TRADES AND FARM CAREERS
IN BRANT AND BRANTFORD. FARMING FIRST. MOST NEEDED TRADES FIRST.

A Letter from the Editor

Dear neighbours,

Let me be straight with you. Nobody is coming to hand you a career. Not the government. Not a boss. Not a lucky break. You have to go get it.

But here is the good news. The door is open. And this guide is the key.

I put this together because good information should not be a secret. Too many people find their trade by luck. A cousin knows a guy. A neighbour needs a hand at harvest. If you did not have that cousin or that neighbour, you missed out. That is not fair, and it is not how a community should work.

So here it is, all in one place. Real, local facts on **trades and farm careers**. **Training**. **Grants**. **Costs**. **How to apply**. Where each fact comes from. If we could not confirm something, we say so. I would rather tell you we do not know than feed you a guess.

I will not pretend this is easy. **Apprenticeships** take years. Early mornings. Cold job sites. Sore backs. Exams you have to study for. Some days you will want to quit. Plenty of good people do. The ones who stick with it build something real.

Now let me put four years in perspective. Four years sounds like forever when you are standing at the start. It is not. Four years is nothing in the big picture. Life feels slow some days, but it goes by fast. Ask anyone who has a few grey hairs. The four years are going to pass either way. The only question is whether you come out the other side with a trade in your hands or wishing you had started.

And what they build lasts. A young person who sees a future close to home stays close to home. A parent who finds steady work sleeps better at night. A family with a solid paycheque can plan ahead. Good jobs stay here. Good people stay here. That is how a town gets stronger. One worker at a time.

Here's the truth, coming from a paper that uses AI every day. AI is here, and it's moving fast. It writes, it sorts, it answers questions. It's going to change a lot of office jobs, and some of them won't come back. But AI can't crawl under a sink. It can't frame a house, splice a wire in the rain or bring a calf into the world at 3 a.m. Those jobs need hands, judgment and a person who shows up. So if you want work that will still need you ten years from now, **learn a trade**. We use AI to make this paper. That's exactly why we're telling you this.

Our farms and our trades are who we are. They feed us. They build our homes. They fix our trucks and keep the lights on. Those jobs need people. People need those jobs. Somebody has to connect the two. That is what a local paper is for.

This guide is free. Every page. No sign up. Nothing to buy. It does not matter how old you are, where you went to school or what mistakes you made along the way. Nobody is shut out. Nobody.

So read it. Print a page and stick it on the fridge. Hand it to your kid, your nephew, the guy down the road who is tired of going nowhere. Then take the first step. **Make the call**. **Fill out the form**. Show up.

If something here is wrong, tell me. If we missed a program, tell me. This guide gets better with your help.

The door is open. Walk through it.

The Editor

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CHANGE STARTS WITH YOU

Your new life begins here. Click here.

- Start an apprenticeship
- Explore the trades
- Pre apprenticeship at Mohawk
- High school OYAP
- Six Nations Polytechnic
- Farm equipment technician
- Apply for the Tools Grant
- Apply for an Apprentice Loan
- Ontario New Farmer
- Employment Ontario

Farming and agriculture careers

> **Farming and agri food are a big part of work in Brant County. Farm jobs have some of the strongest outlooks in our region, and farm employers say jobs are hard to fill.**

The farm labour shortage

- The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council projects that Ontario agriculture will have a peak gap of 40,600 jobs that domestic workers cannot fill in 2030. Even with more foreign workers, about 7,500 jobs may stay empty. These are **Ontario wide** numbers from the council's 2024 Ontario fact sheet. CAHRC Ontario fact sheet 2024
- Job Bank rates the outlook for livestock labourers, harvesting labourers, nursery and greenhouse labourers, farm machinery operators and farm managers as Good in the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region for 2025 to 2027. This is a **regional** outlook that includes Brant. Job Bank regional outlooks
- The Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie reported in 2025 that hard to fill jobs were most common in agriculture and manufacturing, plus other sectors. This covers Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit. Hamilton Spectator report on the plan

Local farm and agri business employers

These are real postings or employers found in Brant and Brantford in October 2026. Postings close, so check the link.

- Brant Tractor, a farm and construction equipment dealer in Brantford. A careers page was not found, so ask them directly to confirm.
- Ferrero careers and Barry Callebaut careers. Both run food plants in Brantford that turn farm crops into food.
- Job Bank job search. Type farm and set the place to Brantford.

Training for farm careers

- Ontario Agricultural College, University of Guelph. Degrees in agriculture and food.
- Associate Diploma in Agriculture, University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus. Two years, hands on, with a paid co op option.
- Agri Business Management, Fanshawe College, Simcoe campus. A 36 week graduate certificate, open for January and May 2027. Total cost about $4,280 for Canadian students.
- Agricultural Equipment Technician apprenticeship, Fanshawe College. You need an employer sponsor first. The trade has 6,280 hours on the job and 720 hours in school, per Skilled Trades Ontario.
- Agri Business Management, Conestoga College. This program is suspended for 2026 and 2027 intakes and is not taking applications.
- Agricultural Dairy Herdsperson, Agricultural Fruit Grower and Agricultural Swine Herdsperson are apprenticeships on the Ontario list. Where to take the school part is to confirm.

