



"There are lots of trades out there and if you like working with your hands, there's probably one for you."
– John Maracle, plumbing apprentice



"You can make great money. I like the idea of earning while I'm learning and unlike my friends in university, I will finish my training with no debt."
– Michelle Smaglinski, electrician apprentice



"In construction, you get to see your finished project at the end of the day, and it's going to be around for years. It gives you a real sense of satisfaction."
– Josh Cameron, participant in the Hammer Heads skills training program

THE ONTARIO COLLEGE OF TRADES

A career in the skilled trades is a smart investment in your future. So is your membership in the Ontario College of Trades.

The Ontario College of Trades (the College) is the regulatory body for skilled trades in Ontario.

The College enforces regulations that help protect the public and is committed to promoting the value of working with certified skilled trades professionals.

The future of Ontario's economy depends on the province's tradespeople. That's why the College promotes the skilled trades as a desirable, first choice career option for Ontario job seekers including youth, adults, and newcomers by helping match them to more than 150 different skilled trades and potential career paths.

What does membership mean for you?

- Modernized training and resources to help you succeed in your career
- Connections to professionals in your trade through the College's Trade Boards
- Help and support throughout your skilled trades career—from an apprentice to a journey person
- Exam study tips & resources
- Discounts on products and services



THE APPRENTICESHIP ADVANTAGE

Discover the exciting ways you can earn while you learn

ROAD TO APPRENTICESHIP

What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeship is a work-based training program for people who want to work in a skilled trade or occupation.

Apprenticeship training provides access to well-paying jobs that demand a high level of skill, judgement and creativity. Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience, and their wages increase with their skill level. An apprenticeship is an equal form of post-secondary education.

There are currently over 150 trades to choose from in Ontario in four sectors: construction, industrial, motive power and service.

Why choose an apprenticeship?

- Earn while you learn
- Get an edge in competitive job markets
- Learn and master skills in high demand
- Your earning power is higher than that of unskilled workers

Ever wondered how to get into an apprenticeship in one of Ontario's 156 skilled trades? Here's how:

Getting Started Explore your options

Before you start an apprenticeship, make sure to do some research about the trades you are interested in: what you'll be doing, eligibility requirements, work conditions, and how much money you can expect to make.

Getting in Gear Finding a sponsor

Once you've found the trade you want to pursue, you'll have to find an employer/sponsor to sign you on as an apprentice. There are lots of resources available through Employment Ontario providers to help you along the way.

Getting Support Grants and Loans for Apprentices

Apprentices may be eligible for federal or provincial grants and loans. There are also financial incentives for employers.

Getting Going Sign a Registered Training Agreement

To become an apprentice, you'll have to sign a Registered Training Agreement with your employer and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. There are many offices across the province to assist you.

Getting Ahead Become a Member

After signing your Registered Training Agreement, you'll have 90 days to become a member of the College. You'll need to submit a member application form and pay an annual apprentice membership fee.

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