

for Ontario high schools

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Starting an apprenticeship is an important step toward a rewarding career. First, what is an apprenticeship? An apprenticeship is formal training for those who want a career in the skilled trades. Approximately 85-90% of the time you learn skills on the job by working directly with a journeyperson, and the remaining time learning in a classroom setting.

The *apprenticeship pathway is a postsecondary option*, just like college or university. It takes between two-five years to complete an apprenticeship.

There are many pathways to an apprenticeship:

1 Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP): This program is a coop education experience in a skilled trade placement where you are supported by your co-op teacher to find an employer that is a good fit. The teacher guides you through the process including assisting with resume writing and interviewing. Students can gain experience in a safe workplace and build a network for future employment in a trade.

Participating in <u>OYAP</u> can provide a head start for a career in the skilled trades. You are gaining skills in a trade. Students can become registered apprentices and work towards becoming certified in a skilled trade while completing their secondary school diplomas. A successful OYAP placement can lead to paid employment and continuation of an apprenticeship after graduation. By starting your apprenticeship while still in school, you are moving much faster towards becoming a journeyperson in a skilled trade than the traditional route taken by those starting their training after they have left high school.

2 Traditional Apprenticeship Route: You find an employer or sponsor who agrees to take you on as an apprentice. To market yourself, you will need a skills-based resume or portfolio, and a driver's licence would be helpful as well.

To find a sponsor:

- Tap into your network of family, friends, neighbors, employers, tech/co-op teachers, guidance counsellors, etc., for potential connections.
- Search job postings and post your resume online on various platforms: <u>Canada's Job Bank</u>, <u>apprenticesearch.com</u> (a free online service), <u>Indeed</u>, and other directories. Also, <u>Employment Ontario (EO)</u> offers employment services and training opportunities.
- Reach out to companies and visit job sites: transportation and manufacturing facilities, kitchens, construction sites, etc. Apply for entry-level positions.
- Many unions and trade associations run their own training facilities and have

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intake programs at certain times of the year. Visit their websites or drop by their respective offices. See what they have to offer. Joining a Trades Union can be the <u>starting</u> point of a career.

- There are group sponsors you can connect with to receive support in your apprenticeship journey, e.g., Merit Ontario and Support Ontario Youth. Group sponsors help place apprentices with employers. Search for a community agency that offers a training program in your area.
- A trades-related job (summer or part-time) could also help you in your search for an apprenticeship, e.g., Home Depot, Habitat for Humanity. You are increasing your employability with relevant marketable skills. There may be potential for networking and making connections. One opportunity can lead to another.

3 Pre-apprenticeship training programs: If you need more skills or experience, several community agencies and colleges provide <u>free trades-specific training</u>, course materials, and safety training for up to fifty-two weeks starting at different times throughout the year, e.g., <u>Mohawk College</u>. These programs may also include support in obtaining an 8-12-week work placement which can lead to full time employment and apprenticeship opportunities. Preapprenticeship programs also include specialized programs for designated groups, e.g., <u>Humber College</u> (women). Check for open pre-apprenticeship programs at your local <u>college</u> or contact your local <u>Employment Office</u> for more information.

4 College Route:

• Pre-trades college programs. If you're looking to explore the trades but are having difficulty deciding which trade to pursue, pre-trades programs give students a well-rounded look at the skills and techniques used across a variety of skilled trades. Pre-Trades programs may also be called Trade Fundamentals, Techniques or Foundations. After completing the program, students have a better idea of which skilled trade program to pursue and which career path is the right choice. Graduates can then go on to entry-level positions or begin apprenticeships (see how to find a sponsor above) or continue their education by enrolling in a certificate or diploma program at college in the skilled trades area of their choice. Most of these programs include practical hands-on training and a workplace component.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many college programs continue to accept applicants after February 1. Find programs that are still open <u>here</u> or <u>here</u> (see tab *Program Category*).

