



COVID-19 Update #5

May 14, 2020



As the COVID-19 public health emergency continues, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is committed to support apprentices and trades workers in their training and journey towards certification. We remain open for business and can be reached by phone (1-800-494-5651), [email \(apprenticeship@novascotia.ca\)](mailto:apprenticeship@novascotia.ca) and through our [online transactions](#).

We are happy to report that most apprentices who were scheduled to attend technical training were provided opportunities to complete their technical training. Those apprentices who chose to continue in remote learning have been attending virtual classes since April 20 and those of you who requested our self-paced online training have learning plans to continue with your training. If your trade has a level exam and you take training during COVID-19, you will be exempt from your level exam.

Our technical training schedule for September 2020 – June 2021 has been published to our website and you can find it [here](#). Please review the technical training schedule and apply to attend technical training by completing the [Technical Training Enrollment Form](#). If you were scheduled to attend training after March 16th and chose to defer your training rather than continue remotely or online, a staff member will be reaching out to you in the next two weeks to discuss your priority seat for training. You **do not** have to complete a Technical Training Enrollment Form. If you have any questions about your training, please contact your Industry Training Consultant. A list of the Industry Training Consultants can be found [here](#).

Due to the public health emergency, the Agency is unable to administer examinations. We are currently working on a plan to start administering examinations once the state of emergency has been lifted and we are able to administer those exams safely. In the meantime, it is important to update your logbook and submit your updated hours to ensure there are no delays with approving your exam once examinations resume. You can contact your Industry Training Consultant to update your information. We are accepting photographs of logbooks entries.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) removed work terms as a graduation requirement for 2020. This will have an impact on students graduating from 1-year certificate programs and 2-year diploma programs in the skilled trades. Any impacted student who registers as an apprentice will continue to receive full credit for these programs towards their apprenticeship program.

We understand the financial difficulty some of our apprentices are experiencing. For those of you who are eligible for the provincial progression or completion award, we will be processing those awards monthly rather than in September. All eligible applications received up until April 30, 2020 have been processed. For eligibility and to apply, please visit our [supports page](#).

Although our Youth Summer Apprenticeship Programs have been impacted by COVID-19, our partners are continuing to be innovative by considering alternative ways to engage with youth and employers. Some of our partners are providing skilled trades information to youth. You can view this information at:

NSAA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NSApprenticeship>.

Construction Association of Nova Scotia: <http://www.buildingfutures.ca/cans-construction-careers-virtual-qa-sessions/>

Skills Canada Nova Scotia: <https://www.skillsns.ca/>

To our employer partners, we continue to process START payments. The Government of Nova Scotia has also announced support for those of you who are negatively impacted by the global pandemic, which can be found [here](#). We are hopeful that these supports will enable employers to keep apprentices working so that their apprenticeships are not interrupted during this time.

If you find yourself having some extra time, consider taking our new 2-hour NSAA: [Orientation Program for New Apprentices](#) which offers an introduction to essential information about the apprenticeship system in Nova Scotia.

Lastly, we have updated our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document that is housed on our website. Please visit it regularly for up-to-date information. We have also posted information on how to stay safe while working in your trade [here](#).

We will continue to update you as more information becomes available. Please contact us if you have any questions.