

FALL 2024

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British Columbia

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

A look back on the Sheet Metal Industry Training Board

Also in this Issue:

Newcomers and Construction in Canada

Sheet Metal Training Centre Contest 2024

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Official Journal of
Record for SMACNA-BC



PROMOTING GROWTH AND STABILITY IN OUR INDUSTRY

Formed in 1969, the British Columbia Sheet Metal Association (SMACNA-BC) was the first international chapter of the Sheet Metal & Air-conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA). Founded in 1934, SMACNA traces its history to the National Association of Sheet Metal Contractors established in 1910, and has 2,300 members worldwide.

SMACNA-BC is a member-driven association representing unionized sheet metal contractors in the Mainland of BC, and suppliers to our industry. It promotes the growth and stability of the members and industry.

OUR MANDATE

- To improve the financial stability and business conditions of the sheet metal industry, and to develop and promote methods to improve managerial proficiency
- To improve quality, efficiency and productivity of this industry, and to implement high standards of work
- To establish and maintain high ethical standards of conduct between members of the Association, and between members and owners, architects, engineers, other contractors, and the public
- To promote harmony in labour relations
- To study and help in the development and enforcement of governmental codes and regulations, and such legislation as may be necessary for the best interest of the public and the sheet metal industry
- To exchange technical, professional, and educational information with other contractor associations in the sheet metal industry and its allied trades in Canada and other countries
- To affiliate as a Chapter with the Sheet Metal & Air-conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc.

BC Sheet Metal Association (SMACNA-BC) • Executive Director: Jeremy Hallman

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EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP FROM SMACNA-BC

This year, I had the opportunity to attend the SMACNA Annual AGM & Convention in Palm Desert, California, and as usual, it was an amazing experience. The convention featured a variety of sessions and events each day.

On Sunday, the convention kicked off with registration and the College of Fellows golf and pickleball tournaments. Monday was filled with educational sessions covering topics like workforce management, safety programs, and the impact of AI on construction. The day concluded with a keynote presentation and a lively after-party. On Tuesday, attendees enjoyed a product show and special technology sessions focused on revolutionizing construction efficiency. Networking continued with sessions designed to enhance professional connections. The final day included key presentations from industry leaders, an annual business meeting, and a closing dinner featuring a *Journey* tribute band, *DSB*.

AI in Construction

One of the standout programs was focused on the application of AI in construction. For the first time, I was presented with practical examples demonstrating how tools like ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot can automate many of the routine tasks that I believe many of you deal with daily. One example that they provided showed an input-dependent version of ChatGPT that would take drawings and specifications and provide full equipment lists along with approved alternates in seconds. This technology has the potential to significantly streamline our workflows and enhance productivity. I am looking for a local presenter who can showcase these tools to any contractors interested in exploring how they can be integrated into our practices.

Workforce Growth

Additionally, I wanted to highlight some noteworthy insights shared by SMART General President Mike Coleman during the conference. He announced impressive growth within the union, increasing our membership from 200,000 to 230,000 over the past year. This surge is a testament to the strength and appeal of our organization. Moreover, he reported that the number of work hours has finally exceeded pre-pandemic levels, reaching 116 million, with projections indicating we could hit 121.5 million hours by 2025. These developments not only reflect the resilience of our industry but also signal a positive outlook for our future.

Regarding labour on a local level, from my conversations with contractors, it appears that some of the workforce issues we experienced last year and in the first two quarters of 2024 have begun to subside. Several contractors mentioned lending employees to other SMACNA contractors temporarily to avoid



Jeremy Hallman,
Executive Director, SMACNA-BC

losing them. It seems that while there is a lot of work on the horizon, projects are taking longer to start, and in some cases, schedules have been delayed or redesigns are necessary due to current market conditions.

Contract Negotiations

Contract negotiations are scheduled for early next year. We welcome your suggestions. Your input is crucial, especially if there are any aspects of the Standard Agreement you would like to see clarified. Please feel free to contact me at the SMACNA-BC office with your ideas.

SMACNA Events

39th Annual SMACNA-BC Golf Classic

SMACNA-BC held its annual Golf Classic on September 13 at Northview Golf & Country Club. Unfortunately, the weather didn't hold out for us, but everyone managed to finish their round without calling it early. This year, to help increase our capacity, we used the Canal course for overflow to allow another 28 golfers to attend. This brought our grand total to 172. Thank you to all the generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers that helped make the event such a success. Leanne and I couldn't have done it without the help from Linda.

Through our efforts, over \$4,735 was raised on the course. The SMACNA-BC Board of Directors agreed to match this amount, resulting in a total donation of over \$9,000 for the Helping Families in Need Society.

