

## SKILLED TRADES BC ACT

Further to the March 14, 2022 *Legislation Briefing*, [Skilled Trades BC Act Receives Royal Assent](#), the Province has [announced](#) that the SkilledTradesBC's (formally *Industry Training Authority*) role of administering BC's skilled trades system is being strengthened.

### SkilledTradesBC

The renaming of the *Industry Training Authority* to [SkilledTradesBC](#), is meant to raise the profile of skilled trades and to make it easier to understand their role. The organization aims to strengthen the skills trade system modernizing trades training and implementing skilled trades certification by working closely and collaboratively with tradespeople, employers and industry partners.

### Skilled Trades Certification

Further to our previous Legislative Briefing, outlining the requirements for the Skilled Trade Certification, it has now been confirmed that uncertified workers, in seven trades, have at least one year, starting December 1, 2022, to register as an apprentice or pass a certification exam to become a certified journeyman. The seven trades included are:

- Four mechanical trades: gasfitter Class A and B, steamfitter/pipefitter, refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanic, and sheet-metal worker
- Three electrical trades: powerline technician, industrial electrician and electrician (construction)

During the transition period, uncertified workers in these trades can continue working. To ensure high standards of supervision and quality training for apprentices, skilled trades certification will require employers in these seven trades to follow a two-to-one apprentice to journeyperson ratio.

Uncertified workers and employers can also access support from [SkilledTradesBC](#) advisors located throughout the province, during the transition period. These advisors can help workers navigate the registration process or enter the challenge pathway to write the certification exam. Certification and level exams in these seven trades are free during the one-year transition period, however, there are a variety of provincial and federal supports available to further reduce financial barriers to certification. These supports help cover training costs, such as tuition, travel, living away from home, child care costs and loss of wages.

Three additional automotive trades (heavy-duty equipment technician, automotive service technician, and autobody and collision technician) will be phased in as skilled trades certification trades in 2024 and will also have one year to transition once announced.

For workers in the seven trades mentioned above who are already a certified journeyperson (including Red Seal endorsements) or a registered apprentice, nothing will change for them as they already fulfil the requirements of being certified.

## 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

*“B.C. making changes to support good trades jobs, tackle labour shortages”* - BC Gov News. December 1, 2022.

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022AEST0074-001775>

Skilled Trades Certification – SkilledTradesBC. December 1, 2022.

<https://skilledtradesbc.ca/skilledtradescertification>