



HARA (Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association) is a non-profit industry trade association, founded in 1988, dedicated to ensuring the industry and member collision repair facilities operate profitably in a professional, environmentally-friendly fashion for the benefit of consumers. HARA is a multi-award winner. Their success stories are too many to mention and are listed on the collision industry web site at www.ciia.com , serving the collision repair industry, which received over 4 million hits last year alone.

HARA's busy staff provides a wide range of services for collision repair; autobody and auto refinish shops across the province, offering up to 30 online training courses at only five dollars each and instructor delivered training courses, including low-VOC training. Their health and safety training course is free to members. The association contracts to various governments in Canada and abroad for program delivery, regulatory review and writing. HARA offers workshops to pilot new advances or programs, including the Stolen and Salvage Vehicle inspection, (with 580 shops on the program now), spray booth air emissions reporting simplification (saving shops over \$3 million), enhanced shop multi-ministerial inspection packaging, apprenticeship licensing (over 2000 autobody apprentices) and offers trades equivalency for those workers not yet completing their required 7000 hours of apprenticeship learning. Over 40 different shop or employee grants and incentives programs of up to \$26,000 per employee are offered. Their donations web page reports industry donations of over \$2 million to date, to secondary school autobody labs and five approved community college training delivery agents, who provide competency based 24 week industry training for over 300 students each year at no charge. 550 potential apprentices and foreign-trained professionals have applications available for employment in our industry through the web site. The shop compliance web site is www.autobodyhelp.ca and uses popular interactive technology. HARA is one of the active partners in the new voluntary agreement between the National Automotive Trades Association of Canada and all vehicle manufacturers and importers in Canada that will provide for the sharing of information, tools and training that becomes effective no later than May 2010.

