

## Plumbing Trade Report:

As you are all aware, the plumbing industry (as with any sector of construction) has been overly busy during the past year. With the economy being so strong it has created other hardships on all aspects of our industry. Right from having enough skilled labour, to balancing the amount of work we are able to perform during the year to getting apprentices trained and through the system.

As you are all aware we have been in the midst of a lot of changes within the Plumbing Trade Advisory Board. We had our annual meeting on the 3 of October/07 in Davidson. At that meeting it was proposed and passed that we shorten the amount of time required for plumbing trades-people to become journeypersons. That time frame was shortened to 4 calendar years from the previous five year requirement. As a result of the “shortening” of the required trade time, the plumbing industry no longer has a 5<sup>th</sup> year classification. By shorting the amount of time required and making the plumbing trade similar to all of the other compulsory trades we should be able to get more journey-people out to the job-sites.

The final outcome of the changes will not affect employers ability to indenture more apprentices because we still don't have to count apprentices that are in their final year of the apprenticeship agreement, in short, you still don't have to count any apprentices that are in their fourth year towards current apprenticeship to journeyperson ratio, which is still a one to one ratio.

MCAS has recently suggested that a committee be struck to review some or all of the current apprenticeship agreement with respect to the current 1 to 1 ratio. I have put it on the agenda for the fall TAB meeting which will be held in Davidson on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October this year.

That is all that I have to report on this year.

Respectfully submitted.  
Mike Berkes