HUMBER COLLEGE

Humber College's Pathways to the Skilled Trades program is a game-changer, not just for the College but for a whole new generation of aspiring skilled tradespeople. This vital program, which runs for just eight weeks, provides learners with a great opportunity to break into the in-demand field.

The initiative, funded by the Government of Canada through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy initiative, is a career pathway for unemployed youth facing financial hurdles. The program aims to give young talent the support they need to kickstart their careers in the trades. The best part? It's tuition-free, offering learners a chance to pursue their future without the burden of cost.

"It's meaningful work because you're helping youth that are really in need of this opportunity to realize their potential and helping them forge a career pathway they might not have realized even existed," said Lynn vanLieshout, manager, Community Projects at Humber.

The program provides a comprehensive package of support that includes hands-on training, exposure to the trades, and employment guidance. Furthermore, the minimum wage compensation for class attendance, combined with bonuses for program and work completion, ensures that finances aren't a barrier to learning.

The program is committed to providing opportunities to underrepresented groups in the trades, including women, Indigenous individuals, and racialized communities to help build a diverse and inclusive workforce.

One of the program's most inspiring success stories is that of a formerly unhoused youth who, through the Pathways program, secured a unionized position with a generous wage. Such transformations underscore the immense potential and opportunities this program brings to those in need.

Humber College's Pathways to the Skilled Trades program is more than just a program; it's a gateway to a brighter future. By empowering young individuals, this program is shaping a workforce that's diverse, skilled, and ready to contribute to the skilled trades sector and propel the economy.

