The NMA met with MPP Piccini, Skills Ontario and the public and catholic school board superintendents in December to discuss workforce and skills shortages. As an outcome of the meeting, the NMA is now exploring a model that may be of interest to our local manufacturers. However, before we proceed we would like to gauge interest from our membership.

**As Background to the meeting discussion:**

**Challenge Identified:**

High school students who want to pursue a career in the trades/manufacturing are finding it difficult to find co-op opportunities for onsite learning/training and experiential learning opportunities.

We also found our High School/College/University apprentices are having a hard time fulfilling hands on training/hours and finding industrial sponsors.

**Suggested Solutions:**

Find a partner – such as the NMA - who will provide a connection between educational institutions and industry - to set up and coordinate apprenticeship and co-op opportunities. Essentially the NMA would become the direct resource to industry in Northumberland - supplying them with apprentices from our educational partners.

Is there appetite/ability to share apprentices (between members) and provide multiple onsite learning experiential experiences?

A model is currently in place between the Hamilton industrial sector and Mohawk College – called the Hamilton Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Consortium. https://hstac.ca

**NMA Next Steps:**

Before the NMA moves forward and begins its research into a model for Northumberland, we need to know directly from the membership – would you use such a service? Should this be a service you want your association to provide, invest in and grow? Please fill out the survey to provide your feedback.