



## Information Bulletin

### Apprenticeship Training Overview

The Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) continues to experience high numbers of registered apprentices, completions and skilled trades people who receive SATCC services. The total number of registered apprentices at June 30, 2011 was 9,442, a 3.3% increase over the previous June. There were 5,531 apprentices who accessed technical training in 2010-11, compared to 5,374 in 2009-10.

A complete summary of the 2011-12 operating and financial results will be included in the 2011-12 SATCC Annual Report which will be posted to the SATCC website after it is tabled in the Saskatchewan Legislature in late October 2012. Visit [www.saskapprenticeship.ca](http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca) under Publications, Annual Report.

### SATCC Board of Directors Strategic Planning

The SATCC Board of Directors provides strategic leadership for the Commission through the development and approval of a strategic plan. The strategic plan is a roadmap for success, providing direction and focus for the Commission to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the industry it serves.

Since the development of the current strategic plan in 2009, the SATCC has continued to experience growth in apprenticeship registrations and demand for services. The operational context in which the Commission operates continues to change and evolve.

The process to review and renew the Commission's strategic plan will include consultations with apprenticeship stakeholders, an environmental scan, discussions and workshops to identify the strategic goals and directions necessary to guide the SATCC in the next few years.

H.J. Linnen and Associates has been engaged to support the Board's work in this process. The Commission's new strategic plan will be rolled out later in 2012.

### Construction Sector Council (CSC) Construction Looking Forward 2012-2020 Saskatchewan Key Highlights

The CSC annual forecast offers a detailed nine year scenario for construction workforce supply and demand, by trade, in Saskatchewan. The report includes individual trade rankings and is available at [www.csc-ca.org/en/products/saskatchewan-2012-highlights-and-powerpoint-presentation](http://www.csc-ca.org/en/products/saskatchewan-2012-highlights-and-powerpoint-presentation).

"The 2012 Construction Looking Forward scenario for Saskatchewan describes the peak of a steep climb over

10 years of growth. By 2013, all sectors in the province's construction industry arrive at and then sustain close to record high employment levels for the remainder of the scenario period."  
*(Source: Construction Looking Forward 2012-2020 Key Highlights)*

Since 2001, construction employment in Saskatchewan experienced a 70 per cent expansion, often causing difficulties in both recruiting and retaining the necessary work force. The scenario forecasts a tight labour market for all skilled trades over the next two years and then shifts to more balanced markets for the remainder of the forecast.

### **Achievement in Business Competencies - Blue Seal Program**

The SATCC partnered with Alberta Industry and Apprenticeship Training to deliver the *"Achievement in Business Competencies – Blue Seal Program"* to Saskatchewan journeypersons.

The Blue Seal program has received considerable publicity amongst the business community. It is anticipated that wider recognition will encourage journeypersons to continue learning after they receive their trade certification.

More information about the Blue Seal Program can be found at [www.saskapprenticeship.ca](http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca).

### **Tuition Increase**

The SATCC Board has established a new rate for tuition fees effective July 1, 2012. The weekly rate for tuition will be \$75 per week, up from the \$30 per week which has been in place since July 1, 2004. The tuition increase is necessary in order to address the increased demand for technical training and increased costs.

### **Lean Initiative – Process Mapping**

The SATCC's initiative to map all processes and seek operational efficiencies is entering its final stages. Staff members have identified a number of key time and effort saving modifications, many of which have been implemented. Significant time savings have been achieved in several document handling areas. To date, the results have been very positive. A number of technology assisted enhancements will require further research to determine the resources required. Once the process mapping exercise is complete for all areas, the Commission will better integrate programming and activities.

### **Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship Program**

The Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship (SYA) Program assists high school students to discover and explore career opportunities in the skilled trades. The Program continues to service a large number of clients while offering credits both in high school and in apprenticeship.

## **Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship Industry Scholarship Program**

As of February 29, 2012, Saskatchewan industry has donated \$396,000 to the Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship Industry Scholarship Program. The list of 2011-12 winners will be posted at [www.saskapprenticeship.ca](http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca) in July 2012.

To qualify for a scholarship, the graduate must complete high school and hold a completed SYA Passport. To redeem the scholarship, the winner will have been a registered apprentice for at least one year or have completed one year of post-secondary training in a designated skilled trade.

In support of the SYA scholarship program the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration is providing \$100,000 for each of four years, starting in 2011-2012, through the Saskatchewan Innovation and Opportunities Scholarship Fund. These funds will enable SATCC to issue 100 SYA scholarships, paying out \$100,000 to SYA participants this year.

## **Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiatives**

Each year, the SATCC dedicates funding to programming which will support Aboriginal or Métis apprentices, enhance career education, and deliver direct training. The program has run for several years now and has helped many Aboriginal people to develop careers in the skilled trades. Additionally, SATCC is a partner in the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program, which provides a wage

subsidy to newly hired apprentices in several designated trades.

## **Ongoing Development of National Examination Item Banks and Hosting Responsibilities**

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

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

- Hairstylist – A successful item bank workshop was held in October 2011 in Ottawa. Further development was facilitated in late 2011 and early 2012 including an editing workshop in Saskatoon and a translation workshop in Ottawa.
- Mobile Crane Operator (Hydraulic) – An item bank workshop is scheduled for June 2012 in Ottawa.
- Agricultural Machinery Technician – The NOA was developed in December 2011, with an item bank scheduled for January 2013.

## **Communication, Marketing and Promotion**

Various communications and marketing initiatives were undertaken this year including:

- An online Commission Board orientation presentation. The presentation is designed to outline the roles and responsibilities of new

Board members, as well as highlight the strategic and operational functions of the Commission.

- Industry partnership brochure. The SATCC collaborated with the Saskatchewan Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council to develop a promotional apprenticeship brochure specific to the building trades.

All five of the partnership brochures developed to date can be viewed at [www.saskapprenticeship.ca](http://www.saskapprenticeship.ca) under Publications, Pamphlets.

- Apprenticeship profiles. The SATCC has published six profiles of tradespeople and stakeholders who relate their personal stories about apprenticeship and the skilled trades. All the profiles have been completed.
- Website refresh. The SATCC is currently in the process of refreshing and redesigning the look of its website. The change will make information and documents more accessible to clients.
- Several advertisements and articles have been used to promote the skilled trades to youth, women, Aboriginal people and employers, including the special features for Trades and Technical Professions, Tackling the Trades, and Apprenticeship You're Hired.
- Red Seal Secretariat support. The SATCC assisted the Red Seal Secretariat to survey clients across Canada about their perception of the Red Seal logo.