



National & Provincial Programs, Grants and Incentives:

A Guide for Automotive Aftermarket
Industry Learners, Workers & Employers

Introduction

Did you know the following about the automotive aftermarket industry in Canada?

- The industry contributes \$21.6 billion to the Canadian economy.
- The industry employs 389,900 Canadians.
- The industry is projected to grow by 13.4% nationally by 2022.

The automotive aftermarket industry is downstream to Canada's automotive manufacturing industry. On one end of the aftermarket supply chain are manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of vehicle replacement parts and supplies. On the other end of the supply chain are independent and franchisee repair and maintenance shops.

The aftermarket industry is benefiting from growing vehicle sales and older vehicles being on Canadian roadways. The national fleet has been upward trending with an annual average increase of 2.6% since 2008. By 2022, the Canadian light vehicle fleet is expected to grow to just under 30 million registered vehicles. The average age of a vehicle on Canadian roadways reached 9.7 years in 2017. In 2022, the average age of a vehicle is anticipated to reach 11.6 years, while light trucks are expected to reach 9.4 years.

The light vehicle aftermarket is expected to continue growing, reaching a national total worth of \$23.8 billion in 2021. This positive forecast is due in part to increasing new light vehicle sales and longer average life expectancies for vehicles currently on the road. The vehicles bought today are expected to last longer than ever which is a positive indicator for the automotive aftermarket.

As the automotive industry is transitioning from hardware to software-defined vehicles, the average software and electronics content per vehicle is rapidly increasing. The aftermarket's workforce must respond with new skills and new knowledge, including systems level thinking, data sciences, advanced math and physics, software engineering and computer scientists. The expertise of today's mechanics largely lies in working on internal combustion engine powertrains and simple electronics. In the future, electric vehicle (EV) mechanics will be needed who understand high-voltage and battery technology to work on EV powertrains. To work on modern vehicles, mechanics will need to be trained in autonomous vehicle (AV) technology to calibrate sensors, repair robotic parts and test AV equipment.

The digital and data revolution sweeping the entire automotive industry brings opportunity for the aftermarket, including:

- Emerging market opportunities in digital and connected services, including communicating service updates with the driver via the in-vehicle dashboard and predictive analytics applications.
- Changing models of service delivery, including over-the-air software updates and remote diagnostics.
- Connectivity and data-based business models that use data as the primary decision-making tool for things like supply chain management and just-in-time inventory management.

The **Automotive Industries Association of Canada** (AIA Canada) is the national association that represents Canada's automotive aftermarket industry. AIA Canada advocates to both provincial and federal government on matters related to the industry's workforce training and development. AIA Canada has raised awareness among government about the industry's changing workforce needs resulting from advanced vehicle technology.

To learn more about the aftermarket industry in your region, including industry job forecasts, visit [AutoConnex](#), your one-stop-shop for aftermarket labour market information.

What information you will find in this document

In this document, you will find information on regional and federal financial supports and programs that are available for:

- individuals considering trades training;
- individuals already in trades training and those that have completed trades training; and,
- businesses and employers.

Apprenticeship in Canada: Who Does What?

Trade training in Canada is largely a provincial and territorial responsibility. Each province and territory has an apprenticeship authority that leads and manages the region's apprenticeship system. Apprenticeship authorities are governed by provincial or territorial legislation. For example, the Alberta apprenticeship authority, **Apprenticeship and Industry Training**, is governed by the **Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act**.

Responsibilities of regional apprenticeship authorities include:

- designating trades as compulsory or voluntary;
- serving as the registering body for apprentices in designated trades; and,
- administration of the Red Seal Program in their jurisdictions (for example, Red Seal examinations).

The [Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship](#) (CCDA) is responsible for the [Red Seal program](#). Provincial and territorial apprenticeship authorities and the federal government are members of the CCDA. The Red Seal Program sets common standards to assess the skills of tradespeople across Canada. Tradespeople who successfully pass the Red Seal examination receive a Red Seal endorsement on their provincial/territorial trade certificates. The Red Seal endorsement signifies that the journeyperson is certified to work across Canada.

