



UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN & APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING & PIPEFITTING INDUSTRY

LOCAL 46 TORONTO

As the oldest United Association (UA) local in Canada, its members have helped build the infrastructure of this country. That proud history provides a strong foundation for the future as UA Local 46 continues to offer leading-edge programs that ensure its plumbers, steam-

fitters and welders have the skills needed to meet the evolving needs of industry.

LOCAL 46 LEADSTHEWAY

Since the City of Toronto implemented a water supply bylaw last year that includes a program for backflow prevention to

ensure the safety of drinking water, for example, Local 46 plumbers have flocked to a cross-connection control course that teaches them how to properly install backflow prevention devices to protect the municipal water supply from possible contamination.



“We’ve been offering classes four nights a week to make sure we’ve got the people in place to meet demand,” says director of training Vince Kacaba. “Thousands of these devices have to be installed in buildings across Toronto over the next year. They can only be installed by licensed plumbers or registered apprentices because the work is done on a potable water system.”

As a training delivery agent for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Local 46 delivers plumbing, steamfitting and welding trade school. Early next year, it will open a 22,000-square-foot training facility located across the street from its administrative facility, which is also home to a welding shop.

NEW TRAINING FACILITY OPENS

The new facility reflects its commitment to provide training above and beyond what is required by provincial trade curriculums and ensure its apprentices offer “value-added services” to their contractors. Being able to safely operate a boom truck is but one example.

Local 46 is watching with interest as the Ministry and Technical Standards and Safety Authority work toward developing a gas technician apprenticeship. “We’ve already got the infrastructure in place to meet that

demand as it becomes reality,” Kacaba says.

“We already offer all the levels of gas, providing our membership and contractors with the certifications necessary to meet the demands of the industry — whether through natural gas piping or oil piping.”

Standby generators are another emerging trend. “Because of the blackout of 2003, they have become a priority (on industrial, commercial and institutional sites) and being able to pipe them up safely is a critical component to the installation,” Kacaba says. Courses are offered through Local 46’s petroleum mechanic and mechanic/oil piping fitter programs.

UA Canada has created the National Association of Union Schools & Colleges to ensure the skills of its members are portable. Local 46 is equally committed to training the next generation of tradespeople. For each of the past eight years, it has up to 1,300 plumbing, steamfitting and welding apprentices. Over the last three years, the average age of Local 46 members dropped from the early to mid-50s to about 41 years.

“We don’t have a problem finding people who want to be recruited for apprenticeship,” says Local 46 business representative James Everett. “We don’t even advertise and we get

1,000 people applying for 100 jobs.” Candidates should have a minimum of strong Grade 12 diploma with college or university-level courses.

Along with other affiliated members of the Central Ontario Building Trades, Local 46 is proud to support the Hammer Heads program. Launched in February, the program will give 15 participants from 13 priority neighbourhoods in Toronto an opportunity to explore various trades through in-school upgrading and trades training at union halls.

Hammer Heads is funded through the Youth Challenge Fund and private investment. It guarantees participants an apprenticeship in the trade of their choice upon successful completion of the program.

Local 46 members recognize the value of continuing education. Local 46 offers training six days a week and its night school draws about 1,100 members each semester.

“Our membership understands the necessity of professional development,” Kacaba says. “The majority of them are at the forefront of investing in themselves. The more you know, the more you’re worth.”



John Wood is a gas instructor at the Local 46 training centre.



Local 46 TAPs new talent

United Association (UA) Local 46 is proud to support the Canadian Forces Transition Assistance Program (TAP), which offers assistance to Canadian Forces members who have been or will be medically released in making the transition to the civilian workforce.

“We’re proud to lend a helping hand as these brave people make the transition back to the civilian workforce,” says Local 46 business representative James Everett. “They have made a special contribution to Canada and all Canadians. We recognize the sacrifices they have made for all of us and espe-

cially their families.”

Through TAP, Local 46 will welcome half a dozen new members in January.

“Many skilled tradespeople have served in the Canadian Forces in the past

or have family members who have served,” Everett says. “This is a fantastic way to give back to the community and recognize their selfless contributions.”

TAP actively recruits prospective employers in both the public and private sectors to consider providing employment to highly skilled, well-trained and job-ready Canadian Forces members. As a supporting organization, Local 46 is a TAP Employment Partner.



QUICK FACTS

Toronto’s unionized plumbers, steamfitters and welders have been part of the United Association (UA) since it was chartered in 1890.

Local 46 has a membership of 6,700 — about 1,300 of whom are apprentices. About 33% of all steamfitting and 22% of all plumbing apprentices in Ontario are

registered with the Local 46 Joint Training Apprenticeship Committee.

Local 46 is located at 936 Warden Ave., Scarborough. To learn more, call 416-759-6791 or 1-866-915-2700, e-mail office@ualocal46.org or visit www.ualocal46.org.

