Our Government's Work for SKILLED TRADES in Burnaby North-Seymour

Summary Report 2025 - 2026

TERRY BEECH · YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BURNABY NORTH-SEYMOUR



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INTRODUCTION

The People Who Build Canada

Skilled tradespeople build the homes we live in, the transit we ride, and the energy systems that power our economy. Here in Burnaby North-Seymour, I have met apprentices, journeypersons, union training staff, and instructors who are getting that work done. They have told me what holds people back: the cost of living while in school, long waitlists for training seats, the time it takes to earn a Red Seal, and the challenge of finding an employer willing to take on a first-year apprentice.

The need is urgent. Canada will need more than 1.4 million additional trades workers by 2033. In 2024, more than 100,000 new apprentices registered, but only about 34,000 completed their apprenticeship. That is why our government launched Team Canada Strong, an $8 billion plan to recruit, train, and hire 80,000 to 100,000 new Red Seal trades workers over the next five years.

2026 brought real progress: $2 billion in new funding for provinces and territories to expand training capacity, applications for the new $5,000 Red Seal Completion Bonus opened on November 16, 2026, Budget 2026 proposes to extend Employment Insurance (EI) support for apprentices in full-time training, and the Labour Mobility Deduction for Tradespeople has more than doubled.

Our office publishes reports on federal work and what it means for Burnaby and North Vancouver. They are updated regularly and are free to read at TerryBeechMP.ca/reports.

Last update: Nov 19, 2026

AT A GLANCE

Working for Skilled Trades

Key figures, updated with Budget 2026 & Spring Economic Update 2026

TEAM CANADA STRONG

$8B
Team Canada Strong investment to recruit, train, and hire trades workers

100,000
up to 100,000 new Red Seal trades workers targeted by 2030-31

1.4M+
skilled trades job openings in Canada between 2024 and 2033

$2B
new bilateral funding for provinces and territories to expand training (July 2026)

SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICES & EMPLOYERS

$400/wk
Apprenticeship Training Grant during in-class training, up to $16,000

$5,000
Red Seal Completion Bonus, applications open since Nov 16, 2026

14→18 wks
proposed mnimum EI regular benefit weeks for apprentices in full-time training

up to $10,000
for small and medium employers who hire a first-year apprentice

NEW IN 2026

$10,000
Labour Mobility Deduction limit, up from $4,000, for 2026 and later tax years

$225M
over five years to upgrade and expand union-run training centres

9.9→9.5%
CPP contribution rate cut eff. Jan 2027, lower costs for workers and employers

NEW IN 2026

Team Canada Strong: Recruit, Train, Hire

Announced in the Spring Economic Update 2026, Team Canada Strong is an end-to-end plan to support Canadians from their first interest in the trades through to Red Seal certification. With the $2 billion for provinces and territories announced in July 2026, the total investment now stands at **$8 billion**. The goal is to recruit, train, and hire **80,000 to 100,000** new Red Seal trades workers for Canada's housing, infrastructure, resource development, and defence needs, and to cut the time it takes to earn certification by 50%.

Why it matters

Retirements and economic growth mean Canada will need more than 1.4 million additional trades workers by 2033. Long training processes and financial pressure on apprentices keep completion rates low. If nothing changes, Canada faces a persistent gap of more than 20,000 skilled trades workers every year.

Your path to a Red Seal career

STEP 1
Join Team Canada Strong
Paid job placement of up to four months to gain experience.

STEP 2
Register as an apprentice
Small and medium employers receive up to $10,000.

STEP 3
Complete technical training
Receive a $400 weekly Apprenticeship Training Grant.

STEP 4
Get certified
Receive a $5,000 Red Seal Completion Bonus.

STEP 5
Start your career
Work as a Red Seal tradesperson building Canada.

Team Canada Strong Youth Placements

Backed by **$880 million over five years**, this program gives young people aged 15 to 30 paid, entry-level construction and trades placements that lead into registered apprenticeships. Placements of up to four months begin in early 2027, and the program is expected to reach 100,000 individuals over five years. Not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, Indigenous organizations, and municipalities were invited this fall to submit Expressions of Interest to deliver placements, working with partners such as employers, unions, and training institutions.

