

Atlantic Apprenticeship Harmonization Project [AAHP]

Apprenticeship has been working by different rules and standards in the four Atlantic Provinces, and that has created barriers for both apprentices and employers. Harmonizing apprenticeship will make a significant difference in strengthening our workforce and our economy.

The Atlantic Apprenticeship Harmonization Project (AAHP) will align the rules, processes and standards for apprenticeship in the four Atlantic Provinces so there is more consistency and efficiency in the way people enter the trades and work toward certification.

The objectives of AAHP are:

- to meet industry demand for a skilled workforce;
- to maximize access to training (in both official languages, as appropriate by jurisdiction) to meet the needs of employers, apprentices and trade qualifiers;
- to facilitate labour mobility and create a better training and working experience for apprentices;
- to maximize operational efficiencies; and
- to maximize employer and apprentice awareness and engagement.

Over the next three years, the goal of the project is to have ten trades harmonized throughout the region and to develop an Atlantic shared Information Technology (IT) system.

The ten trades selected for harmonization are:

1. Bricklayer
2. Cook
3. Welder
4. Metal Fabricator (Fitter)
5. Carpenter
6. Instrumentation & Control Technician
7. Construction Electrician
8. Industrial Electrician
9. Plumber
10. Steamfitter/Pipefitter

Selected trades were chosen based on criteria including (but not limited to): trade mobility, demand/volume, related trades that can be harmonized at the same time, the age of curriculum standards, and proactive industry endorsement.

As well as harmonizing standards (e.g., curriculum standards, logbooks, exams) in the ten identified trades, the AAHP will implement common policies and processes across the board to have more consistency in apprenticeship training and certification requirements.

A shared IT system will facilitate harmonization, provide significant efficiencies for each provincial government through enhanced reporting capabilities, and provide increased functionality and better services for employers, apprentices and training providers.

Facts

Key Activities to Harmonize

COMMON PROCESSES FOR

- Administration of Exams
- Low Registration Trades
- Fees
- Compulsory Certification
- Marketing/Promotion Strategy
- Employers and Apprentice Incentives
- Training Provider Compensation
- Completion Rates

COMMON STANDARDS FOR

- Trade Names
- Hours
- Atlantic Curriculum Standards
- Exam Data Banks
- Log Books
- Atlantic Trade Advisory Committees
- Curriculum Sequencing
- IT System (common system)

COMMON ELEMENTS OF BOTH PROCESSES AND STANDARDS

- Registration/Entry Requirements
- Recognition of Prior Learning
- Completion Requirements

To date, a steering committee and several sub-committees, consisting of representatives of the Atlantic Workforce Partnership Secretariat staff and jurisdictional apprenticeship/board authorities have been working to develop common policies, processes and standards to harmonize apprenticeship training and certification requirements within Atlantic Canada.

As well, Atlantic trade advisory committees, consisting of industry and training representatives, have and continue to be active in supporting the work of the project.