

Oct. 2003

Ministry of Skills Development and Labour

## THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

The *B.C. Certificate of Qualification (CQ)* is a non-expiring provincial credential available to skilled workers in more than 160 trades in British Columbia.

This credential is available to those practitioners who have received appropriate training, have passed the written and practical exams and have had sufficient work experience.

In most trades, the CQ can be earned by completing a registered apprenticeship and passing an exam. People can also earn a CQ by “challenging” the examination for certification after having worked in the trade for a specified period of time.

In addition to the provincial Certificate of Qualification, many trades also offer an “Interprovincial Endorsement.” These are sometimes called Red Seal trades because people who have earned the endorsement receive a prominent red seal attached to their Certificate of Qualification.

The key benefit of the Interprovincial Standard Endorsement is that the holder becomes able to move to and work in other provinces and territories, without having to write any further examinations.

The Red Seal is not currently available to barbers.

### *What is the status of the CQ for cosmetologists?*

The B.C. Certificate of Qualification for cosmetologists is being reviewed and revised. This CQ is currently based on interprovincial standards that provide for ease of mobility among different provincial jurisdictions.

Government is working with B.C. industry representatives to develop the criteria as to who would be qualified to work as a cosmetologist (e.g. what period of in salon work experience would be required), and the practical aspects of how and where to administer qualifying exams.

### *Is a Certificate of Apprenticeship the same as a Certificate of Qualification?*

The Certificate of Apprenticeship says you have completed your apprenticeship. It does not mean you have passed any required examination to get a Certificate of Qualification.

*Continued...*

***Will I need to have a B.C. Certificate of Qualification in order to continue working?***

With the repeal of the barbers and cosmetologists' acts, the Certificate of Qualification will become the standard credential for your industry. It will show your employer and your customers that you are fully qualified as a barber or cosmetologist.

The Certificate of Qualification will not be mandatory, but employers can choose to only hire people who have a Certificate of Qualification.

***How will I get a Certificate of Qualification?***

If you were licensed as a barber or cosmetologist in 2002 or 2003, you can receive your B.C. Certificate of Qualification without charge or examination. For more information see the Ministry of Advanced Education Web site at <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/industrytraining/>

If you are a student or apprentice, you will need to apply for a Certificate of Qualification when you complete your studies or apprenticeship.

***I already have a Red Seal from another province. Will I need to re-apply to work as a cosmetologist?***

Because British Columbia participates in the Red Seal program, your out-of-province certificate and Red Seal are considered equivalent to a B.C. Certificate of Qualification.

***Will there be different kinds of CQ?***

At this time there is only one CQ for cosmetologists. However, many people from the industry have raised the idea of having different types or levels of CQ to recognize advanced training and abilities. This is the type of issue that can be raised with the new industry-training model being developed under the Ministry of Advanced Education.

***I'm an esthetician and/or a nail technician. Will I be able to get a Certificate of Qualification?***

Estheticians and nail technicians are not designated as trades at this time and there is not currently a CQ in these areas.

If Estheticians and nail technicians believe that trade status is needed, they will have to make a proposal to be designated as "trades" to the industry training body. This body will determine if these occupations should receive official trades status and work with industry to develop standardized training requirements.

***How do I get my Red Seal qualification?***

You can apply for a Red Seal right now. You will need to take an exam and, if you are successful, you will receive a B.C. Certificate of Qualification (if you don't already have one) that will include the inter-provincial endorsement.