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IN OTHER NEWS

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor.

You're not going to believe this one but I've just seen a document released from the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board under the Official Information Act.

The document was a copy of a presentation given to the World Plumbing Council at their conference in California, USA in May 2018 by the Board's CEO.

He stated in the presentation document that the Board is "now considering offering apprenticeships in Mandarin"

What the hell is that all about? The apprenticeships provided in English aren't even right and they are "now considering offering apprenticeships in Mandarin."

Remember Phil Routhan

Someone got the Memo



Dear Editor,

Seven years ago I joined the Federation and not long after joining a colourful statement was sent out which I kept and stapled to my wall knowing that one day I would need it.

I think that time has come where there is a lot of consultation and the

industry needs to step up and be counted to ensure the needs of the industry do not get watered down and changed into something we don't recognise, or need, as an industry.

Here's that statement just in case other members have forgotten about it.

In the Beginning Was the Consultation

And the consultation was full of assumptions;

The consultation was without substance;

And the assumptions were without form;

And darkness fell upon the face of the industry;

And the trades people spoke amongst themselves saying; "Woe unto us. It is a crock of shit, and it stinks"

And the trade's people went to the Secretariat, and said "It is a pail of dung, and none can abide the odour."

And the Secretariat went to the Registrar and said to him "It is a container of excrement, and it is very strong, such that none can abide it"

And the Registrar went to the Board Members and said; "It's a vessel

tried to get involved in training and had to pull his head in. Are we starting to go through the same merry-go-round?

ED:

Apprenticeships in Mandarin announced at a trip to America – now there's a novel concept! We hope the old adage 'where there is smoke, there's fire' doesn't apply.

What can we say except the Board is entitled to look at whatever initiatives they like. It doesn't mean it has, or is going to implement the idea but someone must have put the idea into their heads for them to be announcing the idea to the world.

The Office of the Auditor General's inquiry into the Board cost \$350,000.00 and it stated "The Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board is going to have to change its culture to be more open and approachable to the trade, to ensure that everything it does is squeaky-clean in the eyes of the law and to ensure consistent and fair decision making"

These were just some of the conclusions drawn by the Office of the Auditor General and they had a lot to say about training in their report, where they drew a clear line between the Board's responsibilities and those of the Industry Training Organisation.

If apprenticeships in Mandarin were to proceed,

of fertilizer, and none can abide its strength."

And the Board Members spoke amongst themselves, saying one to another; "It contains that which aids plant growth, and it is very strong."

And the Board Members went unto the Chairperson, and said to him; "It promotes growth and is very powerful."

And the Chairperson went to the Minister, and said to him; "it will actively promote the health and safety of the public."

And the Minister looked upon the plan, and saw that it was good. Thus did the consultation become legislation.

And this is how shit happens.

ED: Well writer you found an old one there and we tend to agree with both you and the statement.

Sometimes things start out with great intentions and statements are made which never come to fruition because the real intent gets watered down. It seems a lot gets lost in translation, for example when training becomes assessment or the truth becomes alternate facts, or where no predetermined paths follow a set path.

In the new year the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment will be seeking public comment on the review of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006. We hope the consultation doesn't fall into the category stated above and that they don't need instruction on how to apply manure safely and effectively as the industry has been waiting for a long time for change.

Meeting with the Minister of Building and Construction



For various reasons the Federation hasn't been able to meet with the Hon Jenny Salesa, Minister of Building and Construction, however last week that all changed when Wal Gordon, Chairman of the Federation, had a short meeting with the Minister and representatives from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Although the meeting was short, Wal made sure the

does it mean the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Act 2006 would need to be translated because a lot of people have trouble understanding it in English.

The Building Code, the Gas Regulations and the Standards would need to be translated too because if an individual needs to be taught in their language how are they going to understand the legislation if it's written in English?

We're looking forward to seeing how this one pans out.

再见，祝你有个愉快的一天

Zàijiàn, zhù nǐ yǒu gè yúkuài de yītiān (Goodbye have a nice day)

Federation's view of industry issues was put forward and left some reading material for all who attended to ensure nothing was missed.

The meeting focussed on apprenticeships, qualifications, incentives to take on apprentices, exemptions and industry governance. The Minister was very attentive and when it was put to her that the industry had just endured two Ministers who were not responsive, she assured Wal that her government was responsive and cares what happens to the industry.

She informed Wal of the timetabling of events, including the review of the Act most, of which is early next year.

Wal also detailed a timeline of events including a complaint to the Regulation Review Committee and emphasised the Federation has always followed through with all it has said it would do, including protests and a change in Government won't change that.

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