



FOR RELEASE
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Oil burner mechanic journeyperson certification announced

WHITEHORSE—Yukon Education and Yukon College will offer oil burner mechanic apprenticeship and certification courses beginning August 2013 in preparation for new regulations that will require only certified journeypersons to be eligible for a permit to install or modify oil-fired appliances in Yukon.

"The new oil burner mechanic certification and apprenticeship program provides an opportunity for Yukoners to increase their skills through local training that will help ensure the safe installation and operation of oil-fired appliances in Yukon," Education Minister and Minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation Scott Kent said. "This training, along with trade regulation and development is essential to improving public safety."

An individual can become a certified oil burner mechanic journeyperson in Yukon through the formal apprenticeship route: combining in-school technical training, on-the job experience, and passing the interprovincial exam. Alternatively, any individual who provides proof of being employed in the oil burner mechanic trade for a total of 8,100 hours is eligible to challenge the interprovincial exam.

Journeypersons holding a certificate with a Red Seal endorsement from another Canadian jurisdiction in the oil burner mechanic trade may use that existing certificate to work on oil-fired appliances in Yukon. Those who hold a certificate without a Red Seal endorsement can have their qualifications assessed for equivalency.

"The Yukon Housing Corporation and the departments of Education and Community Services continue to work to ensure a whole-of-government approach on this important issue," Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor said. "These course offerings will help prepare Yukoners for the regulatory changes that are in development and will increase capacity within the trades to ensure a safer Yukon."

A consultation was held with Yukoners interested in participating in oil burner mechanic training to determine the preferred method of course delivery and what time of year courses should be held. The apprenticeship program and certification courses were then developed with Yukon College with the first course set to begin in August 2013.

"We are pleased to partner with Yukon Education in this new training initiative for Yukon's oil burner mechanics and we are confident that it will help improve the quality of oil-fired appliance installation throughout the territory," Yukon College acting president Dr. Chris Hawkins said.

Persons interested in obtaining journeyperson certification as an oil burner mechanic should contact the Apprenticeship and Tradespersons Qualification office at 867-667-5298.

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