



# Acoustical Association Ontario

Volume 6 Issue 6 June 2011

*Provincial in scope ...*

*Provincial in outlook*

## *Cardus Raises Concerns Over Certification*



Hamilton based think-tank Cardus outlined in its report “An Uneasy Case for Moving Trades from Voluntary to Compulsory Certification” that decisions about the future of the Ontario College of Trades are “hampered by a lack of research”. The report argues that some of the government’s changes such as the creation of bodies to determine which trades will require compulsory certification as well as the criteria these bodies will use to make these determinations “have yet to be tested as to whether they will help Ontario’s construction industry thrive, or whether they will leave the industry susceptible to crumbling under labour shortages, disputes and lack of innovation.

In reviewing the consultation process of the past few years, Cardus noted that it was a “process driven effort” outlining that it was focused on “how” the College would work rather than on “whether” a College of Trades was necessary. Additionally, the report noted that there is little evidence to suggest that the College will base decisions on research driven evidence.

Here are some of the reports findings:

- The consultation process involving the College of Trades noted that reliable data concerning basic questions did not exist.
- The Ontario Government took 36 months to consult, research and design the Ontario College of Trades—the largest and most complicated “College” in Canada.
- The College of Trades will be able to begin considering applications for making trades compulsory as early as January 2012. Currently there is no independent research available that will assist the Review Panels to measure and evaluate the seven criteria set out in the framework for making a voluntary trade compulsory.
- The expectations are, as a result of the timelines and the anticipation that panels will begin to consider applications for compulsory certification, that decisions will not be based on information provided by independent research.

## *Lost Jobs Reporting*

Members are reminded to report any work lost to non-union competition on AAO’s Web Site at [www.aao-online.ca](http://www.aao-online.ca). **This information will be logged and catalogued anonymously.** We will not be able to determine who has provided the information. Everyone’s assistance in this matter is greatly welcomed.

### *The Mathews Dinsdale Minute*



In this month's Mathews Dinsdale Minute we return to the subject of Occupational Health and Safety law in Ontario and the fallout from the infamous "swing stage" collapse in December 2009 in Toronto.

In our January 2011 Minute, we discussed the report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Occupational Health and Safety. That panel was struck in January 2010 and provided recommendations in December of that same year. On May 18, 2011, Bill 160, the Occupational Health and Safety Law Amendment Act, 2011 passed third reading in Ontario, paving the way for it to be presented to the Lieutenant Governor for Royal Assent. The Bill is described as being the first major review and the largest overhaul of Ontario's occupational health and safety system in 30 years.

Among its key provisions are the following:

- Making the Ministry of Labour, and not the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board, the body responsible for accident prevention.
- Appointing a new "Chief Prevention Officer" to coordinate and align the prevention system.
- Creating a "Prevention Council", comprised equally of worker and employer representatives, to advise the Chief Prevention Officer and the Minister of Labour.
- Modifying Joint Health and Safety Committees so that either worker or management co-chairs can make recommendations in cases where the Committee can't reach consensus.
- Authorizing the Minister to establish standards before an individual can become an approved training provider.
- Allowing Ministry of Labour Inspectors the power to refer suspected reprisals directly to the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

While each of these will have an impact on employers, the changes to the operation of Joint Health and Safety Committees and the new standards for "approved training providers" are areas that may especially impact on your day to day operations. It is essential to your business that you make sure you are ready to respond to these changes and remain in line with the requirements of the law.



### *Important Dates & Notes*

#### **AAO Conference:**

July 14, 2011—July 17, 2011—Niagara-on-the-Lake



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