



COVID-19 Update #6

June 11, 2020



As the COVID-19 public health emergency continues, the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency is committed to support apprentices and trades professionals 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](#).

Call to Action

In recent weeks, news of the pandemic has been overshadowed by marches and peaceful protests to draw attention to the systemic racism that sadly continues to exist in our society. Prime Minister Trudeau has remarked that this is the time to listen and learn what injustice is, and to recognize as Canadians that we too have our challenges. African Canadians and all people of colour face systemic racism everyday. It is a lived reality. As Nova Scotians, it is time for all of us to see that reality. As apprentices, trades professionals, employers and partners, it is time to embrace this opportunity to work together for sustained changed within the apprenticeship system.

The low representation of African Nova Scotians in the apprenticeship system is unacceptable. Under our diversity and inclusion framework, *Building More Equitable Pathways*, the Agency is working to improve the successful participation of African Nova Scotians and other diverse groups. We are grateful for our partnership with the Office of African Nova Scotian Affairs (ANSA) and the Black Business Initiative who are helping us to forge a new path. I encourage you to join us in this effort. We all have an important part to play if we are going to bring about sustained change in our apprenticeship system and in our society at large.

Technical Training 2020-2021 – Remote Learning Delivery

In consultation with our training providers and public health officials, technical training for the 2020-2021 academic year will be delivered in a blended format where possible. Dependent on the needs of the trade, this blended format will include a combination of remote learning and in-shop practical learning where required under the Agency's trade-specific Curriculum Standard. In remote learning delivery, the training will be delivered by instructors, and apprentices will attend virtual "lectures" and complete various learning activities that will be assigned. The training will remain full-time, and apprentices will continue to receive all applicable funding supports while enrolled in training. We understand that this form of learning may be new to many apprentices. We remain committed to working with apprentices to ensure they have the appropriate technology and support needed to be successful.

Enrolment in Technical Training

The Agency's apprenticeship technical training schedule for September 2020 – June 2021 is available [here](#) on our website and apprentices may enrol using the online [Technical Training Enrolment Form](#). Training details will be provided prior to the start of the technical training session. We encourage apprentices to continue to enrol in training to ensure timely progression and completion of the apprenticeship program.

Examinations

The Agency is now able to administer level and certification exams in a safe manner. Individuals who have applied and are waiting to write an exam will be contacted by the Agency to schedule the exam. For apprentices who are now eligible to write the exam but have not yet applied, we will post a summer exam schedule in the next few weeks and notify apprentices via email when the exam schedule has been posted. Apprentices with questions about their apprenticeship are to contact the assigned Industry Training Consultant. A list of the Industry Training Consultants can be found [here](#).

Enforcement

Individuals working in the compulsory trades must be a registered apprentice or have a Certificate of Qualification to work legally in the trade. The Agency's Enforcement team has resumed worksite visits to support compliance with the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act. We will ensure physical distancing, use personal protective equipment and follow public health guidelines in this work. If you witness non-compliance, please submit a complaint form found [here](#).

Partner and Youth Engagement

The Agency is conducting Trade Advisory Committees (TACS), Atlantic Trade Advisory Committees (ATACs), and other industry meetings using our available online meeting tools. We will continue to use these formats over the next several months. As always, we look forward to working with you. The Agency is currently planning our Annual Industry Meeting entitled, "The Power of the Apprenticeship Journey" to be held virtually on October 23, 2020 from 8:00 am - 12:30 pm. Please save the date. If you are interested in submitting a nomination for the Apprenticeship Award of Excellence to be announced at the event, the deadline is July 17, 2020. Please contact Kate Wray at: Kate.Wray@novascotia.ca for an application or for further information. Although our Summer Youth 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 skills trades information to youth. You can view this information at:

- [NSAA Facebook](#)
- [Construction Association of Nova Scotia](#)
- [Skills Canada 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.