



## Nova Scotia Apprentices win Gold Medals at National Event

By Shannon O'Halloran

Most often, when we think of winning medals, we automatically think of sports. However, for 17 young Nova Scotians who recently returned from a national skills competition with medals around their necks, if you mention the word "medal" to them, sports is the last thing on their minds.

This past April, Skills Canada – Nova Scotia (SCNS) hosted 44 contest areas during the 12th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition. "This event gives Nova Scotia youth the opportunity to showcase their skills and talent in various trade and technology contest areas, ranging from carpentry, welding and machining to graphic design, electronics and cooking," said Courtney Gouthro, Acting Executive Director, Skills Canada – Nova Scotia. At the end of the day, medals were awarded in each contest area and those wearing gold advanced onto the next challenge – The Canadian Skills Competition.

*Photo right: Keegan Balcomb, Electrical Wiring gold medalist, 1st year apprentice. Photo bottom: Team Nova Scotia and delegates.*

Team NS consisted of 40 youth who had less than one month to prepare for the national competition. May 20-23, more than 500 youth from across Canada competed for a chance to claim the title 'Best in Canada' in their trade or technology area. During the closing ceremonies, Team Nova Scotia broke a record claiming 17 medals in 14 contest areas! "The efforts of this training brought clear results to Team Nova Scotia as they proudly claimed three gold medals, seven silver, and seven bronze medals," said SCNS President, Scott Furlotte.

Nova Scotia apprentices came out on top winning two of the three gold medals. "Team Nova Scotia is a rewarding team to be a part of,

and I am much more confident in my trade after this experience," said apprentice, Keegan Balcomb, 2009 CSC gold medalist in Electrical Wiring, post secondary. When asked about his experience in the competition, Balcomb stated, "Having Mike Holmes put a gold medal around

*See Team... page 2*

## Employer Breakfast

On April 24th, 2009 25 employers representing 21 companies in the Tri-county area gathered at the NSCC Burrigge Campus in Yarmouth for an Employer Breakfast. Minister Richard Hulburt opened the event with remarks and Marjorie Davison made a presentation on the CAF (Canadian Apprenticeship Forum) "Return on Training Investment".

Two employer champions; Everett Titus of A.F. Theriault and Peter Graves of Graves Electric, spoke regarding their experiences in support of apprenticeship and registering apprentices. Following their speeches, employers had an opportunity to participate in a round-table session where they discussed strategies for engaging employers in apprenticeship training. Information was also collected through surveys where employers expressed their thoughts on attracting and retaining apprentices, their feelings toward pre-apprenticeship programs and the benefits of hiring apprentices.

Overall, those in attendance were very pleased with the event. We received a lot of great feedback and would like to thank everyone who attended. For more details on the information collected, please see insert. ■





*Samuel Neatby, Heavy Equipment Repair gold medalist, 1st year apprentice*

**Team** continued from page 1

my neck and shake my hand made all of my hard work and determination worth while.”

Congratulations to the following apprentices:

- Keegan Blacomb, Electrical Wiring, Gold
- Samuel Neatby, Heavy Equipment Repair, Gold
- Thomas Zwicker, Brick Masonry, Silver
- William Sidney, Carpentry, Silver
- Patrick Snider, Precision Machining, Bronze

For a complete list of medalists from the 2009 Canadian Skills Competition, visit <http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca> ■

## Director takes new Position; New Acting Director

This past April, Marjorie Davison, whom most of you knew as the Director of Apprenticeship Training and Skill Development, agreed to take on the temporary role of Director of Policy for the Department of Labour and Workforce Development.

While she will be missed, she will not be far and her past responsibilities are in good hands. Dale Crawford has assumed all duties of the Director related to the Apprenticeship Training System. This means that Dale has also taken a temporary leave of absence from his role as Apprenticeship Board Administrator.

Congratulations to Marjorie and Dale as they take on new challenges in their careers. ■

## Honouring our Newly Certified Journeypersons

On Saturday, May 30th, 2009, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Board celebrated newly certified journeypersons during the 14th Apprenticeship Celebration Event at the Digby Pines in Digby NS. Approximately 135 individuals attended, including 27 newly certified journeypersons.

Dale Crawford, Acting Director, Apprenticeship Training was the Emcee for the event and welcomed special guests: Mr. Colin Campbell, Chair of the Provincial Apprenticeship Board and Mr. Jamie Hiltz, Vice President of the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC).

Special recognition was given to George MacLean, a previous Apprenticeship Board Chair for his commitment to the Apprenticeship Board. Following that, Brenda Daniels, who was the first female apprentice to receive a Red Seal in plumbing in 1993, called upon Christopher Baltzer to come forward as the guest speaker of the event. Christopher completed his Construction Electrician certification in four years, which was a promise he made to himself the first day he started his apprenticeship journey.