The CCDA has undertaken an initiative to substantially [harmonize](#) apprenticeship systems by making training requirements more consistent in Red Seal trades across Canada. In 2017, the Automotive Service Technician Harmonized Program and Transition Plan launched and the new curriculum was introduced into technical training.

Priority areas for harmonization across Red Seal trades programs include:

1. Consistent total trade hours (in-school and on-the-job)
2. Use the Red Seal trade name.
3. More consistent technical training.
4. Consistent number of training levels.

The federal government is generally hands-off when it comes to provincial and territorial apprenticeship systems. However, the federal government provides a significant amount of financial support and other supports to individuals involved in the trades, businesses, and employers. The federal government also transfers money to provincial and territorial governments that are used for training and workforce development initiatives, including Workforce Development Agreements.

Of interest, on January 1, 2020, [borrowers will have a new option to rehabilitate Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans in default](#). They will have the option to add their interest to the principal of their loan (capitalize the interest) and make two payments to rehabilitate their loan.

For individuals considering trades training

Title	Description
Support for Apprentices, Federal Government Resource Page Employment and Social Development Canada	<p>The Support for Apprentices webpage is a one-stop-shop for information on all things apprenticeship, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apprenticeship grants, loans, tax deductions and credits • pathways to apprenticeship
Canada Job Bank Government of Canada	<p>The Canada Job Bank can be accessed online or via a mobile app. It serves as a one-stop-shop for job seekers. On the Job Bank you will find:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job postings • Job alert notification set-up • Job match services based on your individual profile • Career planning resources • Resume builder • Labour force information on specific occupations

Title	Description
<p>Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET) and ISET Holders</p> <p>Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p>The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program provides funding to Indigenous service delivery organizations (ISET holders).</p> <p>ISET Holders design and deliver job training services for Indigenous people in their communities. This includes essential skills such as literacy and numeracy and more advanced training for in-demand jobs.</p> <p>Click here to see a list of Indigenous Service Delivery Organizations near you.</p>

For individuals in trades training and individuals that have completed trades training

