

## Trades Get New College

If you're one of the more than 400,000 people in Ontario employed in the trades, or if you're apprenticing or studying to become a journey person, there's a whole new organization dedicated just to you. It's called the Ontario College of Trades, and it will have a major impact on the way the trades work, learn and are regulated.

"The Ontario College of Trades is a completely self-regulatory body. It's made for the trades, and by the trades," says Rod Cameron, Chair of the new College's Appointment's Council. "This organization is an opportunity to use our knowledge and expertise to improve our working conditions, revitalize our workforce and ensure the highest standards for the work that we do."

In the past, the government was responsible for approving both apprenticeships and trades systems, but in October of 2009, the Ontario Government introduced legislation to pass these responsibilities on to the trades themselves, and the Ontario College of Trades was created. The organization is the first college in Canada to exclusively represent tradespeople.

The Ontario College of Trades is currently recruiting for its Board of Governors, four Divisional trade boards and Individual trade boards, and will become fully operational by July 2012. The College will then represent journey people and apprentices in more than 150 trades, in each of the four trade sectors: construction, industrial, motive power and service, with members from electricians and pipefitters to chefs and hairstylists.

The new College will also benefit its members by speaking with a strong and united voice. As the largest self-regulatory body in Ontario, larger even than the influential College of Teachers or College of Physicians and Surgeons, it will give Ontario's tradespeople a new opportunity to represent themselves in public discourse and to comment on the issues that affect its members.

"We want to communicate the vital work that tradespeople do and the skills and training that go into doing it," Cameron says. "That's the way to ensure that the trades offer excellent career options and working conditions and the best possible service to the public, now and in the future."

For more information visit [www.collegeoftrades.ca](http://www.collegeoftrades.ca).