Thank you to all who generously supported this worthy cause.

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Skill & Raffle Prize Winners:

Texas Scramble Winners

Justyn Atherley – Boston Sheet Metal
Peter Sove – Boston Sheet Metal
Mitch Boychuk – Boston Sheet Metal
Brian Crandell – Boston Sheet Metal



KP / Honey Pot Winners

Jason Matthews – Crossroads C&I
Rick Godkin – Vets Sheet Metal
Cole Sherman – Modern Niagara
Steve Grindles – Summit Sheet Metal guest



50/50 Winner

Jason Matthews – Crossroads C&I

Beat the Pro Winner

Derek Toth – Progressive Air Products

SMACNA-BC Supervisor Program

SMACNA-BC was proud to present Stephane McShane of Maxim Consulting on September 19 at the Civic Hotel in Surrey. Stephane presented her program “Enabling Success – Creating Alignment Between Field and Office” We had 35 contractor members attend this program, which talked about the synergy, teamwork, and trust that must exist between the office and the field for it to succeed. Stephane also discussed the workflow required to mitigate risk and maximize productivity.

Feedback was very positive with many asking that we try to bring Stephane back for future programs.



SMACNA-BC/ASHRAE BC Whitecaps Game

On October 2, we had the pleasure of joining ASHRAE for a Whitecaps game in the Edgewater Suite at BC Place stadium. Together, we had approximately 140 attendees there to witness the Whitecaps' unfortunate loss to the Seattle Sounders. I would like to extend a special thank you to Norm Grusnick of Ecco Supply and Peter Sung from Equipco for hosting this wonderful event. We would also thank Master Group for their generous donation to this event.

Congratulations to Kevin Shin of Cool Air Rentals for winning the YETI Cooler.

SMACNA-BC/ASHRAE BC Technical Standards Program 2024

November 14, 2024, at Civic Hotel in Surrey

This program for SMACNA-BC contractor members, ASHRAE-BC chapter members, architects, engineers/consultants, building officials, inspectors, specification writers, building owners, and fire marshals was aimed at advance one's knowledge of the HVAC industry through the use of SMACNA Standards.



This intensive one-day program provided technical information to learn the methods and concepts of SMACNA's Technical Standards, which in turn enhances participants' abilities to provide well-designed, constructed, and cost-effective projects for clients. Topics covered included information from SMACNA's technical manuals:

- HVAC Duct Construction Standards
- Fire, Smoke and Radiation Damper Installation Guide for HVAC

Presenters:

- Eli P. Howard, III, Executive Director, Technical Resources, SMACNA, Inc., Chantilly, VA
- Geoff Parks, Senior Project Manager, Technical Resources, SMACNA, Inc., Chantilly, VA

SMACNA-BC Dinner Meeting

On November 21 SMACNA-BC was pleased to bring to their

members Scott Mosher, Portfolio Manager & Senior Wealth Advisor at RBC Dominion Securities to discuss financial basics, including:

- the most common types of accounts and investment options including RESP for kids' education, TFSA for tax free savings, FHSA for first time home buyers, RSP/RIF, and more.
- types of investments – ETFs, mutual funds, and stocks.
- examples of compounding savings and growth over time.

SMACNA-BC Christmas Party – November 29 at the Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver

All year long people await the SMACNA-BC Christmas Party at the Pan Pacific Hotel, downtown Vancouver. It is the perfect chance to dress up, get together, and welcome the holidays. This year, SMACNA-BC contractors and their guests generously donated gifts to the Helping Families in Need Society helpingfamiliesinneed.org

Check out photos from the party on page 8.

Be sure to visit smacna.bc.org for a calendar of events and to plan your attendance at the next SMACNA-BC membership meeting. ■

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Check out all the photos from the SMACNA-BC Christmas Party by scanning the QR Code



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SMACNA-BC JOINS ASHRAE BC FOR AN EVENING WITH THE WHITECAPS

For the October SMACNA-BC dinner meeting, members joined industry partners ASHRAE BC at the Edgewater Lounge at BC Place to watch the Vancouver Whitecaps vs Seattle Sounders in an exciting match for an MLS playoff spot. The Edgewater Lounge offers a panoramic view of the field, a private bar, and plenty of seating for networking, relaxing, and watching the game. SMACNA-BC and ASHRAE BC members brought clients and guests and enjoyed the atmosphere and dinner, although the Whitecaps ultimately fell to the Sounders in a 4-0 loss.

