

Pathways to Careers in Trades & Construction

Skilled trades are the foundation of every thriving community, from the homes we live in to the schools, hospitals, and infrastructure that keep our cities running.

A career in the trades offers stability, growth, and pride in building something real and lasting.

Whether you're a student exploring your future or a parent guiding your child, this pathway highlights opportunities from high school exposure to certification and leadership.



HIGH SCHOOL

POST SECONDARY

CAREER

Interest Sparked

Try-a-Trade with VRCA's Bring Trades to Schools program. Gain hands-on exposure, career awareness, and industry connections.

Exploration

Talent Central
Find co-op, part-time, and/or summer employment on BC's only construction job portal.

Take shop classes and / or SkilledTradesBC recognized training in high school.

- Youth Explore Trades
- Youth Train in Trades
- Youth Work in Trades

Financial Support & Skills Training

VRCA Bursary Program
Helps with the cost of tuition and tools. Available to grade 12 and post-secondary students enrolled in construction and skilled trades training.

Foundation Program
Gain hands-on trades training at a local trades college. Achieve credit for Level 1 Apprenticeship training. Register with SkilledTradesBC.

STEP: Skilled Trades Employment Program
Job search support for 1st Year Apprentices or Pre-Apprentices. Funding available for tools, PPE, safety training.

Talent Central
Apply for 1st Year Apprentice jobs. Set up a talent profile to promote yourself to employers.

Apprenticeship

Gain employment as a 1st Year Apprentice. Work towards achieving the required number of work-based training hours to complete Apprenticeship Level 1.

Building Builders
Be a mentee! Connect with a mentor from the construction industry. Receive advice and ongoing professional development. Join at any point during apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship Training (Levels 2-4)
Go back to school to take the next levels of trades training.

Apprenticeship Employment
Achieve the required number of work-based training hours to complete Apprenticeship Levels 2-4.

Talent Central
Apply for jobs at any time during apprenticeship. Update your talent profile to show your progress.

Trades Certification

Achieve Trades Certification
Pass the Inter-Provincial Trade Qualification (IPTQ). Complete apprenticeship. Achieve Red Seal Endorsement for nationally recognized trades.

Certified Skilled Tradesperson

Gold Seal
Upgrade your construction career with a Gold Seal Certification that employers trust. It's your fast track to higher credibility, better roles, and industry-wide recognition.

Building Builders
Once you've achieved 10+ years of construction experience, give back by being a mentor to someone just starting out in their career!

Career Opportunities

Talent Central
Find jobs as a Certified Tradesperson. Explore your next career opportunities. Update your talent profile.

Foreperson / Supervisor
Move into a trades leadership role.

Business Owner
Start your own company.

Project Manager
Work with a team to manage construction projects from start to finish

Health & Safety Officer
Ensure a safe working environment on construction sites

Many more
Excel in the limitless other career opportunities available in the construction industry!

LIBRARY OF RESOURCES

[Workforce Development | Vancouver Regional Construction Association](#)

[VRCA Bursary Program](#)

[SkilledTradesBC](#)

[Find Skilled Trade Construction Apprenticeships in BC | STEP](#)

[British Columbia Institute of Technology \(BCIT\) - BCIT](#)

[Vancouver Community College](#)

[BCCWITT | Working to create a diverse, equitable and inclusive skilled trades industry](#)

[Gold Seal - Canadian Construction Association](#)

[Building Builders – A Mentorship Program for BC's Construction Industry](#)