$8B
Total **Team Canada Strong** investment

$880M
Youth Placements over five years

50%
Target reduction in time to Red Seal certification

budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026 · budget.canada.ca/2026 · canada.ca/employment-social-development (2026)

NEW IN 2026

More Money in Apprentices' Pockets

Many apprentices find it hard to make ends meet while they are in class, especially with today's cost of living. Our government is removing financial barriers at every stage of an apprenticeship, so no one has to choose between finishing their training and paying rent.

Red Seal Completion Bonus: now open

Journeypersons who complete an apprenticeship and earn certification in an eligible Red Seal trade designated in their province or territory can apply for a one-time **$5,000 bonus** per certification. Applications opened on **November 16, 2026**, and the bonus covers certifications obtained on or after April 1, 2025. If you were certified between April 1, 2025 and November 15, 2026, you must apply by **May 31, 2027**.

Apprenticeship Training Grant

Apprentices attending mandatory in-class technical training will receive a **$400 weekly top-up**, for a total of up to **$16,000** per apprentice, paid in addition to EI. The grant is expected to launch in spring 2027 and will apply to eligible training weeks beginning on or after January 3, 2027.

Longer EI support during full-time training

Budget 2026 announces the government's intention to amend the Employment Insurance Act to temporarily increase the minimum number of EI regular benefit weeks from **14 to 18 weeks** for apprentices who take full-time training. This aligns EI with the new apprenticeship supports.

Support between training and work

Team Canada Strong also provides income supports for apprentices who are caught between a training block and their next job, so a short gap does not end an apprenticeship.

What this means for an apprentice: during a 10-week in-class training block, an eligible apprentice on EI would also receive $400 a week from the Apprenticeship Training Grant, or $4,000 in total. After earning a Red Seal, they can apply for the $5,000 Completion Bonus.

$5,000
Red Seal Completion Bonus, open Nov 16, 2026

$16,000
Maximum Apprenticeship Training Grant

18 wks
Minimum EI weeks for full-time apprentices

canada.ca/red-seal-completion-bonus · budget.canada.ca/2026 · budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026 (2026)

NEW IN 2026

Helping Employers Hire and Keep Apprentices

Employers do not always want to take a chance on a first-year apprentice, and the upfront labour cost is often the biggest barrier. Our government is sharing that cost with small and medium-sized businesses and helping employers keep skilled workers through uncertain times.

Build Canada Apprenticeship Service

Launching early 2027, the Build Canada Apprenticeship Service will connect apprentices with jobs at small and medium-sized employers. Employers who hire a first-year apprentice in an eligible Red Seal trade can receive **up to $10,000**, and apprentices will receive help to overcome other barriers and complete their training. Starting in 2026-27, and $468 million ongoing, to help apprentices complete their training and move into permanent jobs.

Employers doing their part

Our government is calling on employers, particularly those that receive major federal investments, to do their part in recruiting and retaining trades workers, so the projects Canadians pay for also build the next generation of tradespeople.

Keeping skilled workers on the job

To support workers affected by tariffs and other trade disruptions, our government introduced **$3.5 billion** in Rapid Response Supports for Workers and Employers in August 2026. This includes the new Worker Retention and Retraining Program to help employers keep and retrain their workforce through a difficult period. Budget 2026 adds **$170 million** in 2027-28 through the Workforce Tariff Response for training and employment services delivered with provinces and territories.

Employee ownership made permanent

The Spring Economic Update 2026 makes the tax exemption for selling a business to an Employee Ownership Trust permanent. Owners can exempt up to $10 million in capital gains when they sell to their employees, helping more tradespeople share in the success of the businesses they help build.

up to $10,000
Per first-year apprentice hired by an eligible SME

$3.4B
Over five years to help apprentices finish and get hired

$3.5B
Rapid Response Supports for Workers and Employers

budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026 · budget.canada.ca/2026 · canada.ca/employment-social-development (2026)

UPDATED, AS OF 2026

More Training Seats, Faster Certification

Seats in popular trades programs can be in short supply, and certification can be slow. Our government is investing in union-led, employer-led, and public training pathways, because no single pathway can deliver the scale Canada needs on its own.

Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP)

UTIP supports union-based apprenticeship training in the Red Seal trades. Budget 2025 provides **$75 million over three years**, starting in 2026-27, to expand the program, and the Spring Economic Update 2026 adds **$225 million over five years** to upgrade union-run training centres. Through the new UTIP Infrastructure Expansion funding stream, union training centres can receive up to $3 million for renovations, or up to $10 million to expand or build new facilities, with priority for projects that add technical training seats and use Canadian suppliers. Since 2017, UTIP has supported close to 220,000 participants.

Red Seal Program modernization

The Spring Economic Update 2026 provides up to **$331 million over five years**, starting in 2026-27, and $18 million ongoing, to modernize apprenticeship training for a faster journey to the Red Seal. This includes online exams, digital logbooks, secure credentials, and a single national registered apprenticeship number.

$2 billion for provincial and territorial training

On July 16, 2026, our government announced an additional **$2 billion over five years** through new bilateral agreements with provinces and territories. The funding will expand pre-apprenticeship and technical training, help eliminate waitlists for apprenticeship and Red Seal programs, and support higher completion rates. Agreements are expected to be in place in 2026-27, subject to negotiations.

Up-to-date training equipment

The Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy's Investments in Training Equipment stream covers up to 70% of the cost (temporarily increased from 50%) of new equipment and materials used to train pre-apprentices and apprentices in the Red Seal trades.

$225M
Union training centre upgrades over five years

$331M
Red Seal and apprenticeship training modernization

~220,000
UTIP participants since 2017

budget.canada.ca/2025 · budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026 · canada.ca/employment-social-development (2026)

UPDATED, AS OF 2026

Keeping More of What You Earn

Tradespeople often travel to where the work is and buy their own tools. Our government is making sure the tax system recognizes those costs, and is lowering payroll costs for workers and employers.

Labour Mobility Deduction for Tradespeople: more than doubled

Eligible tradespeople and apprentices in the construction industry who take a temporary job away from home can now deduct **up to $10,000** a year in eligible relocation expenses, up from $4,000, indexed to inflation. The minimum distance has also been reduced from **150 to 120 kilometres**, so more workers qualify. Eligible expenses include temporary lodging near the work site, round-trip transportation, and meals. The deduction applies to the 2026 and later tax years and is limited to 50% of the employment income earned at the temporary location.

Simpler tool deduction for apprentice mechanics

Apprentice vehicle mechanics currently have to claim two separate deductions to get full tax recognition for their tools. Budget 2026 proposes to let them deduct all eligible tool expenses under the apprentice vehicle mechanics' tools deduction, without the reductions that apply today, starting with the 2027 tax year. Other tradespeople continue to claim up to $1,000 a year on eligible tool costs above $1,501 (2026) through the deduction for tradespeople's tool expenses.

Lower CPP contributions

The Spring Economic Update 2026 reduces the base Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contribution rate from **9.9% to 9.5%**, effective January 1, 2027. A worker earning $70,000 will save about $133 a year, with equivalent savings for their employer.

Middle-class tax cut

The lowest federal income tax rate was cut from 15% to 14%, effective July 1, 2025. Two-income households can save up to $840 a year.

$10,000
Labour Mobility Deduction limit (2026)

120 km
New minimum distance, down from 150 km

$133/yr
CPP savings for a worker earning $70,000

budget.canada.ca/update-miseajour/2026 · budget.canada.ca/2026 · canada.ca/revenue-agency (2025-2026)

NEW IN 2026

Take Your Skills Anywhere in Canada

Breaking down internal barriers

Budget 2026 introduces a new **30-day service standard** for credential recognition and digital credential verification tools for the skilled trades. Construction workers will no longer need to repeat comparable health and safety training when they move between provinces. First ministers are also working toward model mutual recognition legislation: if a worker is qualified in one province or territory, the goal is for them to be qualified in another by default.

Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund

Budget 2025 provides **$97 million over five years**, starting in 2026-27, to work with provinces and territories so internationally trained workers, with a focus on health care and construction, get their credentials recognized faster.

budget.canada.ca/2026 · budget.canada.ca/2025 (2025-2026)

A Place in the Trades for Everyone

Reaching up to 100,000 new Red Seal workers means opening the trades to people who have too often been left out, including women, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis workers, and newcomers.

Women in the trades

Budget 2026 recognizes unions and community organizations already leading the way, including the Labourers' International Union of North America (LiUNA), whose women-led POWER initiative promotes safer, more inclusive workplaces, and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America's Sisters in the Skilled Trades program, which helps women complete apprenticeships through child care, travel, and training supports. Building on these partnerships, Team Canada Strong will help more women enter, succeed, and build lasting careers in the trades.

Youth facing barriers

Team Canada Strong Youth Placements gives priority to young people who face barriers to employment, including young women and gender-diverse youth, Indigenous youth, Black and racialized youth, 2SLGBTQI+ youth, and youth with disabilities.

Indigenous workforce

Budget 2026 proposes **$451.8 million over four years**, beginning in 2027-28, and $48 million ongoing, to launch the new Partnerships for Indigenous Workforce Readiness Fund, delivered through Indigenous organizations. Our government is also developing an Indigenous-focused stream of Team Canada Strong to connect Indigenous workers with paid, entry-level trades jobs.

New pathways through the Canadian Armed Forces

The Spring Economic Update 2026 provides **$250 million over five years**, starting in 2026-27, and $45 million ongoing, to expand trades training through the Canadian Armed Forces. This includes more hands-on trades training through Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers, partnerships with Helmets to Hardhats, colleges, and universities, and a new Reserve Trades Experience Pilot offering fully funded trades training alongside paid, part-time Reserve service. In summer 2026, five skilled-trades pilots gave young people hands-on exposure to aerospace, aviation, marine, and construction trades.

$451.8M
Indigenous Workforce Readiness Fund

$250M
Trades training through the Canadian Armed Forces

$97M
Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund

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WHERE TO APPLY

Programs at a Glance

Red Seal Completion Bonus

Open now. $5,000 per Red Seal certification earned on or after April 1, 2025. Apply on canada.ca. If certified before November 16, 2026, apply by May 31, 2027.

Build Canada Apprenticeship Service

Launching early 2027. Up to $10,000 for small and medium employers who hire a first-year apprentice in an eligible Red Seal trade.

Apprenticeship Training Grant

Expected spring 2027. $400 a week during in-class technical training, for training weeks beginning on or after January 3, 2027.

Team Canada Strong Youth Placements

Paid placements of up to four months for youth aged 15 to 30, beginning in early 2027.

EI during full-time training

Apprentices in full-time technical training can receive EI regular benefits. Budget 2026 proposes a minimum of 18 weeks, up from 14.

Labour Mobility Deduction

Claim up to $10,000 in eligible travel, lodging, and meal costs on your 2026 tax return for temporary work where your lodging is at least 120 km closer to the job than your home.

Tradespeople's tool deductions

Deduct up to $1,000 a year for eligible tool costs above $1,501. Apprentice vehicle mechanics would get (proposed) a simpler, fuller deduction from the 2027 tax year.

Union training centres

UTIP Infrastructure Expansion: up to $3 million for renovations, or $10 million to expand or build new training facilities.

Need help finding the right program? Our constituency office can help apprentices, tradespeople, employers, and training organizations navigate federal programs. For full details on all federal supports, visit **Canada.ca/skilled-trades**.

Terry Beech

YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BURNABY NORTH-SEYMOUR

Tradespeople across Canada build the homes, transit, and infrastructure our communities depend on. There has never been a better time to start a career in the skilled trades. Canada is building at a scale not seen in generations: new homes through Build Canada Homes, and energy, mining, transportation, and clean power projects, including here in BC, being fast-tracked through the Major Projects Office. As a member of the Special Joint Committee on the Building Canada Act, which oversees how projects of national interest move forward, I see first-hand the pipeline of nation-building work ahead of us. Every one of those projects needs skilled workers to get it built, and that demand will carry through the coming decades.

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