

Apprenticeship Special Operating Agency – Update

The employer-led Implementation Team is busy putting the pieces together for the anticipated launch of the new Agency by July 1, 2014. Specific updates include:

- Draft legislation and operating charter are in development with key apprenticeship stakeholders involved
- A discussion paper on the Agency's priorities was released and can be found by going to:
- The team is actively preparing for the Feb 26th Industry briefing – you can register to attend by going to:
- Employer and apprentice satisfaction surveys are under way – preliminary results from the employer will be presented at the Feb 26th briefing
- Trade profiles for each of the apprenticeship trades (66) have been prepared and will be given out on the 26th of February.

Atlantic Workforce Partnership Supports Skilled Trade Apprenticeship

As part of the Atlantic Workforce Partnership, the provinces will bring four trades affecting 20 percent of apprentices into alignment within the next 24 months. Premiers also identified a goal of harmonizing additional high volume trades that meet key labour market demands covering an additional 40 percent of apprentices in the following 24 months. The first four trades to be aligned are Cook, Instrumentation Technician, Bricklayer and Construction Electrician.

To support this initiative the Federal governments is committing \$4.3 million over the next 42 months. The Atlantic Province are contributing \$3.5 million including in-kind contributions.

National Harmonization Initiative

Nova Scotia is an active participant in a National apprenticeship harmonization initiative undertaken by the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA). The CCDA Harmonization project is initially focussing on 10 Red Seal trades within the next two years. The project is using a phased approach. The first phase began in early fall 2013 - focusing on three Red Seal trades – Carpenter, Mobile Crane Operator and Mobile Crane Operator (Hydraulic).

The second phase of the project, which began in late fall 2013, is targeting seven additional Red Seal trades – (Welder, Tower Crane Operator, Metal Fabricator (Fitter), Heavy Duty Equipment Technician, Ironworker (Generalist), Ironworker (Reinforcing), and Ironworker (Ornamental/Structural) - and will build on lessons learned from the first phase.

Each phase involves an in-depth review of scopes and provincial/territorial training and certification requirements (e.g., on the job hours and sequencing of technical training levels). The research has informed the development of recommendations on how to make apprenticeship requirements more consistent and identification of priorities of action.

This work will help inform efforts to make provincial/territorial apprenticeship training and certification requirements more consistent in Red Seal trades across Canada.