Congratulations to Kevin Shin of Cool Air Rentals for winning the YETI Cooler in the half-time draw! ■



DECLINING FUTURE INVESTMENT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MAJOR PROJECTS ADDS TO INDUSTRY'S GROWING CHALLENGES

Statistics in the BC Construction Association's (BCCA) Fall 2024 Construction Industry Stat Pack demonstrate that while the value of existing projects continues to grow, the threat of poor industry support and declining investments in major projects is alarming. The industry faces intense pressure to meet the current demand due to persistent workforce shortages, high labour costs, and lack of payment certainty.

The issue facing the industry is two-pronged. Firstly, the construction industry seeks increased investments in major infrastructure projects. Since Spring 2024, the value of proposed major infrastructure projects has decreased in value by five per cent and nearly 20 per cent over the past five years, which makes the future of the industry look problematic as current major projects begin to wind down with no guarantee of being adequately replaced.

"British Columbia's construction industry will be paramount to building our province's critical infrastructure and alleviating the housing crisis," said Chris Atchison, President of the BC Construction Association. "During the election campaign, BC's political party leaders committed to supporting the construction industry. Now that the results have been finalized, we need the government and opposition caucuses to work together to implement policies geared towards payment certainty and workforce development to ensure the construction industry can meet the current and future demand to build BC better."

British Columbia is in high demand for major infrastructure projects. Hospitals, schools, multi-unit housing, bridges, and supporting infrastructure across the province must be built. Still, the decreasing value of proposed construction projects suggests that the Province is not invested in making these a reality.

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Changing of the Guard

A look back at the Sheet Metal Industry Training Board as legacy member Aaron Smith steps down after 24 years of service.

By / Jessica Kirby



Aaron Smith started as a member of the Sheet Metal Industry Training Board (SMITB) in 2000. The Board is comprised of four contractors and four union members and governs the Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre (SMWTC) where the Local 280 workforce receives training.

Looking back

The SMWTC opened in 1992 under the SMITB, relying on government funding and employer contributions to offer training free to union recruits. The SMWTC was the first private trades training center in BC. “We did it first,” says Jud Martell, SMWTC training co-ordinator. “We set the standard.”

In 2001, the government revamped the apprenticeship system and decertified trades, enacting the *Skilled Trades Act* and cutting funding to unions and training centres.

“The initial conversation was that we were done,” Martell says. “But the board at that time answered that problem by becoming a registered society and starting to charge for tuition.”



Smith, who now owns Smith Sheet Metal Works Ltd., was part of the board that developed a plan to keep the Training Centre's doors open.

Within that plan the SMITB needed to start charging students tuition. "BCIT had already been charging tuition for its sheet metal training program," Smith says. "Doing the same was a tough decision for our board, but once we instigated the plan, we decided that we would charge less than BCIT while still delivering a far superior product. From the beginning and still to this day, our program has had higher completion rates, higher pass/fail ratios, and higher grades than BCIT.

"But I need to point out that these successes were only accomplished with the amazing dedication and hard work from our instructors and administration staff. Without all of them none of this would have been achievable."

Evolution of training

Fast-forward to 2008, and some on the board began advocating for a training center facility that would be owned by the SMITB. "Back then, the costs of renting were climbing, and we were steadily growing to the point where the location was too small," Smith says. "We were having continuous issues at the Dawson Street location as Brentwood was getting busier and more congested."

He created a proposal for the board of directors, the union, and SMACNA to get out of the rental building and buy their own facility. This would allow the board to have greater control over the school's costs and future. He proposed that his retired father, Merle Smith, GC the new building's renovation, which would also save the school a great deal of cost and set it on the path to self-sufficiency.

But even though he created a business plan that laid out a financial spreadsheet backed by solid numbers, he struggled to get the investment support from his peers.

"There were some old dogs in the industry who were resistant to change," Smith says. "They felt the school shouldn't own property because it was too much of a risk. I was flabbergasted. Controlling your future and your costs is always smart, and real estate—if it is done right—is never a risk."

He persevered, and by mid-2010 the Training Centre moved from a rented building on Dawson Street in Burnaby to a building it owns in Port Kells, Langley. By 2012, the school was into the second part of that mortgage, and on what Martell calls "a shoestring budget," the mortgage was paid off in ten years.

Because of the SMITB's financial stewardship, the union and SMACNA were able to purchase and outfit a second training centre location, which opened in 2022. "This acquisition could not come soon enough as the growth of our industry and need for newly trained workers was exploding," Martell says. "The second facility is now fully operational and continuing with the same training policies as the first facility. It is definitely meeting the demands of our industry."

Martell says it was Smith's values—integrity, education, and hard work—that made his involvement with that project and on the board in general so valuable.

"Aaron built his own company on his strong principles, and he is one of the last people on earth with whom you can shake hands and not need a contract," Martell says. "He has the willpower to stay the course when he knows he is on the right path, and if anyone says he is wrong, he says, 'Let me prove it' and then he proves it."

