

What is Apprenticeship?

by Gloria Welton

Trades

Apprenticeship is a proven way to train people for careers that demand a wide range of skills and knowledge.

“A career in the trades can mean a promising future in a secure, challenging and rewarding occupation,” says **Karen Redmond**, Manager of Apprenticeship. “Becoming trained in a trade puts you in demand. Workers who finish their Apprenticeships generally earn more and have greater opportunities for advancement.”

Earn while you learn

Presently, there are about 700 registered apprentices on PEI. There are two ways to become an apprentice. You can complete a post-secondary trades program through a community college and start working for an employer before registering. Or you could start working for an employer in a trade and then register.

The program combines on-the-job training with in-class learning (block training). There is no tuition cost for apprentices, and they may be eligible for Employment Insurance while on block training. “This is a very cost effective way to train,” says Karen.

Accelerated Secondary Apprenticeship Program (ASAP)

This program offers youth a chance to get a head start on their post-secondary Apprenticeship training while in high school. Students can log hours and gain trades skills through on-the-job work experience and structured course work.

“Approximately 100 PEI students have taken the ASAP program,” says Karen.



Josh Fox of Borden is a Heavy Equipment Mechanic for Atlantic CAT in Charlottetown. In 2007, he earned a Red Seal in his trade. “Right after high school, I attended the Nova Scotia Community College in Pictou and I took Heavy Duty Equipment/Truck and Transport Repair.”

“After I finished the two-year program, I came to work at my present job. Then I started the Apprenticeship process, which this company strongly encourages. I traveled to Halifax to do my 3rd and 4th year in-class block release. In my 4th year I chose to work towards my Heavy Equipment Mechanic license.”

“My next step is to prepare to earn my Red Seal designation in Truck and Transport Repair, as well. Leaving the province to get my training was not a problem for me, and as soon as I got my first license I got a raise in pay.”

Apprenticeship process

To become an apprentice, you must be at least 16 years old, have a high school diploma or equivalent and be employed in your trade with a suitable employer.

A person can register as an apprentice by completing an application form. Once approved, the apprentice will receive their skills log book. Also, the apprentice and employer sign an agreement with the province.

Trade Qualifiers

Tradespeople who have the skills and experience but are not certified in their trade may earn a **Certificate of Qualification with a Red Seal endorsement.**

Red Seal Program

The Red Seal program allows you to practice your trade in any province or territory across Canada.

To earn the Red Seal, the following is required:

- Complete the Apprenticeship Program or meet the requirements to challenge the Red Seal exam.
- Pass the Interprovincial Standards Examination.

Trade Essentials

Experienced trades people often have the skills and experience they need to be successful in their career but never take the next step to get their Red Seal.

Trade Essentials helps trades people identify areas that need improvement and then helps them to improve those skills so they can be ready to move ahead in their careers.

Anyone can apply who is eligible to be registered as an apprentice or is working in a trade and has met the requirements to challenge the certification (Red Seal) exam. The program is available at no cost. Classes are held in the evenings, with flexible schedules that aim to suit each client.



For more information about **Trade Essentials**, contact **Doreen Eynon** at **620-3623**.

For more information about Apprenticeship, call **368-4460** or visit **www.gov.pe.ca** and search **Apprenticeship**.