

# Training News DIGEST

**January 2012 - Issue 12.** Training news, compliments of ITA. We hope you find it an interesting read and a useful way for you to share industry training news with others. Submit information or ideas for digest items by emailing [kzukas@itabc.ca](mailto:kzukas@itabc.ca)



**Trades forecast updated** – A new edition of Trade Occupations Outlook 2010-2020 is available, based on the most current labour market information from a variety of sources. You can find it on WorkBC's [website](#)



**ITA exec makes business case for apprenticeships** – Kevin Evans, chief executive officer of the Industry Training Authority, attended a two-day forum in Prince George to hear about northern labour issues and encourage industry representatives to embrace a training culture that includes apprenticeships. *Quesnel Observer*; Jan. 13, 2012 [read more ...](#) and *The Prince George Citizen*; Jan.14, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Getting the message out about opportunities in the trades** – ITA Chief Executive Officer Kevin Evans and BCIT President Don Wright were interviewed on Global TV following an industry training conference in December. ITA website: [itabc.ca](http://itabc.ca)



**Invest in apprenticeship training or risk missing economic good times** – That was the theme of a newspaper editorial by Kevin Evans, chief executive officer of the Industry Training Authority. *TerraceStandard.com*; Dec. 21, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Quesnel newspaper editorial urges community to train locals for trades** – Citing an upcoming shortage of 3,350 skilled workers in the Cariboo region, the Quesnel Cariboo Observer writes “let’s not wait until the shortages force industry to look elsewhere for skilled help.” *QuesnelCaribooObserver.com*; Jan. 13, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Employers better appreciate apprenticeships, but participation rate is unchanged** – That’s the finding of a new report, *Employers and Apprenticeship in Canada*, by the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum, which compares attitudes among employers now with five years ago. It found only 19 per cent of employers hire apprentices. CAF-FCA [website](#)



**New job-hunting program ready to roll in April** – The B.C. government has reorganized its employment program into 73 one-stop service centers across the province. The new structure will replace the 10 programs the province inherited from the federal government when it took assumed responsibility in 2008 for helping people on income assistance and others find work. *Times Colonist*; Dec. 13, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**B.C. government beefs up literacy training** –The province is providing \$2.4 million in financial support for 72 adult literacy projects this year, eight more than last year. Community groups in partnership with public post-secondary institutions will deliver the training. Government news release; Jan. 10, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Pat Bell optimistic about decade ahead in north** – B.C.’s Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation thinks the northern part of the province is “in for a very, very strong period of time” although he believes 2012 itself could be challenging for the world economically. *Opinion 250*; Dec. 29, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Small-business owners in B.C. still confident** – According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the B.C. ‘confidence barometer’ hit 68.0 in December, three points above the national average, but relatively unchanged since October. *The Vancouver Sun*; Jan. 6, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Umbrella agreement for shipbuilding ready to be signed** – The 25-page document outlines how the federal government and Seaspan Marine Corporation will work together over the next 30 years as Seaspan builds seven non-combat ships, worth about \$8 billion. *Times Colonist*; Dec. 24, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Seaspan Marine and union offices flooded with resumes** – Almost 1,600 people have applied for jobs related to Seaspan's contract. The company, which has shipyards in Vancouver and Esquimalt, isn't ready to hire yet, but it's expected there will be 2,500 direct and 1,500 indirect jobs. *Times Colonist*; Jan. 10, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Power line builder begins hiring, training workers** – Valard is flying employees from northwestern B.C. to one of its projects in Fort McMurray, Alberta for on-the-job training, so they'll be ready to start work on the Northwest Transmission Line this spring. The majority of people hired, including several apprentices, are from First Nations. *TerraceStandard.com*; Dec. 28, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Northern businesses wait-and-see on Enbridge pipeline proposal** – As hearings got underway in Kitimat on the Northern Gateway pipeline only one business group – the Kitimat Terrace Industrial Development Society – was offering unconditional support. Some businesses groups are reluctant to publicly favour a project that opponents say carries significant environmental risks, while others are simply undecided about the benefits. *The Vancouver Sun*; Jan.5, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Future labour shortage spells opportunity for skilled workers in Kootenays** – Almost 5,000 jobs are expected to open in the region between 2010 and 2019, according to Kevin Evans, chief executive officer of the Industry Training Authority, and the trades will account for 15 per cent of overall employment by 2020. *Trail Daily Times*; Dec. 15, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Campbell River set to host regional economic development forum** – The town is one of three pilot communities chosen by the provincial government as part of its Canada Start Here – The BC Jobs Plan. The one-day forum, tentatively scheduled for Jan. 30, will identify opportunities to create jobs and attract investment. *Campbell River Mirror*; Jan. 5, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**New trades centre opens in Prince George** – The Technical Education Centre at the College of New Caledonia will house training programs for trades such as welding, machinist, auto collision repair, and industrial mechanic/millwright. The new centre was funded by the federal and provincial governments and more than doubles the number of spaces available for students. *QuesnelObserver.com*; Dec. 22, 2011 [read more ...](#) and *CKPG TV*; Dec. 20, 2011 [see more ...](#)