In the beginning

When he was just starting his career, Smith worked for Rick Beatty at Fairview Sheet Metal. Beatty was one of the original group of union sheet metal workers who took sheet metal training out of BCIT and established the SMWTC because they didn't like union and non-union workers training side by side. He encouraged Smith, one of the Training Centre's first graduates, to teach at the school.

"I started teaching for a couple of years and found that I didn't really enjoy it because it took me away from sheet metal work," Smith says. "As things progressed, I started a company with my dad in 1998 and left the school."

Smith has always been an avid promoter of education, so when he was on the SMACNA-BC board, a position on the SMITB came available and other SMACNA-BC members encouraged him to take it.

"It was an easy fit back then even though I was young," Smith says. "I am a massive proponent of education and teaching, and a lot of people don't understand that, even though we call ourselves sheet metal workers, we are actually all teachers and problem solvers. I learned early on that if we aren't learning and teaching all the time, we have problems."

The future

In May 2024, Smith left the SMITB after 24 years of service. It was not an easy decision. But his son recently began his apprenticeship and is working for Smith Sheet Metal Works, which prompted Aaron to refocus his attention on succession planning.

With his eye on growing the business and adding key personnel to the roster, Smith's business has flourished, and this growth has taken more of his time. "Now my company is on a different level, and I am even more proud of it and our team," he says. "But I didn't really want to leave the Training Board."

Meeting challenges

The SMWTC has continued to thrive. It currently trains about 350 apprentices a year, a number that has steadily increased year over year. In 1992, when the first training centre opened, 96 apprentices were in training. In 2023, a record total of 345 apprentices were trained, and today the Training Centre is managing close to 950 apprentices. But it is not without its challenges. The labour shortage in BC poses a catch-22 problem for contractors where they desperately want and need skilled labour but can't necessarily afford the time to lose apprentices for schooling.



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“Employers realize the value of apprentices and training but due to labour shortages don’t usually want to give them up for school,” Smith says. “That is where Jud’s job can be very difficult. Even though the school is a not-for-profit entity it still needs to fill the seats to keep it operating smoothly. If the school has a class of 16 scheduled and only 12 show up, the school loses funding for each of those empty seats.”

The government recently re-established compulsory trades, but it hasn’t increased funding for training centres for over 20 years, despite nation-wide struggles with inflation and the cost of living. Until now.

“After a decade of strong arguments and industry support the BC government has finally promised to increase the funding for apprenticeships,” Martell says. “We look forward to the budget announcement in March of 2025 when the promise of doubling the funding from Skilled Trades BC to the technical trainers of BC is put into action.”

Driven by values

Being on the board requires tenacity, commitment, and a willingness to speak up and speak often, Smith says.

“When I first got onto the Board, I was a very quiet person and there were some intimidating people on there—but I eventually found my voice,” he says. “I just hope that the new and existing board members speak up and say the things that they need to say. Hopefully they keep carrying the torch the same way that I did, working towards the same goal of producing highly trained sheet metal workers with the same morals and the same ideology.”

One of the key factors in the SMITB’s success is that it comprises equal contractor and union representation, thus leveraging industry training standards from a foundational partnership. “That partnership is essential,” Smith says. “It allows us to be innovative because contractors can bring forward the new technologies and changing practices that are required on job sites and then the Training Centre can adjust accordingly.”

He adds that the Training Centre is the ideal place to begin demonstrating the importance of industry partnerships. “If you aren’t preaching it from the beginning, you’ve probably already lost,” he says.

Martell says Smith’s presence on the SMITB will be missed, both professionally and personally. “Aaron was going to leave in 2020, but he realized that the next four years were going to be tough, so he stayed for an extra term,” he says. “That’s the kind of person he is. He’s the general you want next to you in the trench.”

“I loved all of those guys on the board,” Smith says. “It is, in my opinion, the best board around because of the people and what they are doing for the overall good of our industry.” ■



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Newcomers and Construction in Canada

The construction industry is pulling together to advocate for smarter immigration policy in Canada.

Edited by / Jessica Kirby

Help Wanted: Canada's immigration system unable to address construction labour needs

The following is a news release published by the BC Construction Association | Read more at bcbuildingtrades.org

British Columbia needs more construction workers, and it needs them now. According to recent data, the province will need 52,600 new construction workers by 2032 to avoid a disruptive labour shortage. Thirty percent of those workers will have to come from outside of Canada.

But new research from the BC Building Trades (BCBT) shows Canada's immigration system has not only failed to address construction labour shortages, it is also making the situation worse for workers and the industry.

The Federal Skilled Trades Program (FSTP) was designed specifically to address the construction labour shortage by giving express entry to construction workers. It has failed to achieve that goal.

