

QUALIFICATIONS FOR AUCTIONEERS

The Public Auctions Regulation says that no individual may conduct the bidding at a sale by public auction unless the individual is qualified. An individual is qualified to conduct the bidding at a sale by public auction if they are a full member in good standing with the Auctioneers' Association of Alberta. If they are not a member of the Association they must:

- (a) be 18 years of age or older,
- (b) be a Canadian citizen, and has been a resident of Canada for at least 3 consecutive months immediately prior to the date of the sale,
- (c) have successfully completed an auction course recognized by the Director, or have been an auctioneer in another jurisdiction for at least one year immediately prior to the date of the sale.

There are currently eleven courses recognized. These are situated in Alberta. One institution offers the course by correspondence.

As the regulator of public auctions in Alberta, our mandate is consumer protection. When reviewing a course to determine if it should be recognized, we must ensure that the auctioneer will learn and understand the laws that will apply to them. To be recognized, the course must educate the student on the Fair Trading Act and the Public Auctions Regulation. Auctioneers must know their legal responsibilities if they want to conduct business in Alberta. We will not recognize a course if they do not address items like licensing, trust accounts, statutory declarations, record keeping and the standards of conduct. These can be taught in a classroom setting or by correspondence.

We know how important it is for auctioneers to be proficient at bid calling, ring techniques and salesmanship to be successful in the industry. It's essential for students looking for a school to ensure these needs are also met.

It is not a requirement that the educational program be licensed under the Private Vocational Training (PVT) Act to be recognized by the Director. However, if a program is 40 hours in duration or longer and tuition charged is \$1,000 or more it must be licensed under the PVT Act before a private institution in Alberta can offer the training.

Scott Hood, Director of Fair Trading (as delegated)
Consumer Services, Service Alberta