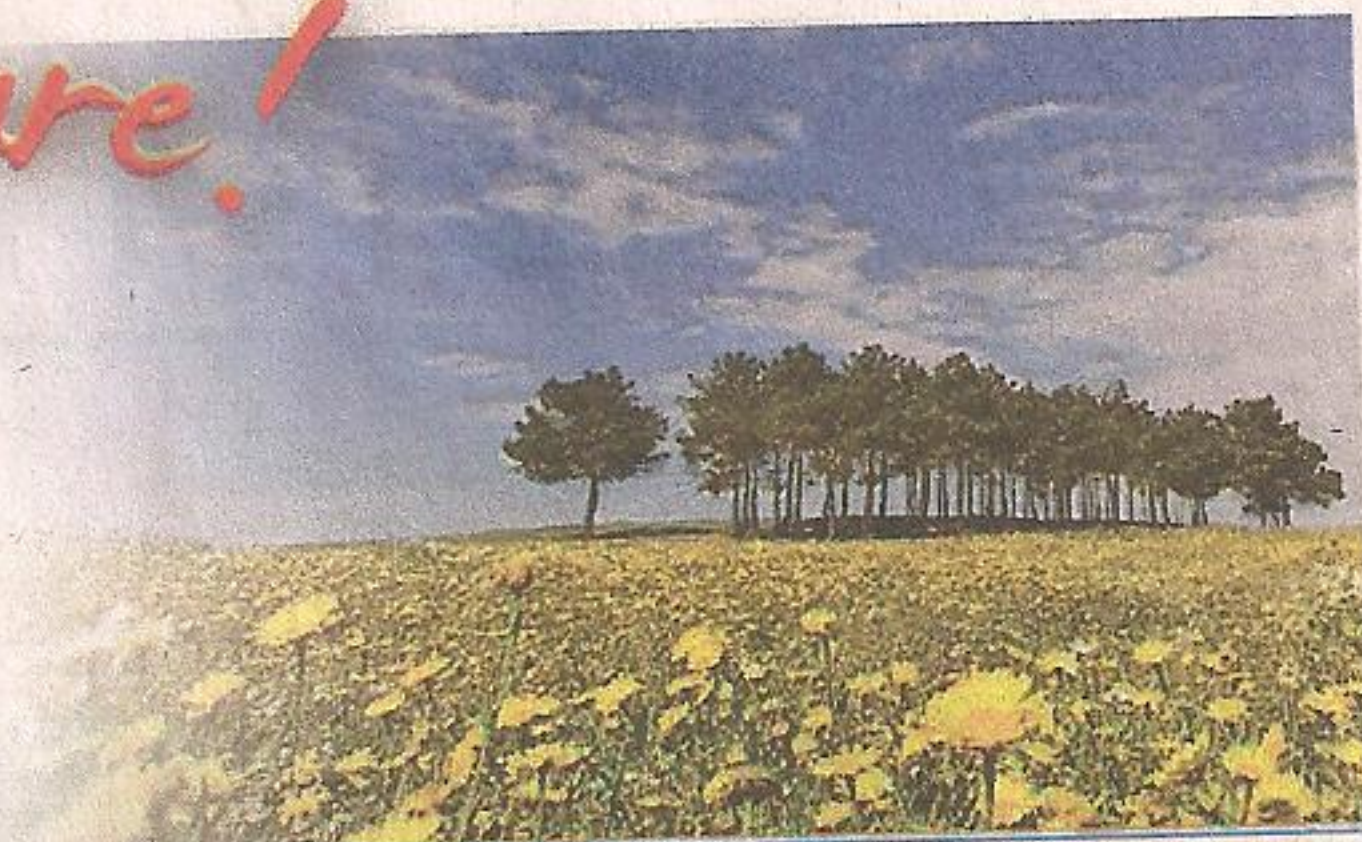


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John Juricic,
Executive Director
Sidney/North Saanich Industrial Group



Tackling critical issues head-on

The Sidney North Saanich Industrial Group (www.sidneynorthsaanichindustrialgroup.com) has formed the Skilled Trade Shortage Sub-Committee to more directly deal with this business critical issue in 2014. The following are several of the activities that we plan on tackling head-on.

We plan on re-inforcing the connection and employment pathways between the secondary schools and the manufacturing sector. This is a key requirement arising out of research with the local business community. For example, Parkland Secondary has a Marine Technology Institute; Stelly's Secondary has CNC Machining curriculum and equipment expertise. We must find ways to connect with young adults earlier in their career development process.

We will continue to talk to decision makers and educate stakeholders regarding the urgency to solve this Skilled Trade

Shortage crisis. A website will be built and regional manufacturers will be encouraged to list their support for what we'll be calling a *Manufacturing Centre of Influence*. This website will act as an information portal to organize solutions, ideas and updates for this issue.

We will encourage and support start-up and entrepreneurial activity to help build out supply chain strength and capacity for our marine, aerospace and manufacturing industries. Watch for updates on all these activities in the new year.

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