

Updates on Apprenticeship in Ontario

The demand for skilled trades workers and apprenticeships continues to grow year-over-year. According to the Canadian Apprenticeship Program, Ontario will likely require approximately 88,960 new certified journeypersons over the next decade to adjust to and reflect growth and rising retirements. This will require attracting more than 296,350 new apprentices in more than 50 trades.

In an effort to collaborate, educate and network, the Simcoe Muskoka Workforce Development Board and Literacy Network hosted three webinars, appealing to three distinct factions of the trades network: job seekers, employers and Employment Ontario service providers. Each webinar featured insightful and educational presentations from a variety of keynote speakers related to their area of expertise who discussed topics such as the apprenticeship process, funding, resources, support, and pathways into the skilled trades, to name a few. The webinars were well attended with over 160 people taking part in these important discussions.

Some Key Messages:

- 1) Skilled Trades Ontario (STO) is responsible for certification of apprenticeship & skilled trades in Ontario, including
 - training standards, curriculum standards, certifying exams, trade equivalency assessment, etc.
 - access to electronic registration forms and resources
 - conducting research to improve/enhance the system
- 2) The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) is responsible for regulatory processes, including
 - co-ordinating agreements among the apprentices, sponsors and approved training organisations, including signing Registered Training Agreements with apprentices and sponsors
 - invites apprentices to attend available in-school training sessions, as available
 - monitoring compliance with terms of the agreements and system regulations and progress of apprentices
 - providing access to government funding to support apprentices and sponsors during the process
- 3) There is currently no move to change the 1-1 ration of Journeyperson to Apprentice for compulsory trades. This ratio does not apply to non-compulsory trades.

- 4) Apprenticeship allows you to earn while you learn. Apprentices come from all walks of life and various age groups. Skilled trades offer many opportunities for career advancement.
- 5) There are many programs and resources available to prepare and support apprentices prior to and during in-school training, and to prepare for Certification of Qualifications exams. Employment Ontario service providers help apprentices with career search and employment supports and provide upgrading of critical soft skills needed on the job. These supports are free to participants.
- 6) Funding is available for both apprentices and sponsors.

From these webinars, we have compiled a list of resources and some of the questions and answers that arose. [View recorded webinars and resources page.](#)