

# LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

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## SKILLED TRADES BC ACT INTRODUCED INTO LEGISLATION

This Legislative Briefing is in follow up to the June 15, 2021 Legislative Briefing on [Mandatory Certification for Ten Trades](#). [Bill 4 – 2022: Skilled Trades BC Act](#) has been introduced in the legislature and will provide [SkilledTradesBC](#) with a broad mandate in relation to the industry training and apprenticeship training system, including developing programs, issuing credentials, and enforcing requirements that are being established for designated skilled certification trades.

### Skilled Trades BC Act

Once passed, the new legislation will replace the *Industry Training Authority Act* and transform the Industry Training Authority into [SkilledTradesBC](#), a Crown agency. This modernization of the agency responsible for skilled trades training in B.C. will expand the responsibilities associated with trades certification and increase focus on promoting and supporting apprentices and trainees throughout their training. The new *Skilled Trades BC Act* lays the foundation to address labour shortages and prepare for the 85,000 new job openings projected in trades by 2031.

To help meet this demand, the province is also investing \$136.6 million in a [new trades and technology complex](#) at the British Columbia Institute of Technology Burnaby Campus. The complex will be a centre for skills training, benefiting more than 12,000 full and part-time students per year in more than 20 trades and technology programs.

### Skilled Trades Certification

Ten initial trades have been identified through recommendations from a stakeholder advisory working group that included representation from industry associations, labour, post-secondary institutions, Indigenous skills trainers and the Industry Training Authority.

As previously reported, the skills trades certification trades are:

- **automotive:** heavy-duty equipment technician, automotive service technician, and auto body and collision technician;
- **electrical:** power line technician, industrial electrician and electrician (construction); and
- **mechanical:** gasfitter Class A and B, steamfitter/pipefitter, refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanic, and sheet metal worker.

Once implemented, individuals in the above trades will be required to be either a certified journeyman or a registered apprentice to work. Implementation of skilled trades certification for these trades will be done in stages between 2022 and 2024.

Additional information can be found in the [BC Government News Release](#).

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please e-mail [RES360@metrovancover.org](mailto:RES360@metrovancover.org) or call 604-451-6558.

## SOURCES

“Bill 4 – 2022: Skilled Trades BC Act”, February 2022

<https://www.leg.bc.ca/parliamentary-business/legislation-debates-proceedings/42nd-parliament/3rd-session/bills/first-reading/gov04-1first-reading/gov04-1>

BC Gov News – “New act supports good trades jobs, economic recovery”, February 14, 2022

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022AEST0007-000215>

BC Gov News – “B.C.’s Economic Plan: Building an economy that works for everyone

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022JERI0004-000230>