• Certificate and diploma programs: If you're looking to develop experience and a skillset, or you need to obtain the prerequisite courses for your trade, a certificate or diploma college program is an option. Many of these programs will involve a workplace component which can help you make connections for further employment. Also, colleges will have a career placement office or can direct students to a career centre to help them find apprenticeship opportunities. Sometimes recruiters come to the colleges to recruit those graduating in trades. Check out your local college for more information.

Top five trade skills that will be most in demand in 2025:

- 1. Electrician (C, I)
- 2. Plumber (C)
- 3. Carpenter (C)
- 4. Heavy Equipment Operator (C)
- 5. Welder (I)

These trades are in the <u>Construction (C) and</u> Industrial (I) sectors.

"Demand is opportunity."



There are more than 140 recognized trades with apprenticeship programs.

There are currently 54 trades that are designated as Red Seal trades in Canada.

CAREER RESOURCE LIST

- Apprenticesearch.com here.
- Canada's Job Bank (includes career quizzes): Choose a career here.
- Careers in Trades <u>here</u>.
- Employment Ontario <u>here</u>. Local apprenticeship offices here.
- Job Talks videos <u>here</u>.
- Ontario Colleges: College Trades.
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP): Explore the trades here.
- Skilled Trades Ontario Resource Hub: <u>Trade Reports</u>.
- Skills Canada <u>Career Explorer</u>. Explore Industry Sectors here.

Labour Market Information (wages, job outlook, etc.):

- · Canada's Job Bank here.
- Ontario's Labour Market here.
- Workforce Planning Board: Find your local Workforce Planning Board <u>here</u>. Click on Plans/Reports <u>here</u>.

Considering a career in the skilled trades? Check this out!

— Canadian Apprenticeship Forum



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SKILLS ONTARIO EVENTS

SUMMER CAMPS

Skills Ontario 2025 Trades & Tech Summer Camps: Open to participants entering Grades 7-9 the following school year. Various dates & locations. \$230 per camper. Registration will OPEN



\$230 per camper. Registration will OPEN on February 26 here. See Camp Information & FAQ here.

COMPETITIONS

The <u>2025 Skills Ontario Competition</u> will be held on May 5 & 6 at the Toronto Congress Centre.

Prior to the provincial-level competition, Skills Ontario hosts Qualifying Competitions on April 5 for four select contests (Culinary, Carpentry Individual, TV Video (team of two), and Welding) that students must participate in first to determine who will continue to the provincial level. Students who are interested in competing must let their instructor know. Then the instructor can pass along your request to your school board's designated contact person.

Questions? Contact competitions@skillsontario.com. For the latest developments, follow Skills Ontario on Twitter @skillsontario.

THE SKILLS ONTARIO COMPETITION IMPORTANT DATES BELOW!

February 28: Elementary/Secondary/Post-Secondary: No-penalty cancellation deadline.

March 28: Qualifying only: Registration/informed consent form deadline. All regional events must occur before this date to ensure students can be registered.

April 5: Qualifying competitions take place at seven colleges across Ontario. Click here to learn more.

April 25: Secondary, Elementary/Post-Secondary: Registration/informed consent form deadline.

May 5 and May 6: The Skills Ontario Competition.

Skills Ontario: Skilled Trades Conference for Guidance Educators: May 6. Registration is <u>OPEN</u>.

YOUNG WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Skills Ontario International Women's Day Celebration Event (virtual & in-person) When

- March 3: <u>Virtual</u>. Various presentations for Grades 7-8 (co-ed), 9-10 (co-ed), and 10-12. Registration is <u>OPEN</u>.
- March 4: <u>Virtual</u> event for Grade 10 (co-ed). Registration is OPEN.
- March 6: <u>In-person</u> CELEBRATION event in Guelph. Day for student participants (\$30 fee. Lunch included). Evening for parents/guardians/influencers (\$20 fee). Registration is OPEN.

 March 7: <u>In-person</u> INDUSTRY event. Toronto Pearson International Airport. Twenty young women in Grades 11 and 12 from the GTA who are passionate about pursuing a career in the skilled trades are invited to attend the event. Registration is OPEN.

