

February 04, 2008

CPISC Skills and Technology Roadmap Initiative Underway!

A blue-ribbon panel of industry leaders and key stakeholders met in Toronto on January 28, 2008 to kick off the Canadian Printing Industry sector Council's Skills and Technology Roadmap (STRM) Project.

Designed as a tool that provides a context for detailing where the industry presently stands in terms of existing and emerging technologies and the skills needed to use these technologies, a skills and technology roadmap (STRM) details where an industry is going, what it will take to get there and what skills will be needed.

Technology is one of the key factors having an impact on skills development needs within the industry. Information technology has transformed the economy and the printing and graphic communications sector. Changes in technology impact all aspects of the industry but particularly human resource and workforce development, and the skills and development needs within the industry. Given this context, the technology roadmap and the skills that it details will provide the industry with a comprehensive framework to help shape a strategic plan to address the industry needs.

With support from Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) and Industry Canada, CPISC will be able to compare skill standards with the skills that will be needed to address new technological development as well as to identify and address gaps in training programs. The STRM will also be a critical tool for small and medium companies that make up the majority of Canada's printing establishments.

The industry experts who form the Steering committee will guide the project, offering insights into the printing and graphic communications sector and mapping out a vision for the future.

To see a list of [Steering Committee members](#) and read a background document outlining the initiative, [click here](#).

CPISC Board of Directors Holds Winter Meeting

The CPISC Board of Directors held its winter meeting in Ottawa on January 21, 2008 with a focus on skills development. The Board approved the draft basic and core skill standards for the industry as well as reviewed progress towards the identification of press skill standards.

The Board received the report of the Basic and Core Skills Standards Working Group and approved the draft identifying basic and core skill standards. The standards were developed with two levels of proficiency with identifiable measurable indicators. Basic skills include reading, writing, mathematical skills, interactive communication, planning and organizing, decision making, problem solving and computer literacy. Skills core to anyone working in the printing industry include teamwork, health and safety, printing processes, workflow process and control, quality assurance and client service.

The identified and agreed upon basic and core skills standards will be integrated into the development of operational skill standards for the various process areas. Based on these standards, profiles will be created for key occupations within the industry. The profiles will include all of the skills standards (basic, core and operational) as well as employment perspectives and education requirements.

The Board also approved the program for the second annual CPISC Industry Forum to be held in partnership with the Comité sectoriel de main-d'oeuvre des communications graphiques du Québec on June 13, 2008 in Montreal. Look for the registration information coming soon!

Manufacturing Sector Faces More Challenges

According to the recently released Statistics Canada results of its quarterly survey of the manufacturing sector, manufacturing will be facing tougher times with lower production and employment levels in the coming months.

The survey found that the proportion of manufacturers planning to cut production jumped to 33 per cent from 24 per cent last fall. The main issues remained labour shortages, the high value of the Canadian dollar and record oil prices.

The Business Conditions Survey is a quarterly survey that requests manufacturers' opinions on production and employment issues. To read the full report, [click here](#).

CPISC Welcomes New Staff

CPISC is pleased to welcome two new staff members: Shawn Murphy and Heather McLaren.

Shawn Murphy joins CPISC as its Communications-Marketing Manager. His responsibilities include the overall development, coordination and review of all CPISC communication activities. Shawn comes to CPISC from his position as Executive Assistant to a Member of Parliament from Sudbury. He has extensive experience in the communications field and will serve as principal contact for CPISC's outreach activities.

Shawn can be reached at s.murphy@cpisc-csic.ca

Heather McLaren joins CPISC as Office Manager. As principal support staff person to the Executive Director, Heather is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the efficient operations of the Council office, its procedures and systems including office management, board and system administration. Heather has administrative experience in both the profit and not-for-profit sectors. Her most recent experience was with the Canadian Parents for French where she was responsible for membership services.

Heather can be reached at h.mclaren@cpisc-csic.ca