

## CITO UPDATE

The Construction Industry Training Organization (CITO) has provided an update on its recent activities around program development. After many years of little activity updating apprenticeship programs, CITO has stepped up to the plate and is getting this important work done. Here is the latest info:

CITO's program development schedule for the past year consisted of updating program outlines and developing standardized examination banks for four programs and completing the work on two additional programs. Towards the end of the fiscal year it became apparent that program development activities were ahead of schedule and under budget and an additional two program outline projects could be undertaken. Program development activity outcomes are described below.

**Standard scheduled programs:** Electrical, Carpentry, Sheet Metal, Plumbing, Joinery, Roofing

**Additional programs:** Drywall Installer, Gas Fitter

**Electrical:** Work on the Electrical Program has been completed. The program has been handed off to the ITA and a target date for implementation of September 1st 2008 has been agreed on. During the program development process an entrance prerequisite examination was developed. Recently a decision was made by the program governance committee to discontinue this option. It was felt that an entrance examination would create a barrier to individuals entering the trade that would have a net negative effect on securing skilled workers

for the industry. A joint communication between ITA and CITO will be sent out to the system to announce the implementation.

**Carpentry:** Work on the Carpentry Program has been completed. The program has been handed off to the ITA and the new program outline was launched January 1st 2008. A twelve hundred (1200) item exam bank was developed to be used as standardized entrance examinations. Field testing and validation of examinations must be completed prior to live deployment of the exams. A pilot field testing project was conducted at BCIT in March using the Carpentry examinations as the model. The first round of tests was completed successfully and the administrative model proved sound. In fiscal 08, 09 the other examination banks will be phased into the process and the model will be expanded to include other institutions across the system.

**Roofing:** Work on the Roofing Program has been completed. The program outline has been handed off to the ITA. The new program outline was launched in October of 2007. A nine hundred (900) item exam bank was developed as part of the process. Field testing of the exam banks will be undertaken in fiscal 08, 09.

**Sheet Metal:** Work on the Sheet Metal program outline was completed in September 2007. Exam bank development was completed in February 08. Field testing of examinations will take place in fiscal 08, 09. Final sign off on the process by the governance committee will take place late March or early April 08.

### Inside this Issue:

- CITO Update
- Changes to Building Code

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Subsequent to this the program will be handed off to ITA and a launch date established. A joint communication from ITA and CITO will be sent out to the stakeholders to communicate the launch of the updated outline.

**Plumbing:** The Plumbing program outline workshop was held in October 07 and work on the outline was completed at that time. Examination bank development was completed in November/December 07. Field testing of examination banks will take place in fiscal 08, 09. The program outline was signed off by the governance committee in February 08 and will be handed off to ITA in late March or early April 08. Two issues emerged as part of the program outline updating process that remains to be addressed: the total hours required to complete an apprenticeship, and the total hours approved for in-school training. Both of these issues were raised by the governance committee. Draft policy documents have been developed for both of these issues. The documents have been forwarded to the Standards Committee and will be brought forward to the board for discussion.

**Joinery:** Work on updating the program outline for Joinery has been completed. Exam bank development has been moved back to April 08 in order to access subject

matter experts for the session. Field testing of examinations will take place in fiscal 08, 09. It is anticipated that the program outline will be signed off by the governance committee and handed off to ITA in late March or early April 08. An issue with low pass rates on the IP examination was raised by the governance committee. CITO staff are currently working with the ITA and Alberta Learning to address this issue. Additional governance committee meetings may be held to address this issue as it moves forward.

**Gas Fitter:** Several governance committee meetings were held for the Gas Fitter program in the last quarter of 07, 08. This project is more involved than the standard program outline updating process as issues related to the TILMA agreement and the BC Safety Standards Authority must be considered. The program outline workshop has been scheduled for April 08. Examination development will take place later in the year.

**Drywall Installer:** Updating work on the Drywall Installer is well advanced. The program outline workshop was held in March, and examination development has been scheduled for May 08.

## CHANGES TO BC BUILDING CODE

New green requirements for energy and water efficiency have been added to the BC Building Code and will come into effect on September 5, 2008. More information on the new requirements can be found online at <http://www.housing.gov.bc.ca/building/green/index.htm>



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The mission of the BCCA is to provide leadership and excellence in the representation of and service to British Columbia's construction industry