Mr. Hiltz brought greetings from NSCC and Robert Sampson, Apprenticeship Board Member and Academic Chair at NSCC, was called upon to present special awards. The Mentor/Coach Award of Excellence is an award that recognizes an employer, supervisor, instructor or coach who demonstrates a commitment to excellence in contributing to the success of apprentices achieving certification. The winner of this award was Joanne Jeddry, who is a Red Seal Cook and was nominated by her apprentice, Michelle Thibodeau.

The Apprenticeship Award of Excellence recognizes a newly certified journeyperson who exceeds the requirements of the Apprenticeship program



*L-R, Norm Kemp, Board Member; Joanne Jeddry, Mentor/Coach Award of Excellence recipient; Colin Campbell, Board Chair*



*L-R, Norm Kemp, Board Member; Peter Robbins, Apprenticeship Award of Excellence recipient; Mike Boutlier, Board Member.*

and who demonstrates strong work ethic, skill, professionalism and support of others in the workplace. Peter Robbins, who is a Truck and Transport Mechanic, was the winner of this award and was nominated by his employer, Geoff Locke.

This event could not have been a success without the support of our partners:

- Ironworkers Local 752
- Nova Scotia Construction Labour Relations Association
- UA Local 56
- Apprenticeship Award Trust
- Nova Scotia Power
- Atlantic Tractors & Equipment
- Carpenters Union Local 1588
- International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators & Asbestos Workers Local 116
- IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) JATC
- International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Local 73
- Mainland NS Building & Construction Trades Council
- Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline
- Nova Scotia Boat Builders Association
- Skills Canada Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Community College

Thank you to all our partners for their contribution.

The next Apprenticeship Celebration Event is scheduled to take place on November 14th, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth. ■

# Getting your Employment Insurance

## Information for apprentices and their employers

We recognize the importance and urgency for apprentices when applying for Employment Insurance (EI). We would like to provide you with some tips in helping you get your EI. Before applying, there are three very important things you should know:

### 1. Fill out the application form completely and accurately:

When you submit all accurate information to Service Canada, it reduces delays in processing your application. The electronic process is simple, fast, convenient and secure. You may apply for benefits one week before your last day of work.

To apply for EI, or to reactivate an existing claim, you have two options:

1. Log on to [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca). Click on "Apply for Employment Insurance Benefits"

OR

2. Visit your Service Canada Center from Monday to Friday, between 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

### 2. Include your Apprenticeship Reference Code and double check to make sure it is correct:

When you begin the online application process, the program will ask you to enter a reference code. Your reference code is included in the letter you received with your course information. This reference code is case-sensitive, so be sure to enter it exactly as it appears. This code will help Service Canada in processing your claim for benefits more quickly.

**Note:** You should only use this reference code if you are applying for EI benefits while you are attending approved apprenticeship training. Do not use it if you are applying for another type of EI benefits, such as regular, sickness, maternity, parental, or compassionate care benefits.

If you are already receiving Employment Insurance benefits, visit your Service Canada Center or call 1-800-206-7218 to advise them that you will be attending an apprenticeship training course, and provide the reference code.

### 3. Submit all Records of Employment:

In order to calculate your claim, Service Canada must receive your application and Record of Employment (ROE) from every employer you worked for during the last 52 weeks. If previous employers issued you paper ROEs, you must mail them to Service Canada or drop them off at your local Service Canada Centre as soon as possible.

#### Notes

- ROEs with serial numbers starting with "W" or "S" are submitted to Service Canada electronically; therefore, you do not need to submit paper copies.
- If you have difficulty obtaining ROEs from your employers, Service Canada can help. If you call 1-800-206-7218, one of their agents will explain how you can obtain the ROE, and what information they need to calculate your claim.

If you receive earnings from an employer, or if your situation changes in any other way, you must let Service Canada know by calling 1-800-206-7218.

## Information for Employers of Apprentices

As the employer, you play a key role in Apprentices obtaining EI Benefits.

### Importance of the Record of Employment (ROE)

The ROE is the single most important document in establishing an EI claim. Service Canada uses the information on the ROE to determine whether a person qualifies for EI benefits, the benefit rate and the duration of his/her claim. An employer must complete an ROE whenever there is an interruption of earnings. The ROE must be issued even if an employee has no intention of filing a claim for EI benefits.

### Reasons for issuing the ROE

In the situation where the claimant is attending an Apprenticeship program, the reason for issuing the record of employment should be J – Apprentice Training.

