

# OPENING FALL 2020



Covid-19 Update Online programming is available. Contact for details.

## TRY THE TRADES

No need to wait for annual career fairs,  
Students can Try The Trades for no cost, all year long.

- ✓ 3 hour workshops for Manitoba high school students grades 9-12.
- ✓ Fully equipped with hands-on simulators and virtual reality experiences.
- ✓ 13 interactive building trade stations staffed by expert tradespersons.
- ✓ Maximum of 20 students per session. Students are guaranteed an in-depth exposure to over 30 different careers in the skilled construction trades.



Book your visit to the Manitoba Building Trades Exhibition Hall.

# TryTheTradesMB.ca



225 McPhillips St. Winnipeg, MB

## Try The Trades

How many of your students do you expect to enter a career in construction? Now, imagine how they got there. Did they demonstrate a keen interest and ability in a specific skilled trade? Or, did they eventually resigned into accepting that a job in the skilled trades may be their only option? Too often in Canada, our secondary education environments foster the latter scenario. This is not only a disservice to many students, but also to our skilled construction workforce and the critical infrastructure they build and maintain.

We know that the demand for skilled labour will only be increasing over the next decade, and there will be a skilled labour shortage. While the solution to this problem may seem simple – more demand for workers means sending more students into trades training – this solution ultimately creates a dilemma of quantity over quality. Encouraging students en masse to choose a career in trades does not produce good results long term.

Proof of this can be seen while examining Canada's skilled trades apprentice programs. Nationally, less than 50% of Canadians who start an apprenticeship go on to become a journeyed tradesperson. Further, the average Canadian apprentice is 32 years old and has been out of high school, in the general workforce, for over a decade. By comparison, the average apprentice in Germany is 21 years old, with a completion rate of 85%. This tells that there are real barriers to apprenticeship completion, and academic readiness and career fit are critical to success.

The Manitoba Building Trades Institute intends to change how skilled trades work is perceived by younger students. By increasing the depth of exposure to the skilled trades, we hope to help students make earlier and more informed choices about the career they want to pursue. That's why we are opening the Manitoba Building Trades Exhibition Hall, where students can participate in our Try The Trades programming.

During a three-hour workshop, groups of 10 to 30 students will participate in a variety of hands-on demonstrations at 13 different skilled trades booths featuring over 30 skilled trades professions. Booths are equipped with trade specific tools, hands-on training simulators, and virtual and augmented reality headsets. All booths will be staffed by tradespersons who are experts in their field and specially trained to work with students.

To enhance the continuum of learning, MBTI is developing an online portal for trades exploration and education. Educators will have access to teaching materials and assessments; students will be able to explore quizzes, skill tests, and view extensive career information for individual trades. Use of this portal and assessment tools will help students determine their own interest and aptitude for the skilled trades—the online portal is intended to complement a visit to the trades exhibition hall.

MBTI has designed our Try The Trades program to provide earlier and more meaningful skilled trades exposure to students. By creating an immersive and fulsome trades experience, students will get a better understanding of what the construction skilled trades industry entails and whether the work appeals to them. Our hope is that informed students have a higher success rate within the apprenticeship system, and find a career they aspire to, not a job they resign to.

### 10-year workforce outlook for Canada

257,100 retirements  
227,600 new entrants  
+4.5% employment change

Source: BuildForce Canada

### Distribution of Construction Employment in Canada 2020

10% Non-Residential Maintenance  
23% Engineering  
17% Industrial, Commercial, Institutional  
23% New Housing  
27% Residential Renovation and Maintenance.



For more information, please visit [www.trythetradesmb.ca](http://www.trythetradesmb.ca)