

PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT MECHANIC APPRENTICESHIP PROJECT

Trade Certification Coming to BC

To meet the ongoing demand for qualified employees and address recruitment issues across the petroleum equipment industry in BC, stakeholders have formed the Petroleum Equipment Mechanic Human Resources Steering Committee (PEMSC). PEMSC comprises representatives from industry, labour, the Construction Industry Training Organization (CITO), the Industry Training Authority, and Service Canada.

The objective of the project, funded through Service Canada's Labour Market Partnerships program, is to establish a new trade certification and training program for Petroleum Equipment Mechanics in BC. The training and certification process will benchmark and improve the level of training of those individuals engaged in the installation, servicing, repair, maintenance and replacement of the equipment used to distribute petroleum and related products to the public. In-kind contributions from industry and labour augment federal funds allocated to the project.

"In order to sustain our businesses and protect the public and the environment, we must establish the petroleum technician/mechanic trade by creating a widely accepted training and certification program which will enable us to attract bright young trainees to this industry" said Robin Bateman, President of Western Oil Services Ltd and PEMSC member. "It should also inspire the placement of important standards for installation, maintenance and safety."

The Canadian Petroleum Contractors Association's (CPCA) training and certification program, which was developed as the national training standard, has been adopted in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It is anticipated that the rest of the provinces to follow within the next two years, specifically Ontario and Quebec. Through this project British Columbia is exploring the opportunity to align with and adopt a national standard for employees working in this field.

To date, PEMSC has engaged the services of an independent contractor to conduct labour market information research to validate the human resource needs of the industry and secure support for the project, as well develop an occupational analysis and competency profile to determine knowledge and skills required for practice. Outreach activities, including surveys and Subject Matter Expertise workshops, with industry representatives will be conducted over the next few months to validate findings and ensure that the training program meets industry needs.

It is anticipated that a proposal to establish a pilot project for the delivery of the trade program in BC will be made to the Industry Training Authority by the end of 2008 and that learners could be enrolled in the program in 2009.

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