

## **History of Gold Seal Certification Program: The New Brunswick Connection**

The history of the Gold Seal Certification Program in the construction industry begins in the late 1980's. At that time there was a group operating in Ontario known as the Construction Management Institute (CMI). One of the programs that CMI was working on was a certification program for management personnel in the construction industry. The certification was to be known as the Gold Seal Program. With a loss of government funding CMI was disbanded leaving the Gold Seal Certification unfinished.

In Atlantic Canada, the four provincial associations; the Construction Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (NLCA), the Construction Association of Prince Edward Island (CAPEI), the Construction Association of Nova Scotia (CANS) and the Construction Association of New Brunswick (CANB) had previously formed a joint committee known as the Construction Atlantic Management Education Committee (CAMEC) whose mandate was to promote education in the construction sector in Atlantic Canada. The search for a means to revive the Program was led by a number of members of CAMEC who represented CANB and its constituent associations. CANB was the only one of the four provincial associations that operated as a federation with regional representation, at that time, coming from the Moncton Northeast Construction Association (MNECA), the Saint John Construction Association (SJCA) and the Fredericton Northwest Construction Association (FNWCA).

There were several individuals from the New Brunswick associations involved in moving the Gold Seal Program forward. This group decided to approach the New Brunswick Provincial Government for assistance. A meeting was arranged with Dr Russell King, the then Minister of Advanced Education & Training.

Dr King was so impressed with the CAMEC presentation that he not only provided funding to complete the Program but also seconded staff from his department to work on it. Richard Ingram worked on the Gold Seal Certification for many years. He took what CMI had already prepared and built the program that delivered its first certificates in 1993.

CAMEC was a regional body, and they were not in a position to roll out a nation-wide certification program, so they approached CCA. After lengthy discussions between CAMEC and CCA the Gold Seal Program became a national program under CCA in 1991.

The involvement of the New Brunswick government led to a provincial procurement requirement that mandated by tender that those successful general contractors on contracts over \$1M had to employ at least one gold seal certified practitioner on the project. For Electrical and Mechanical Contractors their contract threshold was \$500K. The Gold Seal

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Certification Program has grown over the years and the program has also modernized with the use now of online exams and an application portal.

Today, the Maritime Centre for Construction Learning (MCCL), as CCA's preferred partner for Gold Seal accredited training, provides comprehensive support to construction professionals across the Maritimes in preparing for and pursuing Gold Seal Certification. With a robust catalog of over 50 courses offered in virtual, in-person, and hybrid formats, each eligible for Gold Seal credits – MCCL ensures flexible and accessible learning. Since 2000, more than 130 professionals have successfully completed the Gold Seal Program, and six companies have earned the distinction of being recognized as Gold Seal employers.