**Canadian Institute of Mining seeds college endowment fund with \$30,000** – The grant will generate scholarships for students in the mining certificate program at New Caledonia College, beginning with four scholarships worth \$500 each for next year. College of New Caledonia news release; Dec. 16, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**RBC donates \$40,000 to Aboriginal Construction Program** – The money is to help Vancouver Island University continue to train First Nations youth in traditional construction and modern technology. The announcement was made at Shq'apthut – the university's Aboriginal Gathering Place, which was built with the help of students in the program. *NationTalk.ca* Dec.12, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Fort St. John pilot program introduces would-be apprentices to the trades** – Young adults wondering if the trades are for them will find out, while getting paid, by joining the Discovery to Apprenticeship Program. It's funded by the federal government. Students get nine weeks of work placements as well as life and work skills training. *Alaska Highway News*; Dec. 14, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**New training programs offer hope for First Nations youth in Nanoose Bay, Vancouver Island** – Two programs, one offered by the Coast Salish Education and Training Society and the other offered by the Nanoose Bay Band and funded with \$100,000 from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, are giving young band members a chance to work in the trades. The band has 20 per cent unemployment. *Nanaimo Daily News*; Dec. 27, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Trades training led to roof over this roofer's head** – Yuk Hawkridge was a homeless roofer for awhile, but after taking a specialized carpentry course for at-risk youth in Vancouver, he's able to rent a home and has been hired to construct podiums for the 2012 BC Games. *The Vancouver Sun*; Dec. 14, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Albertans re-think education** – Parents, students, teachers and others were invited to share ideas for improving Alberta’s education system. Some of the recommendations will be adopted immediately, while others will be incorporated into legislation this spring. Government news release; Jan. 10, 2012 [read more ...](#) *Edmonton Journal*; Jan. 11, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Alberta foresees steady job growth ahead, despite shortage of labour** – A new occupational outlook forecasts that Alberta will produce over 600,000 jobs by 2021 but will experience a shortfall of about 114,000 workers. The province’s strategy is to inform employers, train and educate workers, attract job seekers and retain workers. Government news release; Dec. 2, 2011 [read more ...](#) Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook 2011-2021 [read more ...](#)



**Alberta schools try to anticipate labour challenges** – As companies face labour crunches, post-secondary institutions are trying to figure out how to graduate the right number of workers in the right fields at the right time. *The Calgary Herald*; Dec. 27, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Perfect demographic storm threatens Canada’s oil and gas sector** – A survey by Ernst & Young of human resource professionals found filling jobs is their most pressing problem as major projects appear on the horizon and baby boomers retire. E&Y advises companies to think ‘outside the box’, such as sharing non-strategic resources (e.g., finance, payroll and HR) with other companies. *Edmonton Journal*; Dec. 16, 2011 [read more ...](#) *The Vancouver Sun*; Dec. 23, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Energy industry pushes for changes to immigration policy** – In the face of an impending shortage of 77,000 workers over the next ten years, Alberta’s oil and gas sector wants federal immigration rules to be reformed. However, the head of the Alberta Federation of Labour says if development of the oil sands slowed, the existing labour force could handle the work and there would be some left for future generations. *The Globe and Mail*; Dec. 22, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Canada’s railways look to colleges to help with recruitment challenges** – With a growing demand for passenger and freight trains and an aging workforce, railways are on a hiring roll, planning to fill 3,500 jobs between 2011 and 2012. The Railway Association of Canada is working with colleges to increase the number of graduates with entry-level job requirements. *Interchange* magazine; Winter 2011/2012 [read more ...](#)



