

November, 2005

TRAINING UPDATE

Recruiting/Exhibits & Displays

As of September 30, we closed off applications for the Construction Craft Worker apprenticeship program as we already have more applications for training than can possibly be accommodated in the remainder of this year. We will reopen the process January 1, for programs in 2006.

The quality of applications we receive is generally quite high. There are some applicants who aren't aware of the conditions of working in construction or don't have a clear understanding of apprenticeship. There are some who, surprisingly, show up late for the assessment session – showing a lack of one very basic employment requirement. In general, however, we have more quality recruits than we have opportunities for.

Another sector of 506 members for which we do training is *Exhibits and Displays*, workers in the trade show sector who set up and take down things like the Auto Show, the Printing Trades Show, and a whole range of large and small events at Metro Toronto Convention Centre, the National Trade Centre, and other venues throughout the Greater Toronto Area. This sector suffered a downturn after 9/11 and especially after SARS. It has revived – in fact, it's booming – and the need for more workers is acute.

It is an excellent opportunity for a career working part-time. It might seem contradictory to use “career” and “part-time” in the same sentence, but experienced workers with seniority in the sector can make a very good living working part-time – meaning they work for different employers in the course of the year, depending on the show and the venue.

There are opportunities for new workers in the sector. They will receive 7 weeks of training in 2- and 3-week modules and will have opportunities to work after the first two weeks (and sometimes even before that). It is an excellent field for individuals who are flexible – who have a side business in crafts or landscaping or vending, or perhaps are pursuing another intermittent career in the film (commercials, TV, movies) industry, or have an outside interest in, say, music. The important thing is being able to cope with varying slow times and busy times over the year, until they build up their own seniority.

If you fit the profile and are interested in working on the front lines of one Toronto's most important and growing industries, apply online. Simply go to our website, www.506tc.org, click on “Apply Online” and then click on “Apply for Exhibit and Displays Training.”