

What is the Teacher Ambassador Program - Skilled Trades?

The Teacher Ambassador Program (TAP) - Skilled Trades was developed by Career Planning and Employment Services in collaboration with the Department of Education, Skills Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador, the Community Career Centre, schools within the k-12 system and a host of businesses, labour, and community partners throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

The goal of the TAP-Skilled Trades is to increase teachers' knowledge and understanding of the different skilled trades and the variety of educational and employment opportunities that exist now and into the future.

The TAP-Skilled Trades provides educators in the k-12 system with opportunities to job shadow a skilled trades person for a full working day.

Teachers become "Ambassadors" for the skilled trade areas and commit to enhancing their in-school curriculum by sharing their increased knowledge and insights with their students and colleagues.

The Multiplier Effect

The multiplier effect of the TAP-Skilled Trades is most significant. Teacher Ambassadors will develop more relevant and insightful curriculum units that they will use with their present and future students. For example, one high school teacher, who is midway through his/her teaching career and who typically provides instruction to approximately one hundred fifty students each day of the school year, has the potential to "directly impact" the quality of learning of approximately 2,250 students!

What will teachers be asked to do?

Teacher Ambassadors have a TAP-Skilled Trades Logbook that outlines a variety of tasks that must be completed prior to, during, and following their work placements with skilled trades persons.

Teacher Ambassadors will conduct on-site occupational interviews with skilled trades persons. Following their skilled trade experience, they will also develop instructional units for their students that will enhance their in school curriculum. Both the occupational interviews and the instructional units will be shared with students and colleagues in their schools and globally with users of the internet.

What will employers be asked to do?

Employers will be asked to provide Teacher Ambassadors with a variety of experiences throughout their on-site visit that will result in increased understanding of specific skilled trades and the businesses/organizations in which they operate.

Student Benefits

Teacher Ambassadors will bring personal experiences in a variety of skilled trade areas to their classrooms that will enable them to:

- help students become better informed about the skilled trades and the educational and employment opportunities that exist now and into the future
- help students more fully understand the relevancy of what is being taught in school and how it is connected to the skilled trades
- help students become more aware of the importance of generic employability skills that enhance their personal development and also form the foundation of a competitive workforce

- help students become more aware of the importance of developing a commitment to a work ethic of personal excellence focused upon lifelong learning
- help students make effective career choices based upon accurate information and increased understanding of a variety of occupational areas
- help students make more effective transitions from school to educational and/or employment opportunities.

Teacher Benefits

There are many ways in which teachers involved in the TAP-Skilled Trades benefit at both a personal and professional level. Some of them include:

- broadening of their knowledge and understanding of the work involved in the skilled trades and the apprenticeship program
- opportunities to enhance in-school curriculum by incorporating contemporary workplace practices and current labour market issues
- development of greater confidence to better advise students about career opportunities both present and into the future
- opportunities to develop an on-going network of skilled trades people to support and enrich teaching and learning.

Employer Benefits

Employers benefit by:

- collaborating with teachers to ensure the continued development of an educated workforce by helping them prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they

need to pursue rewarding and fulfilling careers

- improving the understanding of how their businesses/organizations contribute to the community by providing feedback to teachers in preparing curriculum units that are linked to the realities of the workplace
- developing personal pride and staff morale as a result of contributing to the career development of our youth
- enhancing their business/organization's public image through their demonstration of social responsibility and willingness to take a leadership role.

Our Community Partners



Employers, Labour and Community Organizations

Further Information Contact:

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Department of Education

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**Informed Teachers Helping Students
Make Good Decisions**