Skills Ontario Young Women's Conferences When:

- May 5: Senior Elementary Conference (Grades 7-8)
- May 6: Secondary Conference (Grades 9-12)
- May 6: Francophone Conference (Grades 7-12)

Where: Toronto Congress Centre.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI) EVENTS

Skilled Trades & Tech Umoja Series (virtual & in-person): Supporting Black youth and families by providing information about post-secondary pathways that lead to successful careers in the skilled trades and technology sectors.

When

- February 20: Virtual (Elementary Event--Grades 6-9).
- February 25-26: <u>In-person</u>. Algonquin College, Ottawa (Secondary Event—ages 15-29).
- February 27: <u>In-person</u>. Canada Science & Technology Museum, Ottawa (Community Event).

Students, teachers, and community members can register here.

Skilled Trades & Tech Rise Series (virtual): A series that educates adolescent newcomers on skilled trade and technology supports and pathways, including information on applying to apprenticeships. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to attend.

When: Every Wednesday in April 2025.

FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT (FNMI) INITIATIVES

Skills Ontario FNMI Student Conference (virtual & in-person): Highlighting the successes of Indigenous people working in the skilled trades and technologies and inspiring youth to explore the hundreds of career options in these sectors.

When:

- May 6: <u>In-person</u>. Toronto Congress Centre. Registration is OPEN.
- May 7. Virtual. Registration is OPEN.

Northern Ontario Skilled Trade & Tech

Summit: Celebrating First Nations, Métis, and Inuit (FNMI) traditional knowledge in the skilled trades and technologies.

When: March 4.

Where: GFL Memorial Gardens, Sault Ste. Marie.

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Build a Dream Career Discovery Expos

Career Discovery Expos are offered as an in-person event for young women, girls and those who identify as female in Grades 7–12. A parent or guardian is welcome to attend to support their student as well! While this event is directed toward female students, all Grade 7-12 students may attend.

Learn about opportunities available to women & girls.

Explore careers in:

- Skilled Trades
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math)
- Emergency Response
- Entrepreneurship
- Leadership

#DreamBigLondon Career Expo 2025

When: April 9, 5-8 p.m.

Where: Western Fair Agriplex



TIP — SOCIAL MEDIA CLEANUP

It is common for employers and admissions officers to check the social media sites of applicants. Make a clean sweep of your social media sites. Check out more tips at Attention High School Students: Clean Up Your Social Media.



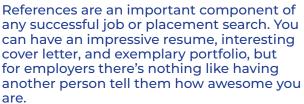
Qualities Employers Look for in an Apprentice Candidate

- Caitlin Cannon, Marketing Manager, Merit Ontario
- <u>Strong Work Ethic</u>: Punctuality, reliability, and commitment to high-quality work.
- <u>Curiosity and Eagerness to Learn</u>: Actively seeking opportunities for knowledge expansion.
- <u>Effective Communication Skills</u>: Clear articulation, asking relevant questions, and able to communicate with a variety of different people and personalities.
- Adaptability: Navigating changes in dynamic work environments with a positive attitude.
- <u>Interpersonal Skills</u>: Teamwork, dependability, strong work ethic, enthusiasm.

Employers are looking for people who have integrity, are willing to learn and collaborate. — Mike Morosin, Boot Camp and Events Program Manager, Support Ontario Youth (SOY).



TIP — REFERENCE LETTERS



— Check out Who to Use for References as a Student (And How to Ask Them) here.

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WOMEN IN TRADES: MILLWRIGHT



Kendra Liinamaa, a 25-year-old Red Seal Millwright, works in the mining industry near Sudbury. She could never quite envision herself in a satisfying career. As a child she had many different hobbies and interests. Kendra eventually discovered that millwright was a jack of all trades. She knew she had found something that could keep her interest long term while continuing to learn and find ways to apply that knowledge to her everyday life. Kendra was featured on TVO's new series

"Trading Skills across Canada" that explores the world of Skilled Trades and also demonstrates that "gender is not an issue in any profession." See Kendra in action here.