Title	Description
<p>Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women</p> <p>Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p>The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women is a taxable grant of \$3,000, up to \$6,000, to help pay for expenses during training. The grant can be applied for twice during training. An individual can apply for their second grant after they have completed their second year.</p> <p>To be eligible, applicants must be registered with their provincial or territorial apprenticeship authority as an apprentice in an eligible designated Red Seal Trade where women are underrepresented. Additional eligibility requirements apply.</p> <p>To learn more about the application process, visit Funding: Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women – Apply</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="191 302 638 337">Apprenticeship Incentive Grant</p> <p data-bbox="128 370 701 444">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 147 2018 256">The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant is a taxable grant to help apprentices in designated Red Seal Trades pay for expenses while they train. The grant is \$1,000 and can be applied for twice, for a maximum of \$2,000.</p> <p data-bbox="793 293 2007 435">Apprentices must complete their first year of training to be eligible and can apply for their second grant after they have completed their second year of training. For additional eligibility requirements visit, Funding: Apprenticeship Incentive Grant – Eligibility.</p> <p data-bbox="793 472 1913 547">To learn more about the application process visit, Funding: Apprenticeship Incentive Grant – Apply.</p>
<p data-bbox="239 818 590 854">Canada Apprentice Loan</p> <p data-bbox="128 886 701 961">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 626 1986 735">Apprentices in designated Red Seal Trade programs can obtain up to \$4,000 in interest-free loans for each period of technical training (up to five periods). The loan can be used to cover expenses like tuition, living expenses and tools.</p> <p data-bbox="793 773 2003 847">The loan will begin to accumulate interest following completion of the apprenticeship program or leaving of the apprenticeship program.</p> <p data-bbox="793 885 1982 959">To be eligible, individuals must be enrolled in block release technical training, or the equivalent full-time technical training, at an approved technical training provider.</p> <p data-bbox="793 987 1940 1062">To apply for the Canada Apprentice Loan visit, Apply for a Canada Apprentice Loan.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1099 1541 1135"><i>The Canada Apprentice Loan is not available in Quebec.</i></p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="136 375 695 407">Employment Insurance for Apprentices</p> <p data-bbox="128 444 703 518">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 147 1965 220">During block-release training, when apprentices are in the classroom, they may be eligible to receive EI since they are not earning income.</p> <p data-bbox="793 256 1934 362">Before receiving EI benefits, there is a one-week waiting period during which the apprentice is not paid. The one-week waiting period applies once throughout an apprenticeship.</p> <p data-bbox="793 397 2007 613">To receive EI benefits, applicants must provide proof of referral. The provincial or territorial apprenticeship authority or training institution issues apprentices a 16-digit reference code as proof of referral when they are approved to attend full-time technical training. If applicants do not know, or have not received their reference code, they can contact their regional apprenticeship authority. Additional eligibility requirements apply.</p> <p data-bbox="793 649 1982 722">Apprentices can apply for EI benefits up to seven days before their last day of work (on-the-job training), through the EI Regular Benefits – Apply.</p>
<p data-bbox="195 1037 642 1105">Examination Fees for Licensing or Certification</p> <p data-bbox="153 1143 680 1216">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 805 2007 911">Students can claim the tuition tax credit for examination fees paid toward obtaining a professional status or license which allows them to practice their profession or trade in Canada.</p> <p data-bbox="793 946 1997 1019">Students can claim the examination fee as a tuition expense, if it meets the following requirements:</p> <ul data-bbox="806 1055 2001 1235" style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee is a requirement for obtaining the professional status, or to be certified or licensed as a person in the trades; • Fees are paid to an educational institution, professional association, government ministry or other related institution; and, • The certification or license allows apprentices to practice their trade in Canada. <p data-bbox="793 1271 1446 1304">The tax credit is claimed on yearly tax returns.</p>

