

Alberta Board of Skilled Trades Hits the Ground Running

Volume 1, Issue 1



Orientation

Wednesday, July 20, 2022, marked a historic day for Alberta's skilled trades and apprenticeship education system. [The Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act \(STAEA\)](#) came into force and the inaugural meeting of the [Alberta Board of Skilled Trades \(ABST\)](#) took place. The Honorable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education, attended the first meeting and thanked board members for championing the skilled trades and apprenticeship education system in Alberta.

The ABST members are:

- Ray Massey, Chair
- Carol Moen, Chair Designate
- Sheldon Anderson
- Blaine Boutin
- Rob Calver
- Paul de Jong
- Caitlin Hartigan
- Ryan Hartman
- Miriam Jordi
- David Kavanagh
- Matthew Lindberg
- Heather MacCallum
- Declan Regan
- Chris Schneider
- Nancy Suranyi

The ABST hit the ground running on day one, and signed new by-laws and the Designated Trade and Certification Requirement Board Order (DTCR) to maintain scope of practice status quo under STAEA. The DTCR outlines the scope of practice for all designated trades in Alberta, and details the certification requirements to obtain an Alberta journeyman certificate in a designated trade.

The work of the ABST did not stop there, as meetings continued over the next week conducting a marathon four-day orientation. Over the four days, the ABST had active discussions about the board's roles and mandates, Code of Conduct, apprenticeship system partner roles, the Alberta credential framework, industry engagement strategies, and setting their 12-month work plan.

Next Steps

The ABST will begin its regular meeting schedule in September and is scheduled to meet a minimum of once per month over the next 18 months. The board has a busy year ahead - in addition to its legislated duties of specifying the scope of activities in designated trades, establishing standards and requirements for designated trade certification, recognizing trade certificate equivalencies from outside Alberta, and establishing standards for the Achievement in Business Competencies (Blue Seal) endorsement, it will also develop a partner engagement plan, promote careers in the skilled trades, and promote welcoming and inclusive work environments for designated trades.

Priority number one for the ABST is to establish the system it will use to engage with industry, to maximize the value of industry input to support key areas of the board's decision-making. The board will engage and work with a variety of partners to gather feedback over the coming weeks and months, to ensure it is hearing the ideas and concerns of industry, and most importantly, meeting its responsibilities to the apprenticeship system under STAEA.

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Call for Input

The ABST is formally asking industry for input and ideas on the formation of the partner engagement plan. It is seeking written submissions from industry on any thoughts they may have for board members to consider as they design the board's initial partner engagement plan. Share what worked well, or not, under the previous model and what industry might like to see in what comes next. The board is asking to receive this input by Sept 15, 2022. Submissions can be sent to Board.SkilledTrades@gov.ab.ca.

The board will also be inviting input through an online survey that will run from September 1-15, 2022. More information about the survey will be shared later in August, and information on the engagement plan will be made publicly available on October 31, 2022 on [Tradesecrets.alberta.ca/ABST](https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/ABST).

Stay Informed

The ABST is committed to updating industry and partners on the board's activities. Please bookmark [Tradesecrets.alberta.ca/ABST](https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/ABST) for updated ABST news and information.

The board is still considering how it will communicate some highlights of its work over time, but for now it is planning on using a regular newsletter that will be posted on [Tradesecrets.alberta.ca/ABST](https://tradesecrets.alberta.ca/ABST) and will be sent electronically to the board's professional networks.

