



## Manitoba Integrated & Standardized Safety Training | Newsletter Summer 2017



### MISST Project Update

The primary goal of the Manitoba Integrated & Standardized Safety Training (MISST) project is to research and develop a conceptual model that will guide the creation and implementation of a standardized and integrated safety training system for Manitoba's skilled building trades. This goal supports Manitoba's Five-Year Plan for Workplace Injury and Illness in its efforts to create a genuine culture of safety and to reduce workplace injury. Working towards developing uniform training standards will ensure that the safety training provided to workers and employers in Manitoba's Building Trades is current, consistent, and effective.

To date, the research team has conducted an extensive environmental scan related to the standardization and integration of safety training in Manitoba and in other jurisdictions in Canada and internationally. Programs reviewed in Manitoba include the offerings of colleges, private

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vocational institutes, safety associations, non-profit/government agencies, construction companies, private training providers and online-exclusive providers. Attention was paid to the organizations themselves, their roles in safety training, the safety courses offered, the typical modes of delivery and available course information. A cursory review was also done of the content itself, where available.

Adding to the secondary research, the team has, to date, consulted approximately thirty sources within Manitoba and outside of Manitoba including: SAFE Work Manitoba; Apprenticeship Manitoba; Red River College; Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology; Tech Voc; Construction Safety Association of Manitoba; Manitoba Education; Manitoba Construction Sector Council and the Northern Sector Council; OETIM; Safety Services Manitoba; IBEW; and UA Local 254 (Plumbers and Pipefitters). Key interviews were also conducted with three representatives from Newfoundland and Labrador, four representatives from Ontario and two from British Columbia. Interviews were also conducted with several construction firms in Manitoba to learn about how they conduct safety training and their views on standardizing safety training within the Province.

Internationally, systems reviewed include the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety training standards and systems; Safety and Action, New Zealand and Safe Work Australia safety training systems. National and international standards development organizations were also reviewed to determine their roles in standards development and administration as well as specific standards developed. The review included the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Standards Council of Canada (SCC), the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE).

The research team is summarizing its findings throughout the summer and intends to continue its secondary research as the next phase of primary research is launched in the coming weeks.

**MISST Research Team**



## Trade Safety Awareness in Apprenticeship

Ensuring the availability of a strong labour force, both now and in the future, is important for the sustainable growth of Manitoba's industry. We require safe, skilled and qualified workers to get the job done. Training apprentices is the best way to ensure that employees are trained the way employers want them to be, allowing journeypersons to pass on knowledge and experience.

Apprenticeship is a unique model of training where 80 per cent of your training occurs with your employer on the job, working and learning the skills of your trade. The other 20 per cent is technical, in-class training, taken once a year.

Training standards for over 55 designated trades in Manitoba are developed and recommended by industry. In 2012, The Trade Safety Awareness Unit, became a mandatory part of the apprenticeship technical training standards for all trades. This unit has been implemented in all Level One technical training programs. All students enrolled in accredited courses in schools, or who are participating in their technical training, are required to complete this unit of instruction.

The goal of the Trade Safety Awareness Unit is to increase awareness of trade's safety and health on the job, for both students and apprentices. This is an introductory awareness unit, a good beginning to further trade safety training on the job. Apprenticeship Manitoba is pleased to be a partner of the MISST project and looks forward to opportunities to explore standardized and integrated safety training for Manitoba's skilled building trades.

**Cheryl Lavallee**, Manager, Training Standards  
Apprenticeship Manitoba



## Worker Profile - Christina Thiessen

Christina is a Red Seal Steamfitter and has been working in the trade for about 10 years. She has worked in many different aspects of the piping trades – from industrial, commercial and pipeline, to quality assurance. “A lot of the work I have done has been on the road, all the way from Thunder Bay to Swift Current.” Shortly after she began teaching a Pre-Apprenticeship Plumbing and Pipe Trades Program for high school students, “I began instructing at the Piping Industry Technical College. I’m also working on my Certificate in Technical Vocation Education with the goal of achieving my Bachelor of Education.”

### Leading by Example

Safety is a large aspect of the training Christina provides. “We look at everything from the safe work procedures of hand tools & power tools, to WHMIS, to harness safety, to aerial work platforms.” First Aid training and AED training are also components of the course. “I invite presenters and members of UA Local 254 to speak to my classes about the importance of working safe. If students are learning to work safe from the get-go, they’ll take it onto the job sites with them. Demonstrating a safe attitude is what jobsites and crews need. What better way to lead is by example?”

### Safety is an Attitude

Safety is an attitude and a major part of the Steamfitter trade. “No one wants to get hurt, and I find that employees, employers and contractors will go above and beyond to ensure that doesn’t happen.” It’s this attitude, and the fact that everyone wants to go home at the end of a hard day’s work that helps ensure that people work safely. In the 10 years that she’s been in the construction trade, Christina has noticed that “there’s been improvement in safe work policies, procedures and practices;” she contributes some of these improvements to people realizing the importance of safety on the job.



**Christina Thiessen**

## Promoting, Educating, Mentoring and Networking with Women

Christina also sits on the Board for Build Together Manitoba, whose initial program, Women of the Building Trades, was initiated in 2013. Now a marquee national initiative for Canada’s Building Trades Unions (CBTU), Women of the Building Trades challenges myths and stereotypes of careers in the trades, and provides a space for robust conversations on how to engage women in the sector.

This program reflects Christina’s passions of promoting, educating, mentoring and networking with women in the trades or with women who are interested in careers in the trades. “It’s an exciting time for women in the non-traditional construction trades.

“In the short time we’ve come together we’ve lobbied with politicians in Ottawa and here at home, and have participated in several career symposiums. I feel extremely proud to be a part of this great organization and am looking forward to growing in the future.”



## Project Supporters

Apprenticeship Manitoba

Construction Safety  
Association of Manitoba (CSAM)

International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers  
(IBEW-2085)

Iron Workers Local 728

LiUNA Local 1258

Manitoba Construction Sector  
Council (MBCSC)

Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Institute of Trades and  
Technology (MITT)

Operating Engineers of Manitoba  
(OE-987)

Operating Engineers Training  
Institute of Manitoba (OETIM)

Red River College (RRC)

Safety Services Manitoba (SSM)

United Association 254 (UA)

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