Title	Description
<p>Apprenticeship Completion Grant</p> <p>Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p>This is a one-time, taxable grant of \$2,000, available to individuals that have completed an apprenticeship training program and obtained Journey person certification in a Red Seal Trade.</p> <p>To apply visit, Funding: Apprenticeship Completion Grant – Apply.</p>
<p>Tradesperson's Tool Deduction</p> <p>Canada Revenue Agency</p>	<p>Employed tradespersons and apprentice mechanics may be able to deduct the cost of eligible tools bought to earn employment income.</p> <p>To determine what, if any tool deduction, one qualifies for and can claim on their tax returns, apprentices and tradespersons must calculate their deduction first. To do so, visit the Employed tradespersons (including apprentice mechanics) webpage.</p>
<p>Canada Student Loan</p> <p>Service Canada</p>	<p>Individuals may be eligible to access a Canada Student Loan.</p> <p>The amount you can receive depends on several factors, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • province or territory of residence • family income • dependents • tuition fees and living expenses • disability <p>Students apply for the Canada Student Loan through their local government's loan and grants services.</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="163 456 674 529">Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants</p> <p data-bbox="296 570 533 602">Service Canada</p>	<p data-bbox="793 147 2011 253">The Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students with Dependants is available to eligible low-income students with dependants while enrolled in a full-time program at a designated post-secondary institution.</p> <p data-bbox="793 293 1224 326">To qualify, the individual must:</p> <ul data-bbox="806 367 2011 610" style="list-style-type: none"> • apply and qualify for student financial assistance; • be enrolled as a full-time student in a degree, diploma, or certificate program that is at least two years (60 weeks) in duration at a designated post-secondary institution; • have a dependant who will be under 12 years of age at the beginning of the study period (or a dependant 12 years of age or older with a permanent disability); and, • a total family income that is less than the applicable income threshold. <p data-bbox="793 651 1982 716">Recipients receive money every month for each dependent child they have for each year of full-time studies.</p> <p data-bbox="793 756 2011 854">When an individual applies and qualifies for student financial assistance through their province or territory of residence, they are also assessed for the Canada Student Grant.</p>
<p data-bbox="128 1049 709 1122">Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities</p> <p data-bbox="296 1162 533 1195">Service Canada</p>	<p data-bbox="793 943 1974 1049">Students with permanent disabilities could be eligible to receive \$2,000 for each school year of undergraduate and graduate level study, as long as they continue to qualify.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1089 1997 1162">There are detailed eligibility requirements found on the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities webpage.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1203 2003 1268">To apply, individuals are encouraged to connect with the student financial assistance office in their province or territory.</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="128 418 709 527">Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities</p> <p data-bbox="296 570 533 602">Service Canada</p>	<p data-bbox="793 147 2011 253">If you require exceptional education-related services or equipment, you may be eligible to receive the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities.</p> <p data-bbox="793 289 2001 362">Eligibility requirements are detailed and found on the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities webpage.</p> <p data-bbox="793 397 1394 435">Two of the eligibility requirements include:</p> <ul data-bbox="806 467 1997 578" style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing written confirmation of need of exceptional education-related services or equipment from a person qualified to determine such need; and, • Providing written confirmation of the exact cost of the equipment and services. <p data-bbox="793 613 1955 686">Individuals could receive up to \$20,000 each school year for each year of study as long as they still qualify.</p> <p data-bbox="793 722 2001 792">To apply, individuals are encouraged to connect with the student financial assistance office in their province or territory.</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="178 646 653 683">Wage Earner Protection Program</p> <p data-bbox="128 721 703 797">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 147 1976 220">This program provides for the payment of outstanding eligible wages to individuals whose employer is bankrupt or subject to a receivership.</p> <p data-bbox="793 256 2018 329">Eligible wages under the program include salaries, commissions, vacation, termination and severance pay.</p> <p data-bbox="793 365 1997 438">Workers may be eligible for payment of outstanding eligible wages if they meet all of the following requirements:</p> <ul data-bbox="806 474 1976 724" style="list-style-type: none"> • their employment has ended; • their former employer has filed for bankruptcy or is subject to a receivership; • they are owed wages, vacation pay, termination pay or severance pay from the former employer; and, • amounts owed were earned during the eligibility period or, in the case of termination pay or severance pay, their employment was terminated either during the eligibility period or prior to the discharge of the trustee/receiver. <p data-bbox="793 760 2007 1003">A trustee will be named to handle the employer's bankruptcy or receivership file. The trustee or receiver assigned to administer the bankruptcy or receivership will provide individuals with information on the program and on any amounts you are owed. The individual must file a proof of claim with the trustee or receiver as soon as possible. A proof of claim is a written statement indicating the amount one believes they are owed. The trustee or receiver can help the individual complete the proof of claim statement.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1044 1982 1149">Applications to obtain eligible wages must be submitted to Service Canada within 56 days of either from the date of bankruptcy or receivership or from the date your employment ended.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1190 1997 1263">To learn more, including how much qualified participants are eligible to receive, visit Wage Earner Protection Program – A Program to Protect Workers' Wages.</p>

