



Working together to promote skilled trades

British Columbians are facing overlapping challenges of climate change and economic uncertainty. While all levels of government in Canada are working towards rectifying the effects of climate change and supporting job skills of the future, solutions are being left on the table.

To address these challenges, trades careers — and particularly HVAC/R careers — need to be recognized and valued for the highly skilled jobs they are and the safe, quality work that trained professionals provide. Certified trades also need to be expanded to include core mechanical contracting trades, most urgently plumbing. Together, the mechanical contracting trades of tomorrow, enable clean water, clean air and comfort for British Columbians.

Consider the following:

- BC has committed to aggressively tackling the climate challenge in part by reducing carbon emissions from homes and buildings. There is a lot of work to do but not nearly enough qualified personnel to get the job done.
- To ensure safe, quality installations of low carbon technologies (mainly air source heat pumps) the work should be done by suitably qualified professionals and the current Technical Safety BC permit requirements and enforcement should be expanded to include all heat pump installations.
- Certified trades are essential to ensuring trades are good paying, stable jobs now and as new technologies emerge.
- Certified trades provide greater assurance of consumer protection.
- Ratios of apprentices to journeyperson are an important element for certified trades.

Recommendations

Certified trades will help achieve climate change goals by ensuring the highly efficient equipment needed to succeed is properly sized, installed, and maintained. The Government of British Columbia should work in collaboration with the mechanical contracting industry to implement certification of much needed trades by:

- Ensuring a clear pathway for education and the expansion of trades based on market and industry needs.
- Expediting certification of the plumbing trade.
- Establishing a robust and clearly understood program of compliance.
- Re-defining apprentice and journeyperson ratios to align with market conditions.



The Thermal Environmental Comfort Association is the primary Trade Association in the province of BC for the residential HVAC industry. We represent

almost 400 HVAC contractors and equipment suppliers in the province of BC and have been providing training to the trades for over 30 years. Our standards and training are recognized in the BC Building Code and are the basis for the design, installation and inspection of residential Heating, Cooling and Ventilation systems in BC.

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Founded in Montreal in 1933, the CIPH is a not-for-profit trade association representing more than 280 companies including manufacturers, wholesale distribution, Master

Distributors and Manufacturers. In British Columbia our association is composed of 64 member companies that include manufacturers, wholesale distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, heating, hydronic, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH-BC wholesalers operate more than 200 warehouses and showrooms across British Columbia. Total industry sales in British Columbia exceed \$1.2 billion annually and CIPH-BC members employ nearly 2,000 employees. CIPH-BC works closely with Governments and Utilities to help guide codes and standards in co-operation with our industry partners.

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Founded in 1968, the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

Institute of Canada (HRAI) is a non-profit national trade association of manufacturers, wholesalers and contractors in the Canadian heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR) industries.

HRAI represents more than 1,250 companies in the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVACR) industry. Our members include manufacturers, wholesalers, and contractors who provide essential goods and services, employ more than 50,000 people in Canada and deliver more than \$12B annually to the Canadian economy.

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Mechanical Contractors Association of BC (MCABC), established as an organized

provincial entity in 1905 under an earlier name, is one of nine provincial associations represented by the Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC), the country's largest trade contractor Association. MCABC has 200 members; nationally, MCAC represents 1,000 companies engaged in 24 core activities, including: plumbing, heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, sprinkler systems, fire protection, control systems, refrigeration, insulation, specialized process systems, medical gases, hydronics site services and welding.

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