

News Release – Apprenticeship Futures Commission

September 27, 2007

RONDEAU ANNOUNCES APPRENTICESHIP FUTURES COMMISSION

A newly formed Apprenticeship Futures Commission will make recommendations on enhancing and expanding Manitoba's apprenticeship and certification system to better meet the needs of Manitoba's labour market, Competitiveness, Training and Trade Minister Jim Rondeau announced today.

"The commission will assist government in addressing the changing needs of Manitoba's labour market," said Rondeau. "The commission's activities will create greater awareness of the importance of a dynamic, skilled trades workforce to the overall economic performance of the province. At the same time, the commission will generate greater opportunities for dialogue on creative approaches for an enhanced provincial apprenticeship training and certification system."

Rondeau appointed Leonard Harapiak as chair of the commission which is comprised of 12 members from key strategic sectors such as construction, manufacturing, transportation services, northern industry, labour, education and equity.

"This new commission will build on the strong foundation and tradition of excellence in trades training in our province," said Harapiak. "A highly skilled workforce is vital to the overall economic future of Manitoba. The input of various stakeholders will create employment opportunities for skilled trades people through a renewed

News Release – Apprenticeship Futures Commission

apprenticeship training system that focuses on the needs of individual workers, employers and the public.”

The commission is mandated to:

- consult with the public and stakeholders regarding the existing apprenticeship and related training and certification systems to identify opportunities and challenges with respect to meeting the changing and evolving needs of the Manitoba labour market.
- engage key stakeholders to develop creative innovative and practical solutions and approaches focusing on flexibility, enhancement and/or expansion of the existing apprenticeship training and certification systems;
- make recommendations intended to achieve improvements to, and expansion of, the apprenticeship system and its service delivery mechanisms;

Key commission deliverables will include:

- stakeholder/industry consultation results and other sources of information;
- inventory of identified opportunities and challenges in the existing apprenticeship and related training and certification systems;
- final report with recommendations.

News Release – Apprenticeship Futures Commission

Rondeau said every province in the country is feeling the effects of a skilled labour shortage. He noted Manitoba does a good job of training and certifying skilled trades workers, but must find new ways to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the system and attract more workers to the provincial apprenticeship program.

“The government of Manitoba is working hard to meet the challenge of increasing training capacity to match the high demand of the labour market,” said Rondeau. “During the next four years the government of Manitoba will commit the resources necessary to add an additional 4,000 apprenticeship training spaces.”

For more information on the commission, visit

www.apprenticeshipfuturescommission.mb.ca or call 945-1517