1 Please describe your job/career. What does a typical day look like for you?

Millwright is a jack of all trades, and as a recent red seal I'm still learning lots of new things. What I love about this job is that so few of my days are the same and I have a lot of flexibility with what I can do. If I choose to stay in mining, I can work at a surface plant and learn more about pumps, bucket elevators, cranes, etc., or I could stay at a mine site and learn more about crushers and conveyors. Or change fields entirely and see a whole new process with its own interesting challenges.

What factors went into choosing to pursue trades after high school?

I decided to go to college because I had high school welding and automotive but not a lot of hands-on experience. People don't often push girls to learn how to rebuild quads and lawnmowers or sleds. I figured college could fill in some of the gaps.

(Two-part): A) What are some of the challenges of working in trades? B) Do you have any tips for female students considering skilled trades as a postsecondary pathway?

Sometimes it can be challenging to work with all men almost all the time. We truly don't think the same, and I'm sure men in female-dominated workplaces feel the same way. It is worth it to try and find a community of women that can relate with you. When I first joined the trades, I didn't think this was important. I was so wrong. It's important to have a space where you can vent and be vulnerable for a few minutes. Or to talk to other women about things like controlling and maintaining hair in specific environments like high heat, cold, wind, fumes, and dust, or what Personal Protective

Equipment (PPE) fits best, or how to use our stronger muscle groups when lifting and pulling wrenches -- little tips and tricks that are specific to women. I am an ally for women, and I encourage them to embrace their identity as women in trades, and not just as women in male dominated spaces.

When women and girls pursue the skilled trades, they are preparing for exciting and indemand jobs with good pay and benefits.

— <u>Charmaine Williams</u>, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity.

Myth:

Women don't belong in the trades.

Fact:

The sentiment that women don't belong in the trades is an outdated stereotype. With increasing retirements and a smaller pool of young people entering the skilled trades, women are a huge part of the construction industry's future. More and more, women are entering the trades and proving themselves to be capable, reliable, and productive workers. The skilled trades require agility, endurance, balance, and coordination – not a specific gender. In today's construction industry, men and women work as respected members of the same teams and earn the same rates. – *BuildForce Canada: Common Myths.*



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TRADES FROM THE FOUR TRADES SECTORS

Trades in Ontario have different requirements depending on whether they are non-compulsory, or compulsory, trades. A non-compulsory trade does not require you to write an exam (even if one is offered) to work in the trade. A compulsory trade requires you to write and pass an exam (and receive a Certificate of Qualification) to work in the trade.

C = compulsory

NC = non-compulsory

Exam = An exam is available.

Keep in mind that those in non-compulsory trades are not required to write the exam, even though it is offered.