For businesses and employers

Title	Description
<p>Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit</p> <p>Canada Revenue Agency</p>	<p>The Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit is a non-refundable tax credit equal to 10% of the eligible salaries and wages payable to eligible apprentices, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per year per eligible apprentice.</p> <p>An eligible apprentice is someone who is working in a prescribed trade in the first two years of their apprenticeship contract that is a designated Red Seal trade.</p> <p>Employers claim the tax credit on their individual income tax return.</p> <p>To learn more visit Apprenticeship Job Creation Tax Credit.</p>
<p>Capital Cost Allowance</p> <p>Canada Revenue Agency</p>	<p>In business or professional activities, one might acquire a depreciable property such as a building, furniture, or equipment. These properties wear out or become obsolete over time. Their cost over a period of time can be deducted. This yearly deduction, referred to as a capital cost allowance, can be claimed in tax return.</p> <p>To learn more visit Claiming Capital Cost Allowance (CCA).</p>
<p>Canada Job Bank for Employers</p> <p>Government of Canada</p>	<p>The Canada Job Bank website is not only for job seekers.</p> <p>Businesses can post job postings and access numerous resources and information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour market information • Human resource Needs • Employment Standards • National Occupational Classification

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="165 418 665 451">Work-Sharing Adjustment Program</p> <p data-bbox="132 495 701 565">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 151 1997 256">Work-Sharing is an adjustment program designed to help employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary reduction in the normal level of business activity that is beyond the control of the employer.</p> <p data-bbox="793 293 1965 326">A Work-Sharing agreement is between employers, employees and Service Canada.</p> <p data-bbox="793 363 1869 433">Income support is provided to employees who face reduced hours during a temporary period while their employer recovers.</p> <p data-bbox="793 470 2007 609">The employer and the employees (union, if applicable) must agree to participate in a Work-Sharing agreement and must apply together. An application for a Work-Sharing agreement must be submitted a minimum of 30 days prior to the requested start date.</p> <p data-bbox="793 651 1913 721">Prior to applying for the program, all parties are encouraged to read the Work-Sharing Applicant Guide.</p> <p data-bbox="793 758 1759 790">To learn about the application process visit, Work-Sharing-Apply.</p>
<p data-bbox="176 954 663 1060">Hire a Temporary Foreign Worker through the Temporary Foreign Workers Program</p> <p data-bbox="132 1104 701 1174">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 873 1976 943">The Temporary Foreign Worker Program allows Canadian employers to hire foreign workers to fill temporary labour and skill shortages.</p> <p data-bbox="793 980 2007 1050">Employers must meet specific requirements to hire foreign workers. Most employers will require a Labour Market Impact Assessment before they can hire a TFW.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1088 1808 1120">The objective of the Labour Market Impact Assessment is to determine:</p> <ul data-bbox="806 1157 1661 1227" style="list-style-type: none"> • That there is a need for a temporary foreign worker; and, • That no Canadians are available to do the job.

Title	Description
<p>Canada Small Business Financing Program</p> <p>Innovation, Science and Industry</p>	<p>The Canada Small Business Financing Program makes it easier for small businesses or start-ups with gross annual revenues of \$10 million or less, to get loans from financial institutions by sharing the risk with lenders.</p> <p>A maximum of \$1,000,000 is available for any one borrower, of which no more than \$350,000 can be used for purchasing leasehold improvements or improving leased property and purchasing or improving new or used equipment.</p> <p>The loan can be used to cover the cost of the purchase or improvement of new or used equipment, land or buildings used for commercial purposes and renovations to a leased property by a tenant.</p> <p>Financial institutions deliver the program and are solely responsible for approving the loan.</p> <p>Interested businesses discuss their needs with a financial officer at any bank, caisse populaire, or credit union in Canada. The financial officer will review their business proposal and make a decision on the loan application. Once the decision is made to offer financing under the program, the financial institution will disburse the funds and register the loan with Innovation, Science and Industry Canada.</p> <p>Learn more on the Helping Small Businesses Get Loans webpage.</p>
<p>Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program</p> <p>Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p>The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET) administered by Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, provides funding to Indigenous service delivery organizations (ISET holders). ISET Holders design and deliver job training services for Indigenous people in their communities.</p> <p>Employers can connect with ISET Holders to discuss their labour needs.</p> <p>Click here to see a list of Indigenous Service Delivery Organizations near you.</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="163 264 678 337">Funding Programs for Jobs, Training and Social Development</p> <p data-bbox="132 378 705 451">Ministry of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion</p>	<p data-bbox="793 151 2007 329">This is one-stop shop to check out what funding programs are available through Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion that support jobs, training and social development. Available for a multitude of programs are grants (unconditional transfers for eligible activities) and contributions (need to meet certain performance targets).</p> <p data-bbox="793 362 2001 435">Funding categories relevant to the aftermarket industry include Career Development and Employment and Youth and Students.</p> <p data-bbox="793 467 1997 540">Visit Funding Programs for Jobs, Training and Social Development to identify which programs are open for funding and which are closed.</p>
<p data-bbox="170 703 672 776">Get Involved in Red Seal Standards Consultations</p> <p data-bbox="170 816 667 889">Canadian Council of Directors of Apprenticeship</p>	<p data-bbox="793 621 1980 727">Red Seal Occupational Standards and National Occupational Analyses set the standard for Red Seal trades. They are regularly updated to maintain their accuracy and relevance.</p> <p data-bbox="793 768 1871 808">Industry plays a key role in the development of the Occupational Standards.</p> <p data-bbox="793 841 1997 914">If you are interested in participating in standards consultations visit, Provincial and Territorial Apprenticeship and Certification Authorities.</p>

