

To Whom It May Concern:

As you may know, revisions to the Ontario Building Code are due to come out approximately July, 2005. Along with these changes are major revisions to Part 7 Plumbing, particularly Section 5 Venting which has changed extensively including methods of venting and how venting is sized.

We at O.P.I.A. would like to see the transition of codes be as seamless as possible. To accomplish this, there will have to be code updating courses at the ready. All plumbers in Ontario ( approximately 23785 ), along with plumbing inspectors and plumbing teachers at our community colleges must be given the opportunity to be updated. The changes to Section 5 Venting are quite complex and would be best explained we believe, by an instructor in a classroom setting.

Who is going to provide the courses? Who is going to provide the training? Course development is essential and should already be in the works. As many of us are aware, it can take a very long time for a course to be developed from start to the printed copy.

It can be argued that the code changes are not yet law so we do nothing. We believe it is much better to prepare for what is going to happen. The code will change. Let's be ready. Developing courses takes time and money but it has to be done sooner or later. Let's do it sooner.

Last but not least, we have a major concern for the many plumbing apprentices in Ontario ( currently about 2918 ). Plumbing apprentices take approximately four and a half years to complete their on the job training along with three separate eight week courses at community college spread out over that time. We know that apprentices will enter the trade under a code that will be substantially changed by the time they complete their apprenticeship. In short, we will be teaching them wrong. We must try and make the code changes to the apprentice's course of study as soon as possible. We believe an intense effort should be made to teach the apprentices the revised code now. Let's teach them right the first time. It has also been brought to our attention that the plumbers Certificate of Qualification exam is based on the 1993 Code. This is totally unacceptable and should be updated as soon as possible and kept up to date thereafter.

Some of you may have been aware of these problems and some of you may have been enlightened. One thing is certain, we must all work together to solve these problems and answer the questions: who will develop courses? (when?), who will provide/teach the courses? (when?), can we start teaching the plumbing apprentices the revised code now?

If the O.P.I.A. can be of any help in developing courses or providing training, please let us know.

Yours truly,

Dennis Gervais, C.P.S.I.  
President, O.P.I.A