

CARS NEWS

Where people, training and technology meet

Spring Issue, May 2009

GOOD NUMBERS, GOOD NEWS

Spring is the time of fresh starts and positive outlooks. This is something to bear in mind amidst the recent deluge of grim economic news in the media. Although there are certainly challenges to be faced, CARS would like to take this opportunity to highlight some good news stories and positive numbers.



Federal apprenticeship grants, credits & deductions

In the next two decades, 40% of new jobs will be in the skilled trades and technologies, according to skillswork.com. In 1998, that number was less than 20%. According to the Conference Board of Canada, the country could be short one million workers by 2020. To assist more Canadians to enter and complete skilled trades training, the Government of Canada has created a number of financial incentives.

The new **APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION GRANT (ACG)** is a **\$2,000** taxable cash grant for apprentices who complete their apprenticeship training and obtain Red Seal endorsement or a provincial or territorial Certificate of Qualification in a designated Red Seal trade. The Interprovincial Standards Red Seal program allows qualified tradespeople to practice their trade in any province or territory without having to write additional examinations.

Apprentices will be able to apply for the APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION GRANT, starting in July 2009, with eligibility made retroactive to January 1, 2009. For future updates on the Apprenticeship Completion Grant go to http://www.hrsc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/trades_apprenticeship/ACG/index.shtml

The APPRENTICESHIP COMPLETION GRANT (ACG) builds on the existing **APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVE GRANT (AIG)** and provides an additional incentive for Canadians to finish their training and launch rewarding careers in the skilled trades. This is a taxable cash grant of **\$1,000** per year (to a maximum of **\$2,000** per person) to help apprentices pay for the first two years of their education and training in a nationally recognized Red Seal trade program.

The **APPRENTICESHIP JOB CREATION TAX CREDIT** provides employers who hire and train new apprentices a tax credit of up to **\$2,000** per year for each eligible apprentice.

The **TRADEPERSON'S TOOLS DEDUCTION** gives workers an annual tax deduction of up to **\$500** for expenditures in excess of **\$1,000** for tools required as a condition of employment.



Hiring apprentices makes good business sense

For every \$1 invested in apprenticeship training by employers, there is a \$1.47 return net benefit.

This is one of the key findings from the preliminary results of a survey of more than 1,000 employers conducted by the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum between June and November 2008.

Other encouraging findings include:

- The net benefit of apprenticeship training increases each year.
- Of the 16 trades canvassed, the rate of return was highest in the heavy duty equipment technician, motor vehicle body repairer, boilermaker and machinist trades.
- Employers from all regions of Canada report positive returns on their training investment.

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Canadian Automotive
Repair and Service

Service d'entretien et de
réparation automobiles du Canada

www.cars-council.ca

The Canadian Automotive Repair and Service (CARS) Council is Canada's leader in training development for the motive power repair and service industry, one of the largest and most important components of the Canadian labour market.

As a national, not-for-profit sector council, CARS undertakes research and activities to support the professional development needs of this exciting industry.



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RACING PHYSICS



Take one small car, add grade 11 and 12 Physics curriculum, mix with automotive and physics teachers, and you get EXCITEMENT!

Physics Teacher Ian Fogarty from Riverview High School has become a fan of the Revo 3.3 model car, looking forward to enhancing his teaching with experiential learning opportunities offered by the vehicle. "I see my Physics class students experimenting with different tires and slopes and velocity." More significantly, he sees tremendous potential in engaging "smart individuals who don't experience success; students who've never taken an interest in Physics." He's comfortable with the prospect of handing the sophisticated vehicle over to his students to examine and explore, because he believes "they will spend time at lunch and after school and they will break in the car and they will get information." Fogarty is thrilled to see the students take the 'drivers seat' in their learning, to hear about what the students discover through experiments with the car and to learn from what they learn.

Riverview High School is one of several New Brunswick schools that are venturing into new territory, exploring the potential of using automotive

"If, as a teacher, you concentrate on teaching only theory, students won't retain what they are learning. If on the other hand, you focus only on hands-on applications, you can't sustain the learning. That was the premise on which Racing Physics was created. What we saw happening on March 25th, was the realization that, no matter what you teach - in this case Physics and Auto Tech - it is the bridging of theory and practical application that triggers understanding and registers science and Math concepts in students' long-term memory."

- Brian Gray, Learning Specialist
New Brunswick Department of Education

technology as a way, "to ensure that grade 11 and 12 students can apply and remember science and Math concepts taught in Physics" says Brian Gray, a Learning Specialist with the New Brunswick Department of Education. The "Racing Physics concept is designed to provide experiential learning opportunities for students" that strengthens their grasp of the subject matter by demonstrating the relevance of what they are learning to their day-to-day experiences.

The full Racing Physics story will be available on the newly expanded CARSyouth site.

www.carsyouth.ca



CARS supports and celebrates innovative educational best practices across Canada that promote students' academic success while building technical and Essential Skills. CARS welcomes opportunities to work with industry and educational partners in initiatives that foster the development of a highly skilled future workforce for the automotive repair and service industry. To find out more about CARS industry-education partnership work, contact us at dagmar@carscouncil.ca





TRANS CANADA NEWS



This section of CARS News highlights the activities of other champions of skills development and the motive power industry from across Canada. To have your success stories or events featured in the Trans Canada News section, please submit your articles and photos to dagmar@carscouncil.ca.



The Alliance of Sector Councils
L'Alliance des conseils sectoriels

Reaching out - in 12 languages

Starting at the end of June 2009, job seekers new to Canada will be able to make use of a new multilingual career resource called **Gateway to Careers**. Available in 12 languages, the resource will provide better access to information needed to make good career decisions.

Until now, there has been very little career information available in Canada in languages other than English or French. As Canada's workforce depends heavily on immigration, the Alliance of Sector Councils (TASC) is creating a website that will give immigrants access to career information in French and English, as well as the languages spoken in the top 10 source countries for immigrants to Canada from 2003-2007.

Immigrants who have working ability in English or French may absorb information more readily if it is in their native language. Providing information in these 12 languages will also enable new Canadians to share career resources in their first language with family members and friends, and consider their career options with the help of these support networks.

Information on the automotive repair and service industry will be available on **Gateway to Careers**.

For more information, please visit:

www.councils.org



Going green puts money in your pocket

Drivers stand to save anywhere from \$2,500 to \$4,000 in vehicle upkeep costs simply by following some basic vehicle maintenance tips that also benefit the environment. That is the message of the new **GO GREEN** brochure of maintenance tips put out by AIA's Be Car Care Aware consumer education campaign.

The biggest fuel savings are related to the following maintenance areas:

Fixing serious mechanical problems
Save up to 40%

Avoiding aggressive driving & quick starts
Save up to 40%

Reducing speed from 120 km to 100 km
Save about 20%

Reducing speed from 100 km to 90 km
Save about 10%

Turning off the A/C
Save about 20%

To learn how you can get **GO GREEN** brochures for your shop or other Be Car Care Aware resources, visit:

www.carcarecanada.ca

