SKILLED

TRADES

Bruce FANJOY Carleton

CARLETON | MPBruceFanjoy.ca | Tel.: (613) 692-7900 | Bruce.Fanjoy@parl.gc.ca

Why Skilled Trades Matter in Carleton

Our economy depends on a strong skilled-trades workforce. From major infrastructure projects to green-energy retrofits, the region faces sustained demand for electricians, carpenters, HVAC technicians, plumbers, heavy-equipment operators, and dozens of other trades. Skilled trades offer high-demand careers, competitive wages, and earn-while-you-learn pathways that reduce financial barriers.

The 2026 Spring Economic Update introduced "Team Canada Strong," a massive $6 billion initiative to recruit, train, and hire up to 100,000 new Red Seal skilled trades workers by 2031. The strategy targets Canada's housing, infrastructure, and defence needs through targeted financial incentives and streamlined certification.

But where do we go from here? Where are the opportunities and how do we tap into them? We hope you find some useful information in this guide. Use it as a resource to learn more about a career in skilled trades.



Education & Training

To study skilled trades in Ottawa, there are colleges and specialized private career colleges, union-affiliated centers, and free pre-employment support programs for specific groups and career paths. Here is a closer look.

Major Institutions & Colleges

- Algonquin College (ACCE): Offers programs in plumbing, carpentry, electrical, welding, woodworking, Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships, and more. (www.algonquincollege.com/ro/apprenticeships/)
- Herzing College: Located at the St. Laurent Shopping Centre, this private college offers hands-on, accelerated diploma programs focused on construction and trades training Skilled Trades - Herzing College. (www.herzing.ca/skilled-trades)

Union & Industry Training

- Finishing Trades Institute of Ontario (FTIO): Located on Colonnade Road South, they deliver in-school education for apprenticeships in architectural glass and metal (glazing), as well as commercial and industrial painting Employment / Training - Apprenticeship | Ottawa - 211 Ontario. (www.ftiontario.com/become-an-apprentice/)

Pre-Employment Programs & Community Support

If you are looking to enter the trades without prior experience or are seeking career assistance, several local organizations offer free training and orientation:

- YMCA of the National Capital Region: Offers specific hands-on programs like the Power of Trades and the YMCA Ottawa Home Builders Training Program for foundational certifications and green construction skills Pre-Employment and Skills Training. www.ymcaottawa.ca

Career Fairs & Other Resources

- Hands-On Skilled Trades Exploration Event: Hosted by the YMCA-YWCA Employment Access Centre (440 Albert St), this event features interactive hands-on stations and employment services for local job seekers.
- Level Up! Skilled Trades Career Fairs: An Ontario government initiative designed for students in grades 7-12 and job seekers. The Ottawa event traditionally takes place in the fall at the EY Centre (4899 Uplands Dr).
- YMCA Power of Trade Programs: The YMCA-NIC runs ongoing virtual and in-person information sessions regarding pre-apprenticeship and trades training.



Hands-on Community Workshops

To learn practical trades and DIY skills directly, local organizations offer ongoing public classes:

- Ottawa Tool Library (877a Boyd Ave): Offers a rotating schedule of hands-on workshops. You can register for classes like Basic Bike Maintenance, How to Make Dovetails, and Learn to Mend on the Ottawa Tool Library Events page.

Apprenticeship & Union Pathways

- LiUNA Local 527: Frequently hosts construction career information sessions, recruitment events, and intake seminars for carpentry and labor trades.
- Algonquin College (Woodroffe Campus): Offers Pre-Apprenticeship programs and periodic "Trades & Tech Summer Camps". Check upcoming session dates on the Algonquin College Continuing Education portal.

For an ongoing list of daily workshops, trade-specific meetups, or industry conventions happening locally, check the Eventbrite Ottawa Trades Page.

For more information on the Supporting Youth Initiatives announced in the Spring Economic Update 2026, please contact our office at Bruce.Fanjoy@parl.gc.ca.



