

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

### ***Why should I consider a trade as a possible career path?***

Trades provide excellent starting wages and pay you while you learn on the job. Pay increments usually occur every 6 to 12 months until the apprentice reaches the full journey person rate at the end of his/her apprenticeship. Trades workers are in high demand and the employment is particularly rewarding, especially for those who enjoy the tangible results of their efforts.

### ***Can I still go to university or college if I get involved in trades training?***

Earning a trade certification does not interfere with your opportunity to attend university or college. In fact, there are currently a number of programs where having a trade certificate gives credits toward a degree, and in some cases, it is a prerequisite for program entry. It is quite possible to participate in trade training at the same time as one is working toward a university degree.

For example, most fire departments currently give preference to applicants with trade backgrounds when generating a short list for hiring.

### ***How do I find an employer and/or get an apprenticeship?***

You can search for a potential employer by any one of the traditional ways of finding an employer, but one of the best ways is to communicate your desire to one of the career counsellors in the Career Centre at your school.

### ***What are the trades available for apprenticeship?***

There is an extensive list of apprenticeable trades that offer provincial and national certification. The best place to find a comprehensive list of these trades is to visit the Industry Training Authority website at: <http://itabc.ca> or, for a specific listing of programs: <http://itabc.ca/Page496.aspx>

### ***How do I find out about the prerequisites for an apprenticeship in a given trade?***

Various technical training institutions have prerequisites listed on their websites. But, one of the best ways to get some information is to visit one of the career counsellors in the Career Centre at your school.

### ***How do I register for my technical training?***

If you participate in a trade program as a high school student, you will be part of the ACE-IT and/or SSA program. If this is the case, then your career counsellor will help you complete and submit the required application packages. As soon as you successfully complete your Level One Technical Training you should register yourself for the Level Two session. This will ensure that you get a seat in successive classes in a timely manner.

***How much does it cost to attend the technical training sessions?***

The cost of tuition varies by program and duration. Most programs are approximately \$80 per week of instruction. However, as a high school student you will be attending your technical training as an ACE-IT student and your tuition fees will be covered. In other words you will not be charged any tuition for your Level One training. Text book costs vary from about \$150 to \$700 depending on the trade.

***When do I attend the technical training institution?***

The time of year you attend, the duration of the program, and the institution you will actually attend all depend on the trade you have chosen and the nature of the educational plan that you have developed with the career counsellor at your school. Students may attend programs at one of the post secondary partnership institutions that vary in duration, from 4 weeks for a regular cook training program, to 40 weeks for a heavy duty commercial transport mechanic foundation program.

***Are there any scholarships available?***

**HIGH SCHOOL:**

There is a \$1000 Provincial scholarship available to all Secondary School Apprentices who are still working in their chosen trade 5 months after graduation, or who have 1100 WBT hours logged with ITA. In the Saanich School District, the career counsellors will process the application for this scholarship on your behalf. Details are available at <http://www.itabc.ca/Page37.aspx>

There is also a wide array of other scholarships available to students with an interest in the trades. Visit the Career Centre or talk to a counsellor in your school for more information on these opportunities.

**LEVEL ONE & TWO**

There are two \$1000 "Apprenticeship Incentive Grants" available from the Federal Government to apprentices after their successful completion of Level One technical training as well as successful completion of Level Two technical training. Visit the Service Canada website at <http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/goc/apprenticeship.shtml> to get more information on these.

**LEVEL THREE & FOUR**

There are provincial incentives available after the successful completion of Levels 3 and higher. Visit the British Columbia Training Tax Credit website at [http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/business/income\\_taxes/ttc/](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/business/income_taxes/ttc/) for more information on how to qualify and apply for these incentives. Successful applicants may qualify for \$2000 to \$6750 through this promotion.

### ***Who tracks my Work-Based Training hours?***

It is the **responsibility of the apprentice** to maintain a logbook that clearly details the day, date, duties, and number of hours worked in the trade. The career counsellor will submit a Work-Based Training report form to the ITA on behalf of the apprentice and employer until such time that the apprentice has graduated from high school. At that point in time the **apprentice is still responsible for tracking his/her hours** but the employer will submit the WBT form to ITA on an annual basis.

### ***How much money will I make as an apprentice?***

Starting wages for Level One apprentices generally seem to be in the \$10 to \$15 per hour range. The sky is almost the limit for qualified and experienced journeypersons who may be making \$40 to \$60 per hour; depending on the trade and the demand.

### ***What happens if I change my mind and want to do something else?***

You can change your mind at almost any time. If you get to level two and decide to take a break for a while and travel Europe for seven months, you can pick up your work-based training where you left off when you return. However, you would not be able to abandon a specific technical training session mid-way through and resume at a later point. e.g. Organize your time and support funding so you can start and finish each technical training session in a given time period. Lots of people take a break from employment in the trades for a period of time and come back to it later. Some others use their trade training background as a steppingstone into owning their own business or launching into other career or education opportunities. You are NOT sentenced to a life in the trades because you have a trade certification; it just means you have one more qualification that the next person doesn't. Working in the trades also means you start working at rate that is much better than the minimum wage, which is very helpful if you are saving for your own home, a vacation, or another field of education.

### ***How intense will the technical training be in terms of time commitment and homework?***

Most programs start at 8:30 a.m. and run till 4:00 p.m. Expect a **minimum of one to three hours** homework per night as well as weekend homework! There will be no time available for part-time work while attending your technical training session. Remember, you will be participating in an adult, college level course and your instructors will have adult expectations of your conduct and output.

***What are my chances of being employed as an apprentice and then later as a journeyperson?***

Securing a job as an apprentice in today's market should not present any difficulties, and the task will be made simpler with the help of your school-based career counsellor. The very nature of an apprenticeship will ensure that you are already employed as a culminating act of your technical training and work-based training. The added bonus of attaining your journeyperson status is that you will now be in even greater demand and afforded an opportunity to "shop yourself around" to other potential employers. Having a "Red Seal" trade ticket is almost like having a passport. You will be certified to work anywhere in Canada, and employers from around the world have a high level of regard for Canadian certified trades workers. In other words, if you are interested in travel, employers from other countries will want to hire you once you have attained your journeyperson status.

***If I am interested in a particular trade, what do I do next?***

There are a number of potential "next steps":

- check out one of the aptitude testing programs like "Career Cruising" at <http://www.careercruising.com> or "Student Counsellor" at <http://www.studentcounsellor.com/> to determine if you have a trade interest. You will need to get a password from your career centre coordinator.
- check out the profile of any trade at <http://itabc.ca/Page496.aspx> and select the trade of choice to get the profile
- interview a journeyperson working in the trade of interest
- inquire about the chosen trade at a technical training institute
- talk to other students already involved in trade training programs
- VISIT THE CAREER CENTRE AT YOUR SCHOOL AND TALK TO A CAREER COUNSELLOR