

Easier to Enter

We will make it easier to enter the skilled trades

- Create more pathways to the skilled trades for newcomers
- Create enhanced direct entry to apprenticeship programs for underemployed and equity deserving groups

Supports for Entry

We will provide supports for people entering the skilled trades

- Deliver wrap-around supports for potential apprentices for doing upfront Level 1 training. Once the Level 1 classroom training is complete, they are matched to an employer
- New tools grant for people entering the skilled trades
- Provide temporary NSCC Tuition Waivers for high demand construction trades like Carpentry and Plumbing (2 year pilot)

Supports for Retention

We will have one of the highest completion rates in the country

- New laptop and technology support grants (to access technology that will make it easier to succeed in their training)
- Expanding online invigilation so that apprentices who need accommodations can access exams and exam supports via computers
- Create Apprentices Progression and Completion Award Program
- Provide expanded access to personalized learning supports (tutors, assessment, etc.)
- New technology enabled client support service centre

Building Capacity

We will increase the skilled trades workforce so we can build houses and hospitals faster

- Offer incentives for journeypersons and Trades Qualifiers to recognize their vital role in training apprentices (increase trainers by 1000 more in the system)
- Expand waiver of Trades Qualifiers fees and exam fees for all construction related trades until 2026

- Expand the START program due to high uptake to encourage SMEs (especially in rural NS) to hire and progress apprentices
- Offer March break and summer camps to youth and newcomers

Faster Training

We will accelerate trades training

- Accelerate technical training (longer days, shorter weeks; increase virtual options) to reduce time away from job and reduce waitlists
- New Pilot: Launch work/study option enabling employers to keep apprentices on job site three days per week and take training two days per week. Hybrid Training Grants to employers to subsidize apprentice wages
- Accelerate pre-apprenticeship training at NSCC in high demand programs like carpentry (new accelerated 6-month certificates and new 12-month diplomas)

Connect with Industry

We will change the way we connect and respond to industry

- Implement Industry Sector Committees with more regional and diverse representation and perspectives inputting into the apprenticeship system

Skilled Trades Leader

We will be a skilled trades leader in Canada

- Increase community-based training through a hub and spoke model, maximizing use of NSCC campuses (instructor provides training from one site with links to other sites with teaching assistants supporting all other sites)

More action to support this modernization

- Add Critical Construction Worker Stream
- Digital client management and learning system
- Implementing My Creds (digital wallet for credentials)
- Remove final level exams
- Change the training ratio for apprenticeship