Between 2019 and 2023, the FSTP welcomed only 240 permanent resident construction workers to the province. At an average of 48 per year, that represents only .2% of economic immigrant migrations.

The use of the broader economic immigration class to address the construction labour shortage has been similarly disappointing. Over the last five years, only 7,000 tradespeople have obtained permanent residency in British Columbia through economic class immigration streams. This rate is far below provincial labour needs and will not provide the permanent skilled trades workforce the province requires to build much needed housing and infrastructure.

This poorly designed immigration patchwork has led to a massive increase in the use of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP).

"We are facing a significant labour crunch, and while Canadian construction workers should have first access to available jobs, we recognize the need for new entrants to help to meet the

growing need for skilled workers,” said BC Building Trades executive director Brynn Bourke. “Instead of ignoring the problem in construction, we’re calling on the Government of Canada to put a special focus on immigration in BC.”

The use of TFWs has become a permanent fixture of BC’s construction industry with 7,160 of these workers brought in between 2019 and 2023. While TFWs represent 2.1 percent of the workforce across Canada, they are disproportionately prevalent in BC construction, making up 4.7 percent of the workforce.

“Too many contractors have become hooked on cheap temporary labour to boost their profits,” said Doug Parton, business manager of Ironworkers Local 97. “As they abuse the TFW system, Canadian workers are paid less and shut out of jobs that should be theirs. That’s not right. The TFW program is hurting Canadians and migrant workers, too. The entire system needs an overhaul.”

Since 2010, Canada’s overall reliance on TFWs has skyrocketed, increasing by more than 500 percent. Yet, construction was specifically exempted from newly announced reforms targeted at reducing temporary workers in March of 2024.

“Our union has long been concerned with the way the TFW program is used,” said Mark Olsen, president of LiUNA 1611. “Rather than solving labour shortages in the construction

“

Since 2010, Canada’s overall reliance on temporary foreign workers has skyrocketed, increasing by more than 500 percent.

”

industry, it has enabled contractors to profit from the employment of migrant workers, driving down Canadian wages in the process. We need major changes to the program, now.”

To address the labour shortage and the failures of Canadian immigration and the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, the BC Building Trades is calling for action, including an independent audit to investigate mismanagement of the International Mobility Program (IMP) and the TFW program and a prohibition of activity on construction trades through the IMP and the TFWP until such an audit is complete. It is asking for a significant increase in the use of the Federal Skilled Trades Program; the exclusion of employers from the TFWP who do not have a demonstrated history of participating in the apprenticeship system; and an update to the temporary worker program by the federal government including a revision of the definition and methodology for determining the prevailing wage.

Read the full study at bcbuildingtrades.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/BCBT-Immigration-report-June-3-2024-FINAL.pdf



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BY THE NUMBERS

Currently, immigrants account for:

- 20% of roofers and shinglers
- 16% of all electricians
- 15% of all carpenters
- 14% of all plumbers
- 12% of steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers
- 23% of all general contractors and builders of residential buildings, with 27% of these immigrants having arrived in Canada between 2011 and 2021.
- 41% of all architects
- 40% of all civil engineers
- 23% of all urban and land use planners
- 24% of all construction managers
- 23% of all general contractors and builders of residential buildings, with 27% of these immigrants having arrived in Canada between 2011 and 2021.

Canada's residential construction sector alone employs more than 600,000 workers.

- This sector employs a wide range of skilled tradespeople, including electricians, carpenters, and plumbers.
- Of all workers in these skilled trades, 18% are over 55 years old, and many are expected to retire within the next ten years.
- 21% of construction workers in total are set to retire in the next decade.
- BC's construction industry needs to recruit 52,600 additional workers between 2022 and 2032 to keep pace with labour demands and avoid a deficit of 18,700 construction workers.
- Nearly 30% of labour supply for construction will need to come through immigration between now and 2032.
- Between 2016 and 2021, just 2% of primary immigration applications held apprenticeship certificates compared to 76% who were university educated.

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SMACNA-BC contractors demonstrate unmatched technical and managerial expertise enhanced by an exceptionally skilled and professional workforce. In fact, SMACNA-BC contractors employ only Red Seal certified sheet metal journeypersons and registered apprentices, and they work exclusively with reputable suppliers to secure the highest quality materials and services. SMACNA-BC is also the ultimate source for standards-based products and services, including technical manuals, guidelines, and consultancy. That means when you hire a SMACNA-BC contractor or buy from an affiliated supplier, you are building your project's sheet metal scope to North America's highest professional standards.

