



### Legacy Award Canadian Elevator Industry Educational Program

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— Chris McIntyre,  
CEIEP

## Beyond Compliance: Recognizing a Legacy of Elevating Safety Standards

For the Canadian Elevator Industry Educational Program (CEIEP), clinching the Technical Standards and Safety Authority's 2025 Legacy Award is the culmination of a journey lasting nearly six decades and counting. The Legacy Award is bestowed on people or organizations that have shown a conscientious safety history.

Chris McIntyre, CEIEP's Program Director, expressed pride upon learning about the award. "It was a powerful validation of decades of commitment, innovation and teamwork that have been created at CEIEP between the International Union of Elevator Constructors (IUEC) and its members, as well as the National Elevator and Escalator Association and major manufacturers of the elevating industry," he said.

CEIEP was established in 1967 to provide apprenticeship training for Ontario's elevator mechanics who are covered by provincial collective agreements negotiated between IUEC and their signatory employers. As the sole training provider offering a foundational apprenticeship program and continuing education for certified elevator mechanics, CEIEP has a direct impact on industry safety. It also plays an instrumental role in developing in-school curriculum standards for apprenticeship training and was pivotal in creating the initial TSSA-approved curriculum and workbooks focusing on safety and maintenance.

CEIEP's active participation in industry advisory boards, including the Elevating Devices Training and Certification Advisory Board and the Field Advisory Committee, allows it to shape training standards and certification policies. It also influences industry regulations by contributing to the development of safety codes for elevators and escalators.

While apprenticeship training focuses on developing technical skills on elevator installation, maintenance, service and repair, it also incorporates elements of human factors. McIntyre noted that the recent integration of the Elevator Industry Mental Health Awareness Course as one of the electives in continuing education demonstrates CEIEP's holistic approach to safety and professionalism in the elevator industry.

The course is part of the licence-renewal process for Elevating Device Mechanic Authorization and helps elevator mechanics recognize symptoms, understand mental health challenges and identify resources for support.

"Mental health is a problem that faces every industry," said McIntyre. "We have to make sure that when we go to work, everybody's heads are in the right place so that everybody goes home safe."

According to McIntyre, students have indicated that the topics in the course were beneficial. "Hopefully, we're able to change the stigma that's always been around mental health."

In line with CEIEP's commitment to an innovative training approach, it is also employing virtual reality in a mandatory 24-hour safety course for new hires. By simulating realistic scenarios in a safe learning environment, virtual reality allows students to identify hazards and perform high-risk procedures, such as proper car top and pit access with the six-inch rule, without the risk of actual danger.

Using virtual reality in safety training reflects the evolving technological landscape of the elevator industry. "Technology is definitely changing. The products that we're installing today are not the products that we've installed 10 or 20 years ago," McIntyre noted.

Recognizing that change is constant, CEIEP strives to stay ahead of the game by training apprentices on what will replace older technologies in the field. McIntyre, who is a member of the CSA B44 Technical Committee responsible for developing and maintaining the CSA B44 Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators in Canada, advised leaders to approach safety as a holistic and evolving practice.

"We should go beyond compliance. We need to embrace innovation and invest in our people's well-being on all fronts," said McIntyre. "Most importantly, we need to focus on continuous learning, adapting and collaborating."