



Wednesday March 19th, 2014

ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TRADES UPDATE

The Ontario College of Trades Compliance and Enforcement Division has been active since starting their duties in June of last year.

The collision repair industry has been promoting the College, sponsoring some 10 workshops across the province, highlighting the positive aspects of the College's work and urging collision repair facility workers to ensure they are either trades licensed or registered as apprentices.

The enforcement efforts of the College to date, identify that they recognize the value for industry, in working towards a level playing field, where unlicensed "backyard" operators are unfairly competing with well-equipped and trained shop.

The Auto Body and Collision Damage Repairer trade is a compulsory trade in Ontario, meaning that persons working on vehicles in most collision repair activities MUST be trades licensed.

The College reports that to the middle of March 2014, over 5,500 field visits were conducted. Of those, 2568 were to garages and 387 to body shops.

Over 6,225 trade certificates (called CofQ) were checked in garages and 557 in body shops.

119 tickets have been issued in total of which 59 tickets were issued to garages and bodyshops. 9 bodyshops were ticketed with 9 nine convictions to date.

One shop in Ottawa has evidently pleaded guilty to a charge of not employing trades licensed repair techs and has been convicted.

Of interest is that the tickets issued in the motive power sector represent about half of the tickets issued across all sectors. The levels of non-compliance were relatively high with the majority of workers/employers being given the chance to come into compliance.

For workers that are not licensed but have sufficient working hours logged to meet the "challenge" requirement, your trade association, CIIA, makes available a free Technician Equivalency package that explains the process for workers needing to take the exam. The kit is available by calling the association at 1 866 309 4272 or e-mail info@ciia.com.

“To represent the best interests of the industry, providing opportunities for growth for environmentally sound, profitable businesses, having trained professionals serving the public”

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