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(SMACNA-BC)**
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Scan the QR code below for a complete list of member contact information or visit www.smacna-bc.org



Immigration policy changes can help expand Canada's construction workforce

The following is a news release published by the Canadian Construction Association | Read more at cca-acc.com

With companies struggling to fill current vacancies and 21 percent of workers set to retire in the next decade, the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) is looking to immigration as a means to build workforce capacity.

CCA, in consultation with its integrated partner associations, is preparing an analysis of current immigration practices in order to make recommendations to the federal government aimed at attracting the necessary workforce to Canada and the construction sector.

In a recent discussion with several Local Construction Association (LCA) leaders, concern was expressed over the federal point system as a potential barrier. For example, more points are awarded to higher education levels achieved while some trades are not recognized as a category. Some of these roles do not qualify for skilled labour or express entry yet are in great demand within the construction industry. CCA and its integrated partner associations believe that the points system needs to be adjusted so that the bias against construction workers is removed.

The industry is in a war for talent, and together with government, policies and practices need to be adapted to position construction as a career of choice. Investment is needed to build a pipeline of workers. According to a March 2022 report from Statistics Canada, there are 81,000 vacancies in construction alone. A skilled and experienced workforce is not created overnight. More attention needs to be placed on attracting immigrants and temporary foreign workers who can fill necessary positions now while building capacity for the future.

LCA leaders from various regions across Canada agreed that the government must accelerate the immigration process by improving efficiencies; reporting on applicants, approvals and other data regarding potential immigrants interested in the construction sector; reducing the approval period; and working with the industry to attract immigrants to work in construction.

It was also suggested that it may be helpful to engage with settlement agencies to promote a career in construction, which offers a good life, security, and good wage or salaried employment. ■

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2025 Holiday Schedule

Jan 1 – New Year's Day • SMACNA-BC office closed

Jan 16 – Mental Health & Substance Abuse Day

Febr 17 – Family Day

April 18 – Good Friday • SMACNA-BC office closed

May 8 – 56th SMACNA-BC Annual AGM & Convention

May 19 – Victoria Day • SMACNA-BC office closed

July 1 – Canada Day • SMACNA-BC office closed

August 4 – BC Day • SMACNA-BC office closed

September 1 – Labour Day • SMACNA-BC office closed

September 12 – SMACNA-BC 40th Annual Golf Classic



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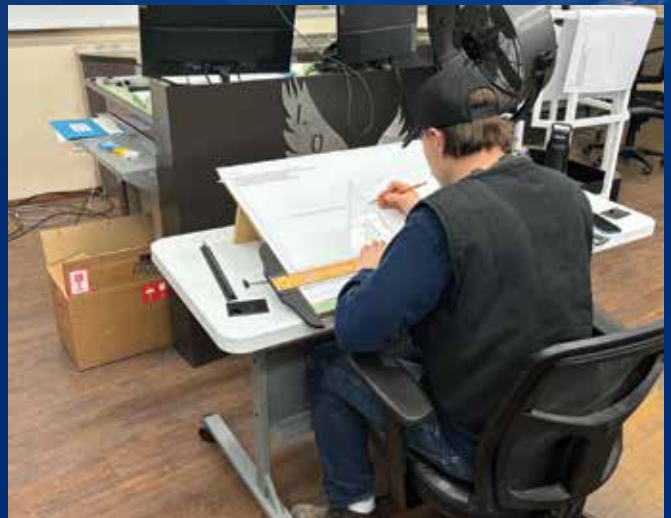
Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre 2024 Annual Contest

By / Jessica Kirby

The Sheet Metal Workers' Training Centre held its annual competition this November, with 17 apprentices competing across four levels and representing multiple contractors. The event was a great success, celebrating the talent, dedication, and hard work of all participants.

Students completed a theory test, which challenged them to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of core concepts. Then focused on a drafting portion and then a shop project component, putting their skills and creativity to the test.

The Trustees of the Sheet Metal Industry Training Board and the staff of the Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre, would like to thank and congratulate the contestants who participated, the event sponsors, and everyone who supported the event.



Congrats to the contest winners:



Dorian Escamilla
Piedmont Sheet Metal (1997) Ltd.



Adam LaBar
Spectrum Sheet Metal Ltd.



Jacob Smith
Smith Sheet Metal Works Ltd.



Natasha Hua
Modern Niagara Vancouver Inc.



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LEVERAGING BIM FOR PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

Let's cut to the chase: if you're still wrestling with stacks of outdated blueprints and juggling spreadsheets like it's 1999, it's time for a reality check. Building Information Modeling (BIM) isn't just a flashy 3D tool to wow clients during presentations. It's a game-changer for process improvement that can propel your projects—and your business—into the modern era. Treating BIM as an optional upgrade is like owning a smartphone and only using it to make calls. You're missing out on its true potential.

