



NEWS RELEASE
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ALGOMA STEEL LAUNCHES APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO - Algoma Steel Inc. announced today that it plans to offer an apprenticeship program in partnership with Sault College in an effort to build the organization's capability in several key roles. Internal and external postings went up today for apprentice applicants in the following trades:

- Fitter/Welders,
- Bricklayers, and
- Electrical Maintenance Technicians.

Steve Boniferro, Vice President of Human Resources emphasized the importance of this training initiative saying, "The Apprenticeship Program will help close the gap and develop our workforce for future needs. Our partnership with Sault College will provide the apprentices with the necessary theory behind the trade. We will then pair this with applied coaching by experienced and knowledgeable tradespeople. This combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training will ensure the necessary knowledge transfer occurs."

Colin Kirkwood, Sault College, Dean, Technology, Skilled Trades, Natural Resources and Business notes, "Sault College has been working closely with Algoma Steel Inc. over the past year to ensure our programming is aligned with their training needs. Both current and future employees will benefit from participating in our trades related courses and programs at the College."

The Company recently hired nearly 80 tradespeople and the Apprenticeship Program is the next approach as Algoma rolls out its succession plan for the trades.

"To support increased employment opportunities through apprenticeship training, our government is providing \$420,000 in tax credits for Algoma Steel Inc. and \$220,000 in educational subsidies to Sault College," said David Oraziotti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie. "With this investment we are working with Algoma Steel Inc. and Sault College to help ensure that the next generation of Sault workers receive the training they need to participate in the continuing success of our community's economy."

In 2006, Algoma Steel hired over 330 people for production, trades, technical and professional roles across the organization and it is anticipated this new trend will continue for the next three to five years as the Company replaces retiring employees and responds to changes in production and technology.

Detailed postings outlining entry qualifications for apprentices can be viewed under 'Career Opportunities' on the Company website at www.algoma.com .

A member of the Essar Group, Algoma Steel Inc. is based in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. As a fully integrated steel producer, Algoma's revenues are derived primarily from the manufacture and sale of rolled steel products including hot and cold rolled sheet and plate.

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