



November 12, 2009

To: Peter Bjornson, Manitoba Minister of Entrepreneurship Training & Trade  
Leonard Harapiak, Chair, Manitoba Apprenticeship & Trades Qualification Board  
Scott Sinclair, Executive Director, Apprenticeship Manitoba  
Rick Guilbault, Apprenticeship Training Coordinator  
Kris Wright, Chair, Plumber PTAC  
James Kopec, Chair, Gas PTAC  
Bob Modjeski, Chair, Steamfitter/Pipefitter PTAC

**Re: Manitoba Mechanical Contractor Industry Position Paper on Plumber  
Apprenticeship and Gas Fitter Apprenticeship**

In early January 2009, the Government of Manitoba advised the Mechanical Construction Industry that systemic changes to the Manitoba Piping Trades Apprenticeship Programs had been imposed as follows:

- The trade of plumbing has gone from 9,000 hrs/5 years to 7,200hrs/4 years.
- The formation of a new gas PTAC to build the foundation for a new Gas trade.
- The suggestion that the gas 'B' ticket training was to be eliminated from the core piping curriculum and offered as an **add-on option** to the piping trades.

As you are all aware, the united voice of concern from the representative Mechanical Contractor Industry Associations with respect to these imposed changes was unequivocal. After several "industry" meetings with Mr. Harapiak, Mr. Sinclair and the representatives of the Mechanical Construction Industry, Mr. Harapiak advised that with respect to the previously imposed changes, nothing was "written in stone" and the Manitoba Apprenticeship Branch was very much interested in receiving recommendations from the Mechanical Construction Industry on how to best proceed going forward. To that end, please accept this document as the joint recommendation from the Industry Associations who collectively represent the majority of Mechanical Construction Contractors for the Province of Manitoba. We provide a list of our constituents for greater clarity:

ABCO Supply & Service  
Ambassador Mechanical Ltd  
A.P.H. Mechanical Services Ltd  
Bergmann Plumbing & Heating Ltd.  
Bison Mechanical Ltd.  
Bison Plumbing & Heating Ltd

Black & McDonald Ltd.  
Boisco Enterprise Ltd  
Bornhorst Mechanical Inc.  
Brookdale Plumbing & Heating (1992) Ltd.  
Building Systems Design Solutions Ltd.  
Canadian Mechanical Specialty Ltd  
City Wide Water Heater Service  
C.I.R. Mechanical (2006)  
Cobbe's Plumbing and Heating Ltd.  
Comstock Canada an Emcor Company  
Connotec Inc  
D.A. Loewen Electric Ltd  
Denko Mechanical Ltd.  
Derksen Mechanical Services Inc.  
Derksen Plumbing & Heating (1984) Ltd.  
Duncalfe Mechanical Ltd  
Dynamic Building Control Ltd  
Empire Iron Works Ltd.  
Fast Plumbing & Heating Ltd  
Gateway Mechanical Services Inc.  
Global Refrigeration & Mechanical Inc  
GMA Industrial Inc.  
Graham Industrial Services ltd.  
Heritage Heating & Cooling Ltd  
Honeywell Limited  
Howell Mechanical Co Ltd  
Jets Plumbing & Heating Co Ltd  
Johnson Controls Ltd.  
Loewen Mechanical Ltd  
Mikkelsen-Coward & Co. Ltd.  
Millennium Mechanical Contracting  
Neepawa Plumbing & Heating (1979) Ltd.  
Newton Mechanical  
Randall Plumbing & Heating LTd.  
Serv-All Mechanical Services  
Siemens Building Technologies Building Automation  
Spirit Mechanical  
Unit Mechanical Services  
Westwood Mechanical Inc  
Winter's Plumbing & Heating Ltd

The Mechanical Contractors recommendations on how this process should move forward are as follows:

- (1) "B" License Gas is currently a component of the Plumbing, Steamfitting and Refrigeration trades scope of work and concurrently must remain as a specific component of their respective apprenticeship training curriculums.

- (2) The Plumbing and Steamfitting/Pipefitting trades must be of the same duration, 9000 hrs/5yrs with both trades having the opportunity to complete the “B” Gas License during its respective 5 year apprenticeship program.
- (3) It is recognized that Gas installation is also an integral component of a Residential HVAC tradesmen’s and associated industries scope of work (such as northern propane installers) and therefore there must be an acceptable method for training these specific groups outside of the traditional piping trades apprentice programs. Accordingly, we strongly recommend that a minimum of 2 years in the piping trades must be used as a pre-requisite to the Gas Fitting trade.

We again stress that the above recommendations have been vetted through the Manitoba Mechanical Contractor Industry and therefore represent a clear and unified voice which we trust the Ministry of Entrepreneurship, Training & Trade, the Apprenticeship Board of Directors and the respective piping trade Provincial Trade Advisory Committees will hear and implement.

We look forward to receiving confirmation that our recommendations have been implemented by the Manitoba Apprenticeship Branch through its various Piping PTAC’s and we stand ready to provide whatever assistance is required to ensure that this endeavor is completed.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Wightman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Peter Wightman – Executive Director, Construction Labour Relations Association of Manitoba (C.L.R.A.M.)

Betty McInerney – Executive Director, Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba (M.C.A.M.)

Harvey Miller - Executive Director, Merit Contractors Association of Manitoba