Available Reports:

- 1) National list of Residential Construction Trades and Occupations by Province. Red Seal vs. non-Red Seal;
- 2) National list of Labour Market Agreement and Strategic Training & Transition Funding distributed to-date per Province with details of funds recipients;
- 3) List of 8 proposed measures that encourage employment, provide grants, extend or control EI, and provide for additional protection to employees when a company goes bankrupt.

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

CMHC will no longer deliver the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) course. They are looking for another organization to take over the course delivery. Contact rdelacam@cmhc.ca if your company is interested in this course delivery.

Presentations

- BC Residential Construction Industry Training Organization (RCITO) presented three residential Carpentry trade programs (Residential Forming Technician, Residential Interior Finishing Technician and Residential Exterior Finishing Technician) that could be achieved through a certification path. Many do not know that the apprenticeship program encourages 80% of instruction to occur with a builder. By using certification levels they will reduce drop-out rates. RCITO representative is willing to speak to CHBA - Alberta Board or PHBIA (or any other interested body) on their program implementation and partnership.

- Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships (LEEP) of CanmetEnergy, National Resources Canada reported on the status of their pilot project in Ontario. LEEP's objectives are
 - a) Facilitate industry adoption of energy technologies and practices;

- b) Carry out research to support comparison of options;
- c) Address barriers and reduce risks associated with market adoption of innovative technologies;
- d) Provide tools, expertise, facilities & information to support policies, programs and Canadian companies – domestically and internationally;
- e) Develop industry feedback loop to help guide research priorities.

Theoretically LEEP enables industry innovation in a collaborative process that is builder driven with third party expertise. It builds an evaluation and demonstration phase prior to adoption of any technologies and creates a builder implementation plan for the most successful technologies.

Currently this project includes several CHBA – Ontario builders who are evaluating products for the first baseline report. They will not be evaluating builder feedback from all provinces due to the lack of time. However, they will be open for discussion of other provinces' needs and products.

- National Research Council, Institute for Research in Construction made a presentation on the development of the Energy Efficiency Code Requirements. NRC-CNRC would post their first draft on the website by June 1st. The requirements under consideration were mandatory HVRs, 92% efficient furnaces as a minimum, and energy efficiency inspections. Builders may have to ensure their drafted plans reflect new energy efficiencies for city plans examination. Public review is scheduled for October - early December 2011. Publication is scheduled by December 2012.

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY

Discussion around distribution of OH&S fine funds for each province took place. It was reported that CHBA - Alberta has been trying to establish the allocation of fine funds. CHBA – Alberta will update on the issue of fine distribution at October meeting.

New Radon Mitigation Guide - Health Canada provided a copy of the new radon mitigation guide to CHBA NETAC on June 12th. It has been a long expected document and the first of its kind in Canada. Feedback on the guide is to be provided to CHBA by June 30th. The guide and request has been forwarded to the Alberta Housing Industry Technical Committee (AHITC) for additional feedback.

Background on the New Radon Mitigation Guide

- The guide will be posted on Health Canada's website shortly as an "e-report" and a PDF will be available upon request;
- The information in the guide is limited to existing homes that are in contact with soil and does not include information on the revised National Building Code requirements for new homes, or radon in water mitigation;
- The guide includes information on the following topics:
 - 1) General information on radon and Health Canada's revised guideline;
 - 2) Proper radon testing;
 - 3) Overview of radon reduction measures;
 - 4) Various mitigation options depending on the construction of the home;
 - 5) Fan piping and installation for active mitigation systems;
 - 6) Combining mitigation systems;

- 7) Recommendations to comply with relevant codes;
- 8) Precautions to take with potential back-drafting of combustion appliances;
- 9) Post installation testing;
- 10) General safety precautions.