



IBEW - CECA | National Electrical Trade Council

The NETCO Minute

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NETCO is jointly sponsored by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Canada and the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) to address workforce development for Red Seal electrical trades. www.ceca.org/netco

Training Centre of Excellence Showcase



WJETS Targets Quick Response to Employer Training Needs

www.wjets.ca



British Columbia's Western Joint Electrical Training Society is intensifying its focus on just-in-time delivery of onsite training across its vast service area, even as it expands its menu of course offerings.

The WJETS, often referred to as Western JETS, provides training services to IBEW locals 230, 993 and 1003, with a training co-ordinator based within each Local. The society assists the Locals in managing apprentices and delivers direct journeyman training in the Yukon and across most of B.C. outside Metro Vancouver.

In a recent case, WJETS scheduled and delivered a rigging course for IBEW members with a week's notice in Campbell River on northern Vancouver Island.

"It's a location where the range of skills training is pretty limited," WJETS Executive Director Adrien Livingston, RSE said in an interview. "Because of our quick response, our members were able to keep their jobs at the site and we didn't have to yield to another trade."

In its operating plan, WJETS has chosen to focus on mobility rather than investing in bricks and mortar. "We have a trailer full of what we need, and we go where the crews are," Livingston said. Recent training sites include Cranbrook, Nelson, Kamloops, Terrace, Prince George, and Victoria as well as Campbell River.

Based on its frequent contacts with employers in the field, WJETS is expanding its course catalogue to include training in new or changing technologies including solar photovoltaic, fire alarm systems and fibre optics splicing. "Fibre is becoming the norm," said Livingston. "The industry is phasing out copper distribution."

The Society's field experience was recognized in an invitation to consult on the BC Industry Training Authority's recent review of the provincial electrical apprenticeship program.

"We were surprised at what we found when we went into the review process," said Livingston. "Every trades college in B.C. has been delivering its own tests to apprentices, and in many cases, there is no required hands-on component. We advocated strongly for hands-on lab assessments across the province."

Livingston called the chance to influence the apprenticeship program review "exciting", although there was some resistance to WJETS' proposals for change, especially from for-profit institutions.

"Each school, naturally, is concerned with the bottom line of the school," he said. "It was our job in the process to bring the perspective of what's best for the apprentice."



Adrien Livingston, RSE joined the Western Joint Electrical Training Society (WJETS) as Executive Director in 2015. He leverages his industry experience as a training professional and Red Seal certified electrician in promoting the mission of WJETS —to build a highly trained and highly skilled workforce who have the expertise, character and sense of teamwork to bring value to the clients they serve, the union they represent, and the contractors who employ them. Adrien serves on NETCO's National Training Committee, the Skills Canada BC Board and the BC Building Trades Apprenticeship Committee.

NETCO News From Across Canada



L-R NETCO President (IBEW Canada) Bill Daniels, Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship Chair Marjorie Davison and NETCO Treasurer (Canadian Electrical Contractor Association) David Mason at NETCO's annual training conference in Montreal, Quebec on Aug. 19, 2017.

- Save the Date. NETCO's 2018 Training Conference will be held on June 9th in Mont Tremblant, Quebec. Online registration with special early-bird pricing will be available in December 2017 <http://www.cvent.com/d/15qzm7>. Delegates are encouraged to also attend the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum 2018 conference that follows in nearby Montreal on June 10-12, 2018. <http://caf-fca.org>
- In August 2017 a NETCO delegation met with the Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour in Montreal to discuss issues of importance to electrical industry stakeholders.
- Congratulations to Peter Olders, RSE (Ontario Electrical Industry Training Trust Fund) and Andy Clevon, RSE (Electrical Joint Training Committee)! They are the recipients of NETCO's prestigious 2017 Leadership Excellence Award which recognizes outstanding contributions to success in apprenticeship and continuing electrical training in Canada.
- NETCO advocates maintaining the Red Seal designation for the Electric Motor System Technician (EMST) trade and supporting related apprenticeship training and trade certification. Industry representatives from NETCO's IBEW and electrical contractor communities conveyed this feedback to the Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship which is reviewing the Red Seal designation of the EMST trade. http://www.red-seal.ca/trades/electricmotor_systech/1999n.4.1_4v.2rv.3.2w-eng.html.



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