On Nova Scotia roadways in 2018, there were 671,344 registered light vehicles, accounting for 2.46% of the national fleet. Since 2016, the number of registered vehicles in the province has been on an upward trend; at a low of 616,178 in 2016 to a high of 671,344 in 2018. Between 2014 and 2018, Nova Scotia's vehicle fleet increased at an annual rate of 2.0% on average. Nissan/Infiniti recorded the largest average annual change at 10.3% during the 2014 to 2018 period. The average age of vehicles on the province's roadways has been increasing; from 8.25 years in 2016 to 8.57 in 2018. Nova Scotia has a significantly younger vehicle fleet than the national average of 9.76 years.

The [Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency](#) is the province's apprenticeship authority that manages and leads the trades training and certification system in Nova Scotia. Three employee representatives, three employer representatives, one representative from Holland College and others sit on the 15 seat [Apprenticeship Board](#). Individuals interested on sitting on the Apprenticeship Board are encouraged to visit the [Apply to Become Part of the Board \[Non-Adjudicative\] webpage](#).

[Trade Advisory Committees](#) advise the Apprenticeship Board on policy, regulations and other matters that are specific to a trade(s) or on any matter assigned to the committees relating to the apprenticeship and trades qualifications system. The Apprenticeship Board of the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency looks for employers and employees, who are knowledgeable about the trades, understand the labour market and can commit to attending a number of meetings over a one to two year period to participate on the committees. [Calls for applications to become a committee member are issued](#).

The Atlantic Provinces are engaged in a number of skilled trade's related initiatives:

- The [Atlantic Apprenticeship Council](#) is comprised of the Apprenticeship Board Chairs and Directors of Apprenticeship from each of the Atlantic Provinces. The goal of the Council is to work cooperatively to foster the development of a highly-skilled workforce and to facilitate and share best practices to streamline the mobility of workers within the Atlantic region.
- [Atlantic Trade Advisory Committees](#) are responsible for providing input and recommendations to the development of harmonized apprenticeship and trade certification programs leading to a harmonized apprenticeship system across Atlantic Canada. Each trade committee is comprised of no more than three members from each province. Each province can be represented on trade committees by one employer, one employee, and one training provider.
- The [Atlantic Apprenticeship Harmonization Project](#) is being led by the [Council of Atlantic Premiers](#). The objective of the project is to standardize rules, processes and standards for apprenticeship in the Atlantic Provinces so there is more consistency and efficiency in the way people enter the trades and work toward certification. Ten trades have been harmonized and six more will be harmonized. These include Automotive Service Technician, Heavy Duty Equipment Technician and Truck and Transport Mechanic.
- The [Apprenticeship Management System](#) is a new online apprenticeship management system in the process of being implemented in Nova Scotia, PEI, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The system will improve access to information and create efficiencies for apprentices, journeypersons, employers, training providers and apprenticeship authority management staff. The Apprenticeship Management System is a major initiative that aligns with a greater effort to maximize similarities among apprenticeship authorities and modernize apprenticeship management services.