5. Qua	on) to work in the trade.	is offered.		
Ï	CONSTRUCTION	INDUSTRIAL	MOTIVE POWER	SERVICE
SECTORS	Heavy Equipment Operator – Dozer, Excavator, Tractor Loader Backhoe (NC/Exam) Red Seal – <u>Dozer,</u> Excavator, <u>Tractor Loader</u> Backhoe	<u>Cabinet maker</u> (NC/Exam) <u>Red Seal</u>	Agricultural Equipment Technician (NC/Exam) Red Seal	<u>Parts Technician</u> (NC/Exam) <u>Red Seal</u>
Average Wage in Ontario	<u>\$22.00</u> –\$44.20/hour	\$18.00-\$31.00 per hour	\$20.00-\$47.00 per hour	\$18.25-\$37.00 per hour
What they do	Operate heavy equipment used in the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, airports, gas and oil pipelines, tunnels, buildings and other structures; in surface mining and quarrying activities; and in material handling work.	Build, repair, finish and install residential and commercial cabinets, wooden furniture and architectural millwork using a variety of woods, laminates, and other products. Read drawings and specifications and prepare layouts. Set up and operate woodworking equipment, both power and computerized, to machine wood products and composite materials.	Set up, maintain, service, diagnose, repair, and recondition agricultural equipment, e.g., tractors and combines, as well as a variety of implements for agricultural functions such as tillage, seeding, planting, harvesting, haying, spraying and application. May also work on outdoor power equipment.	Perform ordering, warehousing, inventory control and sales of parts. Identify parts and equipment, search for parts, ship and receive parts, provide customer service and advice, and maintain records.
Examples of employment	Employed by construction companies, heavy equipment contractors, public works departments and pipeline, logging, cargo-handling and other companies.	May be employed by millwork contractors, furniture manufacturers and general contractors, or be self-employed. They may specialize in a specific type of product, such as custom made furniture, stairs or cabinet doors. They may primarily work in a shop environment, or at locations where the products are installed. With experience, they may act as mentors and trainers to apprentices in the trade. They may advance to supervisory or design positions or set up their own shop. Some may choose to specialize in areas such as stairs, veneering or finishing.	May work in the agriculture sector for equipment manufacturers, dealerships, and independent repair shops or on large farms. With experience, they may act as mentors and trainers to apprentices in the trade. They may also advance to become shop supervisors, service managers, salespeople, or manufacturers' service representatives. Some may also open their own dealerships or businesses.	Service a range of industries including motive power, appliance, heavy duty equipment and natural resources. The work environment for parts technicians is generally indoors in a warehouse and at a service counter. With experience, they may move into other positions such as sales representative, purchasing representative, parts department management team member, store manager or store owner.
Skills needed to succeed	Good eye-hand coordination, mechanical aptitude, numeracy and problem-solving skills, alertness and safety consciousness.	Good eye-hand coordination, manual dexterity, mathematical aptitude and good conceptual skills. A high degree of accuracy, and good eyesight to select woods and look for imperfections. Heavy lifting may be required.	Good communication and customer service skills, since they often interact with clients. They teach clients how to operate new equipment, discuss equipment operation, and consult with them to pinpoint problems and determine their specific needs. Technicians must be able to diagnose complex problems and interpret technical manuals and schematics.	Excellent interpersonal and customer service skills, computer application skills, problem solving skills, mathematical skills, mechanical aptitude, organizational skills, multi-tasking skills and the ability to work independently. An upto-date knowledge of the industry as well as technical knowledge and the ability to describe parts and their applications to customers.

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COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE DATES

Many Colleges will be hosting Open Houses in the coming weeks and months. Open Houses are an opportunity for you to learn more about the Skilled Trades programs offered at your local college. Below is an up-to-date list of the College Open House dates for Spring 2025. Find out when your local college is holding their Open House and check out the Skilled Trades programs they offer.

Note: If you miss an Open House, you can still explore the campus by registering for a Campus Tour or walking around the campus with your family. Note: For those colleges that do not have an Open House scheduled for the spring, there is a link to more information where you can browse the website.

SCHEDULE:

- Algonquin--Ottawa Campus: March 29.
- Algonquin—Pembroke Campus: March 15. Algonquin—Perth Campus: April 24.
- Cambrian: April 5.
- Centennial: April 26.
- Canadore: April 5.
- Conestoga: March 1.
- Durham: April 12.
- Fanshawe: March 29.
- Fleming: March 22.
- George Brown: April 5.
- Georgian: Get to Know Georgian: March 18
- Humber: April 12.
- Lambton: March 22.
- Loyalist: April 5.
- Mohawk—Centre for Aviation Technology: April 10.
- Mohawk—Fennell Campus: April 5.
- Mohawk—Institute for Applied Health Sciences: April 9.
- Mohawk—Stoney Creek Campus for Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship: April 5.
- Niagara: March 29.
- Northern: April 5.
- Sault: April 5.
- Seneca: April 12.
- Sheridan—Davis (Brampton) & Hazel McCallion (Mississauga) Campuses: March 22.
- Sheridan—Trafalgar Road (Oakville) Campus: March 23.
- St.Clair: March 22. Main Windsor and Chatham campuses (Downtown campus programming will be present at the Main Windsor campus.).
- St. Lawrence—Brockville & Cornwall Campuses: April 5.
- St. Lawrence—Kingston Campus: April 12.
- University of Guelph—Ridgetown: TBD.
- University of Guelph—Ridgetown: REACH-HURON in Clinton (Equine Management): Visit Reach: February 24; March 12, 27. Open to Grades 11 & 12.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Schulich Builders Scholarships for Skilled **Trades**

