



**Automotive Industries Association of Canada**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### ***HARA and I-CAR Canada Share Course Accreditation***

**January 26th, 2012, Ottawa** – The Hamilton District Autobody Repair Association (HARA) and I-CAR Canada are pleased to announce that HARA's Level 1 Collision Estimating course will be recognized as an I-CAR-eligible program beginning in 2012.

The Level 1 Estimating program is run over 18 hours and covers Introduction to Estimating, Understanding Vehicle Construction, Fundamentals of Estimate Writing, Understanding Collision Manuals and Collision Damage Analysis. HARA Executive Director John Norris notes that "We have been running this program successfully for over ten years with 400 participants. It's an excellent foundation for one of the most important skills a collision shop must have."

Andrew Shepherd, Director of Collision Training for the Automotive Industries Association of Canada which runs I-CAR training in Canada, describes the course eligibility framework. "Our Industry Training Alliance program allows learners to receive internationally-recognized credits for skills development which is important for professional success. This skills development can be delivered by any of a range of partners."

The HARA - I-CAR Canada agreement is a first in Canada. "Up until now" says Shepherd, "we have recognized a range of manufacturer training programs, including paint and materials courses. This is the first time we have partnered with an association. HARA delivers first-rate instruction and it makes sense that we should build in a national partnership for the good of the collision industry in Canada."

Beginning in January, 2012, participants passing the HARA course exam will be eligible for 4 I-CAR points.

#### **For more information, contact:**

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#### **About AIA Canada**

The Automotive Industries Association of Canada (AIA) is a national trade association representing the

automotive aftermarket industry in Canada. The aftermarket is a \$18.49 billion industry that employs more than 420,200 people. The industry is composed of companies that manufacture, distribute and install automotive replacement parts, accessories, tools, and equipment. AIA represents manufacturers, re-builders, manufacturers agents, warehouse distributors, national distributors, buying groups, wholesalers, machine shops, retailers, and through its councils, the interests of collision repair shops and automotive service and repair outlets. AIA's mandate is to promote, educate and represent members in all areas that impact the growth and prosperity of the industry. Visit us on the web at [www.aiacanada.com](http://www.aiacanada.com)