

# The Lowdown on Apprenticeship in 2020

This document has been created by Literacy Link Niagara to help adult literacy practitioners support their clients to reach their Apprenticeship goals. The purpose is to try to provide basic information about the Apprenticeship program to adult literacy practitioners to be able to pass on to clients. It does not provide all information, but acts as a starting point. It is written as if you were speaking directly to a client. Please feel free to pull it apart, copy and paste information for your clients into other documents or add to it to best suit your needs.

## Recent changes to the system

On October 23, 2018, the Government of Ontario announced that it will wind down the Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) to make way for a more integrated system. Fees for apprentice membership have been removed from OCOT.

The Government of Ontario removed 12 low-volume trades in July 2019. As of Fall 2020, there were 144 recognized trades across 4 sectors.

## Facts about Apprenticeship in Ontario

### **Compulsory vs. Voluntary Trades**

23 trades in Ontario require you to be registered as an apprentice and complete certification to work in the trade. All others are voluntary. Why apprentice in a voluntary trade? Because doing so will help you find work as well as make more money per hour.

### **Sectors of Trades**

There are 4 sectors of trades in Ontario. These include Construction, Industrial, Motive Power and Service.

### **Red Seal program**

This program sets common standards for trades across provinces. If you write and pass a Red Seal exam, you will get an endorsement on your trade certificate. This means you have a national standard of knowledge in your trade. This is important if you choose to work outside of Ontario.

## Steps to Apprenticeship

- 1) **Choose a trade.** Visit <https://www.collegeoftrades.ca/trades-in-ontario> to for a list of all registered trades in Ontario.
- 2) **Upgrade your skills and education to prepare for Apprenticeship.** You may need physical proof of education to meet Apprenticeship requirements including transcripts. Most Apprenticeships require a Grade 12 diploma or an Academic & Career Entrance (ACE) certificate to apply.
- 3) **Find an Employer to sponsor you.**
- 4) **Submit an application** by visiting <https://www.eoss.tcu.gov.on.ca/AOL/training/prerequisites>
- 5) **Sign a training agreement** by meeting with a representative from the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and your employer/sponsor.
- 6) **Register with the Ontario College of Trades** within 90 days of signing your training agreement. The application can be found by visiting [https://www.collegeoftrades.ca/wp-content/uploads/MEMBER\\_APPLICATION\\_CON\\_V3.5.0\\_EN\\_MS-MR\\_12-04-2019\\_FILLABLE.pdf](https://www.collegeoftrades.ca/wp-content/uploads/MEMBER_APPLICATION_CON_V3.5.0_EN_MS-MR_12-04-2019_FILLABLE.pdf)
- 7) **Apply for an interest-free loan or grants to purchase tools and complete training** in your trade. More information can be found by visiting an Employment Ontario Employment Service agency.
- 8) **Complete your in-class training.** Please be aware that depending on the trade, you may need to travel outside of Niagara for training.
- 9) **Apply for Employment Insurance** to cover costs while you are completing in-class training if you are eligible. More information about how to apply and eligibility requirements can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/apprentices/ei-apprentices.html>

## Resources to help you navigate the system

### **Adult Literacy Programs**

<https://www.literacylinkniagara.ca/program-directory/> These programs can help you upgrade your skills to prepare for Apprenticeship.

### **Niagara College – Academic & Career Entrance (ACE) Certificate**

<https://www.niagaracollege.ca/academic-liberal-studies/programs/academic-upgrading/>

If you do not have a Grade 12 diploma, an ACE certificate can be used as an alternative. Programming is free.

### **Employment Ontario Employment Service programs**

<http://feats.findhelp.ca/eng/search.html>

These programs can help you find current Apprenticeship training programs, an employer to sponsor you, as well as support you to find loans and grants to complete your Apprenticeship.

### **Niagara College – Apprenticeship programs**

<https://www.niagaracollege.ca/trades/apprenticeships/>

Niagara College offers most of the in-class Apprenticeship training programs in the Region. Visit the link to find current offerings.

### **Niagara College - Pre-Apprenticeship programs**

<https://www.niagaracollege.ca/trades/pre-apprenticeships/>

If you are unable to find an employer sponsor or if you need to upgrade your skills/knowledge before starting an Apprenticeship, you can take a Pre-Apprenticeship program. Visit the link to find current offerings.

### **Government of Canada – Support for Apprentices**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/apprentices.html>

The Government of Canada has federal programs to help support you in your journey of Apprenticeship.

### **Red Seal**

<http://www.red-seal.ca/>

You can choose to write a Red Seal exam when you are fully licensed in your trade. If you pass, you receive a Red Seal on your trade certificate. That means your skills are recognized in different parts of Canada.