Sure, BIM creates impressive visual models, but that's barely even scratching the surface of its capabilities. BIM is a dynamic, data-rich platform that integrates every facet of a building's lifecycle, from design and construction to operation and maintenance. It's a centralized hub where all project information lives, breathes, and updates in real-time. Ignoring this aspect is not just shortsighted; it's a missed opportunity to revolutionize your entire workflow.

Let's talk efficiency—or the lack thereof in traditional processes. Disjointed teams using disparate tools lead to miscommunication, errors, and delays. BIM transforms this chaos into a cohesive, efficient workflow. It allows architects, engineers, contractors, and stakeholders to collaborate within a single environment. No more version control nightmares or last-minute surprises. With BIM, everyone is literally on the same page, which means projects move faster and smoother.



By Dave Halabourda

If chasing down team updates feels like herding cats, BIM offers a solution. Its collaborative features enable real-time sharing of information and updates. Team members can annotate models, flag issues, and propose changes within the platform. This transparency accelerates decision-making and fosters accountability. When everyone has access to the same up-to-date information, finger-pointing becomes a thing of the past.

In an age where data is king, relying on gut feelings just doesn't cut it. BIM provides a wealth of analytics that inform every aspect of your project. From cost estimation and risk assessment to sustainability metrics, BIM's data-driven insights help you make informed decisions. Think of it as having a predictive tool that actually delivers—without the guesswork. By leveraging this data, you can anticipate challenges and address them before they become costly problems.

Inefficiency doesn't just waste time; it drains resources. BIM helps identify and eliminate waste at every stage. Its clash detection capabilities catch design conflicts early, preventing expensive on-site rework. Accurate material quantifications reduce overordering and minimize waste. Optimized scheduling ensures labour and equipment are used effectively. In short, BIM tightens your operations, saving both time and money without compromising quality.

Now, I can hear the skeptics: "But implementing BIM is expensive and complicated." Sure, there's an initial investment and a learning curve. But consider the alternative: sticking with outdated methods while competitors outpace you. The key is strategic implementation. Start small with pilot projects, invest in training, and scale up gradually. The temporary discomfort is a small price to pay for long-term gains in efficiency and competitiveness.

It's high time we stop viewing BIM as a luxury add-on. Leveraging it for process improvement isn't just about keeping up with industry trends; it's about gaining a competitive edge in a rapidly evolving market. The future waits for no one. BIM offers the tools to not just catch up but to lead. So ask yourself, can you really afford to ignore it any longer? ■

David is a seasoned sheet metal worker with a dynamic background in drafting, BIM, project management, and operations. With extensive experience across multiple facets of the industry, he blends hands-on expertise with strategic insight, driving innovation and efficiency in every project he undertakes. David is passionate about optimizing processes and embracing new technologies.

SMACNA-BC / SMART Local 280 Partnership



Left: Mark McLaren, Ridge Sheet Metal Co., SMACNA-BC President.
Right: Jud Martell, Local Union No. 280 President.



Labour & Management "Embracing the Challenge"

- B. Flaherty, Cornell University, Syracuse, N.Y.

IMPROVING VENTILATION AND INDOOR AIR QUALITY DURING WILDFIRE SMOKE EVENTS

Over the past several years, a record number of wildfires in the Western United States and Canada has sparked a renewed discussion about indoor air quality (IAQ). Building codes and ASHRAE's Ventilation and IAQ Standards (62.1, 62.2) bases for achieving IAQ is through dilution and air cleaning, as well as ensuring air that enters or leaves a building in a controlled manner. In some instances, outdoor contaminants may be higher than indoors, universally measured by the air quality index.



IAQ During Wildfire Smoke

Wildfire smoke is a complex mixture of particulate matter and gases, including carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and ground level ozone. Outdoor air pollutants, including smoke, enter and leave buildings in three main ways: mechanical ventilation, natural ventilation, and infiltration. Many of today's tightly closed buildings reduce exposure to outdoor air pollution. Upgrading the filter efficiency of the HVAC system and changing filters frequently during periods of smoke greatly improves indoor air quality. See below for steps to take before and during a wildfire smoke event.

1. Have your HVAC technician evaluate whether higher MERV filters can be used.
2. Select a filter with the deepest pleat your system can accommodate—two inches or more.
3. Understand that MERV rated filters remove particulates but not 'smoke smell' or most gases.
4. Make sure filters fit tightly in frames to prevent bypassing.
5. Have spare sets of filters on hand because they may not be available due to increased demand.