Open to students enrolling in a skilled trades program at one of the twelve participating colleges in Ontario (check deadlines for each college). Each college has their own list of eligible programs. which can be found on their respective websites. Students must have a strong work ethic and character and have financial need.

Each college will award ten scholarships:

- Five \$20,000 scholarships for one-year certificate
- Five \$40,000 scholarships for two-year diploma programs.

Required: One letter of recommendation by someone directly connected to the student:

- · High school staff member
- Employer
- Co-worker
- Community service organization

James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarships

Open to the sons, daughters, and financial dependents of Teamster members (including the BMWED, BLET, and

Awards: Training/Vocational program awards of up to \$2,000 for use at community colleges and trade schools. Training or vocational programs must be in a Teamsterrepresented industry.

Deadline: March 1.

Inquiries: ContactUs@applyISTS.com or

JRHfund@gmail.com.

Connex Foundation Scholarship

Open to those who are pursuing a career in the skilled trades, e.g., electrical, plumbing, HVAC, or carpentry, construction, and/or facility management industry. They must be a United States or Canadian citizen or permanent legal resident.

Eligibility: The applicant must have a history of active involvement in extracurricular activities, community service, or work experience.

Required: A video responding to given questions.

Award: Up to \$5,000. **Deadline:** March 10.

Inquiries: foundation@connexfm.com.

BOLT Financial Awards (Students in the GTA) Open to youth who aspire to obtain a post-secondary

education (college or university program) in a construction-related field and pursue a career in the construction industry.

Award: Up to \$5,500. Deadline: April 11, 9 p.m.

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THE TIME TO APPLY FOR SUMMER JOBS IS NOW!

For tips on how to write a high school resume, see High School Resume Template with Examples and Tips.



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

• The Government of Canada's <u>Job Bank</u> lists jobs that are available that are part of the Canada Summer Jobs Program. There are jobs from other sectors as well. Make sure to search by filtering using the term "student" and your location.

Ontario 👸

- The Ontario government offers many programs to help students find summer jobs. The Summer jobs for students page includes various categories including Summer Company (see text box) and Summer Employment Opportunities in the Ontario Public Service. There are thousands of opportunities in a variety of career fields, e.g., administration, business, trades, the environment, IT. For example, applications for student jobs at Ontario Parks are open now and the deadline to apply is February 18!
- Many municipalities offer summer jobs, although the deadlines to apply tend to occur early in the year. If you want to check out if there are any openings where you live, search on your local township or city website. They will have an Employment Opportunities or Jobs section where you will find summer student employment opportunities, and part-time and seasonal positions.
- <u>Indeed</u> is an employment website where many businesses such as grocery stores, pharmacies, dollar stores, manufacturers, and department stores list job opportunities including summer jobs and part-time jobs for students.

SUMMER COMPANY

Summer Company is an Ontario Government program for young people (ages 15-29) to start and run their own business by providing funding, advice, and services. If you are accepted into the program, you will receive \$1,500 to help with start-up costs, and \$1,500 at the completion of the program requirements. The general program deadline for applications is May 17. There may be an earlier deadline for some local program providers – students will be informed by their program provider when preparing their application.







This newsletter contains curated information from the following sources:

- Apprenticesearch.com
- College Trades
- Government of Canada: Job Bank
- · Government of Ontario: Education and Training
- ontariocolleges.ca
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- Red Seal Program
- · Skills Canada
- Skills Ontario
- Skilled Trades Ontario

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