When the Apprenticeship training coincides with a lay-off situation, the reason for separation should be A- Shortage of work, because that is the primary reason for the employee to stop working. For example, if the claimant is laid-off in mid-December, and is schedule to attend an Apprentice Training program the first week of January, the reason for separation on the record of employment should be A – Shortage of work. ■

## Apprenticeship Board Members 2009

### Employer representatives:

Heather Cruickshanks  
Graham Baxter  
Donna Bonner  
Norman Kemp  
Paul Price

### Employee representatives:

Colin Campbell  
Michael Boutilier  
Tori Munroe  
Vacancy  
Apprentice Vacancy

### Member-at-large:

Bill Carroll  
Louis Joe Bernard

### Training Provider representative:

Robert Sampson

### Acting Director of Apprenticeship

Dale Crawford

### Board Coordinator

Susanne Anderson

### Administrative Assistant

Ann-Marie Huntley

### Department of Labour and Workforce Development Support

Richard Sharpe  
Darlene Clark

### Visit our website at:

[apprenticeboard.ednet.ns.ca](http://apprenticeboard.ednet.ns.ca)

# Trade Advisory Committee Update

The Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Board is the voice of industry to the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development regarding the apprenticeship and certification system in Nova Scotia. The board relies heavily on the involvement of industry members from all trades in the participation of industry ad hoc advisory committees. The dedication and involvement of our industry partners greatly assist the board to effectively represent industry.

The following are proposed amended regulations that are currently under legal review before going to Cabinet:

- Agriculture Equipment Technician (amended regulation)
- Alarm and Security Technician (new regulation)
- Boat Builder (new regulation)
- Cook (amended regulation)
- Floorcovering Installer (amended regulation)
- Industrial Electrician (amended regulation)
- Instrumentation & Control Technician (amended regulation)
- Industrial Mechanic (amended regulation)
- Ironworker (amended regulation)
- Machinist (amended regulation)
- Motor Vehicle Body Repairer (recommendation for compulsory certification)
- Plumber (amended regulation)
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic (amended regulation)
- Sheet Metal Worker (amended regulation)

The following trades have ad hoc advisory committees established and are in the process of reviewing trade regulations:

## Automotive Service Technician (AST)

This committee was established in June 2007 and had proposed amendments to the current trade regulation. The committee has agreed to the removal of the Service Station Mechanic, Front End and Brakes sub-trades. The apprenticeship division is concerned about the removal of sub-trades from this trade and therefore, the AHRSC (Automotive Human Resource Sector Council) will be conducting a study in order to determine the potential impact on the removal of sub trades, the type of services offered by Auto Technicians and the certifications they hold. The study is scheduled to begin in July and wrap up in December 2009. A decision on Transmission Technician as a sub trade will be made once the AST study is complete.

## Auto Glass Technician

An ad hoc advisory committee was established and held their first meeting in March 2009. Draft regulation was sent out for consultation to Auto Glass and Auto Collision Repair industry on June 11th, 2009. The Minister designated Auto Glass Technician as a trade on March 31st, 2009.

## Bricklayer

On June 16th, 2009 the committee was called together to discuss the draft regulation. There was a lot of discussion, in particular around hours and the addition of an exemption clause that would include Restoration Stone Mason. The Chair of the committee is scheduled to present the amended regulation to the board during the next meeting which will take place in September, 2009.

## Construction Electrician

The board has determined that due to the length of time that has passed since the amended regulation was recommended to the board and considering a number of changes have been made during the legal review, the advisory committee will need to reconvene in 2009 to review the regulation.

## Landscape Horticulturist

On March 31st, 2009, the Minister designated Landscape Horticulturist as a trade in Nova Scotia. The board established an ad hoc advisory committee in November 2008 to develop a trade regulation. Since then, the committee has developed a draft regulation which was sent out for consultation in June 2009.

## Mobile Crane Operator

An ad hoc advisory committee was established in January 2009 to develop a trade regulation for the Mobile Crane Operator and Tower Crane Operator. It has been determined that the regulation will be called, "Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator" and will contain Mobile Crane Operator, Boom Truck Operator and Tower Crane Operator. Designation requests were sent to the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development for Tower Crane Operator and Boom Truck Operator. These two trades were designated as of March 31, 2009. The committee is currently developing a draft regulation that incorporates all three trades and the committee is scheduled to meet again on July 21st, 2009.

## Oil Heat System Technician

The Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship (CCDA) has approved a name change from Oil Burner Mechanic to Oil Heat System Technician. This committee was established in September 2007 and has developed a draft regulation with proposed amendments to the current trade regulation. Following consultation in September 2008, the committee continued to meet, prepared a final document and made a recommendation to the board during the July 24, 2009 board meeting. The board is considering the amended regulation and is expected to make a recommendation to the Minister in the fall 2009.

## Sprinkler System Installer

An ad hoc advisory committee was established in February 2008 and drafted an amended regulation. An industry consultation was conducted in June 2008 and the Chair of the committee presented to the board during the March 25 board meeting. Currently, the amended regulation is under legal review.

## Welder

An ad hoc advisory committee was established in March 2008 and drafted an amended regulation. An industry consultation was conducted in September 2008 and in February 2009, the committee made a recommendation to the board. Currently, the amended regulation is under legal review.

Please visit the Apprenticeship Board site for updates: <http://apprenticeboard.ednet.ns.ca>



For further information on these articles or any other inquiries about the apprenticeship system in Nova Scotia contact:  
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