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By Norm Grusnick, PEng
 Commercial Business Development
 Representative, ECCO Supply

Filtering and Ventilation

Make sure ventilation is compliant with building codes. Directly measure or validate air flows by an accredited TABB professional. Note a TABB measurement is only good for a moment in time; systems are impacted by the environment and degrade over time. Inspect, maintain, and monitor all systems often. Ensure windows and doors are properly closed. Control the pressurization flow by ensuring the ventilation rates exceed exhaust and relief rates during all operation and dynamic reset modes. Disable demand control ventilation and economizer operation to limit dynamic modes of operation during wildfires.

Filtering, ventilation, and pressure control are the foundation of maintaining a healthy building during normal operation and essential during an outdoor event such as a wildfire. Integrating airflow measuring devices into a building automation system allows ventilation rates to be automatically adjusted as conditions change.

Buildings other than homes should have a Wildfire Readiness Plan. If your building has a building automation system, consider adding a Smoke Event mode to manage outside air intakes. Consult ASHRAE Planning Framework for *Protecting Commercial Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire Events* for more information.

Measure to Control

If you do not measure it then you can not control it. When designing or upgrading a mechanical system or setting up an HVAC system it is essential to prioritize measurement, control, and fault alerts as the foundation for these systems. New HVAC system designs should consider adding filtration efficiency and control strategies to initiate smoke mode. This will allow the systems to operate energy efficiently during normal mode and allow for additional fan capacity and control logic needed during wildfire events. Airflow measurement and control costs in an HVAC system are minimal compared to the future impact and cost due to over ventilation, inadequate ventilation, and infiltration. ■

INDUSTRY NEWS

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This decrease in investments is coupled with the concurrent need for more robust support mechanisms to ensure that said projects can be delivered. The underlying factors of payment uncertainty, workforce shortage, and high labour costs pose significant strains on the construction industry, which need to be addressed by our political leaders.

Despite the need for major infrastructure investments and commitments from every party in that regard during this recently completed election, British Columbians cannot wait and need our political leaders to work together to recommit advancing major projects, attracting external investment, and creating more favourable conditions for significant projects to get approved. With the election now behind us, it's time to get BC's political leaders back to the legislature and to work with industry on the pressing issues impacting construction and the building of BC.

To consult the Fall 2024 BC Construction Industry Stat Pack, visit bccassn.com/2024FallStatPack ■

WATCH 'HOW TECHNOLOGY GIVES LABOR PRODUCTIVITY THE BOOST IT NEEDS'

This recent webinar shows how sheet metal contractors are leveraging software and hardware solutions as a solution to fix inefficiency in ways not seen before

This presentation will help you better understand why the sheet metal sector needs to see an increase in productivity to remain competitive in today's market, and more importantly, how advanced sheet metal-specific technology is transforming labor efficiency today. You'll also get expert information that shows three key project areas where contractors can begin implementing technology today to best impact their labor efficiency. Visit smacna.org to watch this and other webinars. ■

ATTEND SMACNA'S AI WEBINAR SERIES

Sessions will explore innovative AI applications within our industry and is open to SMACNA members, chapter executives, and staff

Plan to attend SMACNA's upcoming series of webinars on Artificial Intelligence. This series will explore innovative AI applications within our industry and is open to SMACNA members, chapter executives, and staff. The next session is on January 14.

Artificial Intelligence: A Briefing for SMACNA Members

In this kickoff briefing, Hugh and Travis will help SMACNA members better understand as many of the terms and concepts surrounding AI, LLMs, and AI related topics. They will also lay the groundwork for understanding what these technologies are good at, and what they aren't, as well as provide some guidance on when to leverage these tools.

Streamlining Success: Leveraging AI for Non-Mission Critical Tasks in Construction

As AI continues to transform industries, businesses are finding innovative ways to apply it to non-mission critical tasks, allowing teams to focus on what matters most. Join us for insights into how AI can enhance productivity in marketing, sales, and quality control, freeing up valuable time and resources in construction.

January 14, 2025, 2:00 pm Eastern Time Visit smacna.org to register and watch. ■

SAVE THE DATE: SMACNA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2025

The SMACNA 2025 Annual Convention will be held from October 26 – 29, 2025 at Grand Wailea, A Waldorf Astoria Resort/Wailea Beach Resort in Maui HI. Watch smacna.org for details. ■

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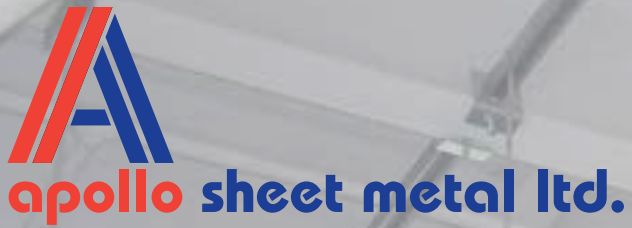
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