For individuals considering trades training

Title	Description
<p style="text-align: center;"> Options and Opportunities Department of Education and Early Childhood Education </p>	<p>The Options and Opportunities three-year co-op program delivers regular high school courses by alternate means. The program has a heavy experiential learning focus, including field trips and learning opportunities in the community and workplace settings. The program is only offered at select schools.</p> <p>Trades and technology is one of the career pathways that can be explored through the program.</p> <p>Students must complete a number of program requirements to receive a program certificate.</p> <p>Each Regional Centre for Education/ School Board has a consultant responsible for the program. Interested students are encouraged to connect with their regional consultant.</p>

Title	Description
<p style="text-align: center;"> TestDrive Automotive Sector Council of Nova Scotia </p>	<p>The TestDrive Program provides high school students with exposure to different automotive trades to assist students in their career decisions. Participants must be in Grade 10 or 11 and 16 years of age at the time of the program's start date.</p> <p>The program is designed primarily for students enrolled in Options and Opportunities and Co-operative Education courses that focus on automotive, trade and technology and community-based learning courses. Students who are not part of these programs are still eligible and are encouraged to contact the Co-Op or Options and Opportunities educator at their school.</p> <p>TestDrive is available in the Chignecto-Central, Halifax, South Shore and Tri-County regional school boards.</p> <p>Participants will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain 200 hours of mentored work experience; • Earn 300 hours towards apprenticeship hours if they continue their training following high school; • Earn 3 high school co-op credits, 300 apprenticeship hours and scholarship opportunities; and, • Be paid an industry standard wage. <p>To learn more about the program and the application process, students should visit TestDrive.</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="306 386 522 418">Techsploration</p> <p data-bbox="170 464 659 496">Nova Scotia Community College</p> <p data-bbox="144 542 684 574">Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency</p>	<p data-bbox="793 155 2005 224">The Techsploration Program is a joint initiative of the Nova Scotia Community College and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency.</p> <p data-bbox="793 264 1997 365">The program's goal is to increase the number of women working in science, trades and technology by providing young women in grade 9 through 12 with opportunities to explore career options in these fields.</p> <p data-bbox="793 406 1163 438">Program activities include:</p> <ul data-bbox="806 479 2011 690" style="list-style-type: none"> • Techsplorer events that bring young women, their teachers, role models and guests together for two days of interactive presentations and workshops. • Techsploration Career Research Model school teams, comprised of grade 9 female students and a teacher who connect with a female role model, participate in a visit to the role model's worksite, and conduct research that will be presented at the school and a Techsplorer Event. <p data-bbox="793 727 1829 760">To stay up-to-date on Techsploration events, visit Program's Update.</p>
<p data-bbox="247 1040 583 1073">Co-operative Education</p> <p data-bbox="144 1118 684 1187">Department of Education and Early Childhood Development</p>	<p data-bbox="793 846 1850 878">Co-operative Education is available as an academic course in high schools.</p> <p data-bbox="793 919 1997 1019">To participate, students must submit an application that includes community and teacher references and participate in an interview. Students must be 16 or older and in Grade 10, 11 or 12.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1060 1969 1200">Co-operative Education consists of an in-school component and a work placement component. The classroom component includes a 25-hour minimum of pre-placement instruction on topics that include workplace readiness and workplace health and safety.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1240 1955 1341">Each Regional Centre for Education/ School Board has a consultant responsible for co-operative education. . Interested students should connect with their regional consultant.</p>

