



Press Release

Tour Highlighting Careers in the Supply Chain: Teachers, Students and Parents Learn On Site About Some of the Many Roles the Supply Chain Offers

May 1, 2009, Mississauga, Ontario – The Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council (the CSCSC), along with fellow sector council, the Canadian Automotive Repair and Service Council (CARS), is working with the Toronto District School Board and Lakeshore Collegiate Institute in Etobicoke, Ont., in an education/sector council partnership designed to build students' and parents' awareness of supply chain (and auto-repair) careers, initiate courses and programs that are focused on the supply chain sector, and develop a model for industry/education partnerships that can be adapted for application anywhere in the country. Through this partnership, the Council aims to provide real-world information and experiences to youth as they make critical decisions about their future paths. More information about the partnership can be found on the CSCSC website, at www.supplychaincanada.org/en/other-projects.

As an early step in this initiative, the two sector councils organized a tour on April 15 for a group of Lakeshore CI teachers, students and parents to showcase the many occupations involved in the installation of new tires. The tour brought to life roles that are identified in a related case study that defines the skills required to competently perform the duties of each of the positions. That case study can be seen at www.supplychaincanada.org/assets/u/CaseStudyNewTires.pdf.

Nine teachers, six students and a parent started their day at the Mississauga distribution centre of Supply Chain Management Inc., one of Canada's largest retail logistics services company. Participants heard from employees about their responsibilities as they learned about the workings of SCM's state-of-the-art facility. Five presenters each explained the fit of his or her particular job in the supply chain, and about educational requirements for the position.

Later in the day, participants visited an OK Tire facility to get a look at the jobs people do there to order, receive and install the tires their customers need.

Students and teachers on the tour gained a "deeper understanding of occupations in the supply chain sector," according to Beth Butcher, principal of Lakeshore CI, as well as "more respect for the process and people involved" in supply chain operations. They learned, too, of the many job opportunities available in the sector. Perhaps most importantly, to at least some of the students, participants discovered the possibility of career advancement, from entry-level positions to management, for employees with solid soft skills, such as flexibility, good attitude and good communication skills. This prospect gives hope, says Ms. Butcher, to those students who plan to enter the labour force immediately after completing high school.

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Ms. Butcher believes that both students and industry "stand to benefit greatly" from partnerships that bring schools and employers together. By embedding supply chain, auto-repair and essential-skills components in the school's curriculum, Lakeshore will be equipping students to successfully enter jobs, giving hope to the students and meeting employers' needs for better-prepared labour-force entrants.

The Canadian Supply Chain Sector Council is an all-stakeholder, not-for-profit organization responsible for the human resources strategy for the supply chain sector in Canada. The CSCSC is funded by the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program.



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