**Industries, organizations and communities join forces to train northerners** – Joint initiatives in Canada’s north are improving educational outcomes and increasing job skills, according to a report from the Conference Board of Canada’s Centre for the North. Conference Board of Canada news release; Nov. 21, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Saskatchewan Construction Association doubles scholarships for trades students** – In an effort to attract young people into the trades, the association is offering 80 scholarships of \$1,000 each this year, up from 40 last year. The construction industry in the province is booming, but there aren’t enough skilled workers. *Leader Post*; Dec. 31, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Newfoundland losing skilled workers** – A limited number of apprenticeship spaces in the province means most apprentices leave to become certified elsewhere, or they give up on the trades and find other kinds of work. *The Telegram*; Dec. 21, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Mobility of apprentices a double-edged sword** – Apprentices from Newfoundland and Labrador can get hours accredited if they work in Alberta. While this special arrangement helps them become journeymen, it hurts the economy of their home province if they don’t return. *The Telegram*; Dec. 23, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Newfoundland employers look overseas for talent** – The unprecedented boom in energy and resources in the province combined with a declining population of older, unskilled workers means jobs are going unfilled. Companies are recruiting as far away as Ireland. *The Globe and Mail*; Dec. 17, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**CAF-FCA announces 2012 conference keynote speaker** – Rick Miner will give the closing speech at the June 3-5th conference on strategies for success with apprenticeship. Miner is president emeritus of Seneca College and known for his speaking series ‘People Without Jobs, Jobs Without People’. CAF-FCA [website](#)



**Four studies released relating to 2007 National Apprenticeship Survey** – They explore motivation to entry, perceived quality of training, impact of compulsory certification and interprovincial mobility. Red Seal [website](#)



**Stats Canada to offer info free of charge** – Beginning on Feb. 1, 2012, Statistics Canada will allow people free access to documents it previously charged for, including census data products and information from its socioeconomic database (CANSIM). The data will be released under an open-license agreement, meaning few restrictions will be imposed on users. *The Tyee*; Dec. 14, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Small business owners in Canada lose sleep over staffing** – Finding qualified staff is more stressful for business owners than the unsettled global economy, according to the latest American Express Small Business Monitor. Almost three-quarters of surveyed owners said it's becoming harder to find good employees and 64 per cent said the demands of job applicants exceed their qualifications. *Times Colonist*; Dec. 12, 2011 [read more ...](#)



**Canadians gloomy about year ahead** – An on-line survey of 1,542 Canadians in early December by the Bank of Montreal found increased pessimism about the economy. Compared with last year's survey, about 12 per cent fewer believe their employers will add staff this year or invest in training or equipment. *Winnipeg Free Press*; Jan. 13, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Canada's unemployment rate creeps up, despite increase in jobs** – Approximately 17,500 jobs were created in December, but because more people entered the work force, the unemployment rate climbed to 7.5%. According to Statistics Canada, the job gains were in the part-time and self-employment categories. *Global News*; Jan. 6, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**U.S. unemployment continues to drop** – For the third month in a row, the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits has declined. The numbers point to a stronger economy and hiring. *The Washington Post*; Jan. 5, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Two manufacturing-related certification programs recognized** – The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has accredited two certification programs –Logistics Technician and Production Technician – as well as the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council. ANSI news release; Jan. 4, 2012 [read more ...](#)



**Parents need to promote post-secondary education, but not every day** – That's the finding of Statistics Canada's Youth in Transition Survey that looked at the number of months students took between graduating from high school and enrolling in university or college. Monthly discussions of the value of higher education resulted in the shortest gap between schooling. *The Globe and Mail*; Dec. 28, 2011 [read more ...](#)



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ITA is the British Columbia agency overseeing the province's industry training system to develop the skilled workforce needed to assure B.C.'s competitiveness and economic prosperity.

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