Title	Description
<p data-bbox="212 423 619 459">Skills Development Program</p> <p data-bbox="212 500 619 570">Department of Labour and Advanced Education</p>	<p data-bbox="793 155 2022 293">The Skills Development Program is aimed at individuals who lack marketable skills and need new or additional skills to improve their employment prospects. The program provides unemployed participants with development training to help participants obtain the skills that they need to find work.</p> <p data-bbox="793 334 2022 407">The program funds living expenses through EI and also funds tuition/training costs while participants attend training on a full-time basis at an approved training provider.</p> <p data-bbox="793 440 2022 513">Eligibility requirements for the program are detailed and can be reviewed on the Skills Development webpage.</p> <p data-bbox="793 545 2022 764">As part of the application process, it is necessary that applicants receive an employment assessment and develop a return to work action plan with a case manager at an Employment Service Centre. The case manager's decision as to one's applicability for the program is required before Employment Nova Scotia will assess an application. Employment Service Centres that provide case management can be found on the Nova Scotia Works webpage.</p>
<p data-bbox="323 1000 508 1036">Fast Forward</p> <p data-bbox="212 1076 619 1146">Department of Labour and Advanced Education</p>	<p data-bbox="793 846 2022 951">The Fast Forward Program enables individuals who are receiving EI to continue to receive EI benefits while attending training opportunities. The objective is for claimants to improve their skills during periods of unemployment.</p> <p data-bbox="793 984 2022 1057">Before applying, applicants must have a current claim for regular EI benefits or have applied to Service Canada for EI benefits.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1089 2022 1130">Training is funded by the participant. It is not funded through the program.</p> <p data-bbox="793 1162 2022 1268">Eligibility requirements are detailed as are requirements for what constitutes eligible training and an eligible training provider. The Fast Forward Program webpage provides all the information needed to get started on the application process.</p>

**For individuals in trades training and
individuals that have completed trades training**

Title	Description
<p>Provincial Apprentice Progression Award</p> <p>Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency</p>	<p>Apprentices in all designated, four training level trades, can apply for the taxable \$750 award upon successful completion of all Level 3/Group C technical training.</p> <p>Apprentices enrolled in apprenticeship programs with five training levels can apply for a taxable \$750 award upon successful completion of all Level 3/Group C technical training. Upon successful completion of all Level 4/Group D technical training, they can apply for another award.</p> <p>The information needed to apply for the award is found on the Forms, Reports and Financial Supports webpage.</p>
<p>Apprenticeship Completion Grant for Non-Red Seal Trades</p> <p>Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency</p>	<p>Apprentices in non-Red Seal apprenticeship programs with 3, 4 or 5 levels of training are eligible for a taxable \$2,000 award.</p> <p>Upon completion of all training requirements and receipt of a Certificate of Apprenticeship, applicants have six months to submit their application.</p> <p>Awards are processed two times a year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For applicants that meet criteria and apply between January and June, awards will be processed in October. • For applicants that meet criteria and apply between July and December, awards will be processed in April. <p>The information needed to apply for the award is found on the Forms, Reports and Financial Supports webpage.</p>

Title	Description
<p><u>Additional Funding Support for Miscellaneous</u></p> <p>Department of Labour and Advanced Education</p>	<p>Apprentices may qualify for additional supports including financial assistance to cover costs associated with training, child care, living away from home, travel, commuting and disability.</p> <p><u>To learn more about the application process, visit the Apprenticeship website.</u></p>

For employers and businesses

Title	Description
<p><u>START Program</u></p> <p>Department of Labour and Advanced Education</p>	<p>The START Program provides small to medium-sized businesses with financial incentives to register, retain and support apprentices to complete their apprenticeship program.</p> <p>Apprentices must be residents of Nova Scotia and be unemployed.</p> <p>To start the application process, visit <u>START.</u></p>



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