Funding for farm workers and new farmers

- 4-H Ontario scholarships. The 2026 Beef Farmers of Ontario and First Nations Ag scholarships are closed for 2026. Check the page for next year.
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture scholarship list. Many farm scholarships in one place.
- University of Guelph scholarships. Awards for Ontario Agricultural College students to confirm.
- Ontario New Farmer. A directory of land, training and money help for new farmers.
- Food Safety and Growth Initiative, Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership. For small farms and food businesses, not workers. Open Oct 19, 2026 to Mar 1, 2027. It pays 50 percent of eligible costs up to $75,000.
- Agricultural Stewardship Initiative. For farm businesses. The 2026 intake closed July 29, 2026.
- Apprentices in farm trades can also use the Canada Apprentice Loan, EI during school and the Ontario Tools Grant. See Grants.

Trades that can work in farming

These Ontario trades have real work in agriculture or agri food. Each name links to its Skilled Trades Ontario page. Weak links are marked to confirm.

Trade	Code	Why it fits farming
Agricultural Equipment Technician	425A	Repairs tractors, combines and other farm machines.
Heavy Duty Equipment Technician	421A	Services large diesel equipment, which farms and farm dealers run.
Truck and Coach Technician	310T	Keeps the trucks that haul grain, livestock and produce on the road.
Electrician Domestic and Rural	309C	Ontario defines this trade for homes and farm buildings, including barns.
Electrician Construction and Maintenance	309A	Wires barns, greenhouses, grain dryers and processing plants.
Industrial Electrician	442A	Maintains controls and motors in food plants and large farm operations.
Industrial Mechanic Millwright	433A	Maintains processing lines. Brantford food plants post millwright jobs.
Welder	456A	Builds and repairs farm equipment, trailers and steel buildings.
Plumber	306A	Installs water and drain systems in barns and farm homes. to confirm
Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems Mechanic	313A	Services cold storage for produce, milk and meat. to confirm
Horticultural Technician	441C	Works with plants in greenhouses, nurseries and landscapes.
Agricultural Dairy Herdsperson	640D	Cares for dairy herds. This is a farm trade on the Ontario list.
Agricultural Fruit Grower	640F	Grows and manages fruit crops. This is a farm trade on the Ontario list.
Agricultural Swine Herdsperson	640S	Cares for pigs. This is a farm trade on the Ontario list.
Process Operator Food Manufacturing	246T	Runs food processing equipment that turns farm crops into food.
Cook	415A	Agri food businesses and farm markets hire cooks. to confirm
Baker	423A	Bakeries turn local grain into food. The link to farm work is indirect. to confirm
Retail Meat Cutter	245R	Cuts and prepares meat from local farms. to confirm
Small Engine Technician	435A	Repairs small engines on pumps, generators and yard equipment. to confirm
Turf Equipment Technician	421C	Repairs mowers and turf machines used on sod farms and grounds. to confirm
Water Well Driller	605B	Drills wells that supply rural homes and livestock. to confirm
Tractor-Trailer Commercial Driver	638A	Hauls farm products to market and processors.
Arborist	444A	Cares for trees, including orchards and farm woodlots. to confirm
Horse Groom	600H	Cares for horses on horse farms.

Trade	Code	Why it fits farming
Powerline Technician	434A	Builds and repairs rural power lines that serve farms. to confirm

Farm career interest form

Overview

Your first day

Maybe it starts on a cold morning in the shop at school, or riding along in a pickup at harvest. You like fixing things. You like seeing the job done at the end of the day. Someone says, "You should look at a trade."

So you look. You find out you can start as an apprentice and get paid while you learn. You find out farms need people who can weld, wire and fix machines as much as town does. You find out some help with school costs and tools is still out there.

Then one day you pull on your boots, walk in, and someone shows you how it's done. That is how a career starts. This guide is here to help you get to that first day, close to home.

> **This draft brings together trusted information about careers in the skilled trades and in farming for people in the County of Brant and Brantford. It covers how to start, what jobs pay, who is hiring, what training costs and what money can help.**

Farming first	Farm jobs, local farm employers, training and trades that work on farms.
Where the shortage is	Which trades are short, with the year and area of every number.
Careers	All 144 Ontario trades with wages and local demand.
Getting started	Steps to become an apprentice, plus a readiness checklist.

Local employers	Real employers in Brant and Brantford that hire trades.
Unions	Union locals that cover our area and how to apply.
Costs	What school, tools and fees cost.
Grants	Loans, grants and benefits for apprentices, and which ones have ended.
Who qualifies	Which programs check your income.
How to apply	Step by step for each program.
Career of the Day	A short story about one career each day.
A Letter from the Editor	Why this guide is free and open to everyone.

Three things to know

- Ontario has 144 trades. 23 of them are compulsory, which means you must be registered or certified to do the work. Source
- The federal Apprenticeship Incentive Grant and Completion Grant are closed. The Canada Apprentice Loan is still open. Source
- Farm jobs in our region have a Good outlook from Job Bank for 2025 to 2027. Source

About this draft

This is an information draft. It is not published. Every fact links to its source. Please check details with each program before you act.

Where to look for jobs

1. Job Bank, Government of Canada. Type a trade or "farm" and set the place to Brantford.
2. Grand Erie Jobs, the job board of the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie, for Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Six Nations and New Credit.
3. County of Brant job openings, and County of Brant careers news.
4. City of Brantford careers.
5. Ontario Public Service careers.
6. Employment Ontario centres near Brant, free help to find work: Brant Employment Centre, 1-225 Fairview Dr., Brantford, 519 756 7665, with appointments in Paris and Burford; and CareerLink Employment Centre, 1 Market St., Upper Level, Brantford, 519 759 1412. More at Employment Ontario.
7. AgCareers, a job board for farm and agri food work.
8. Union apprenticeship pages: IBEW Local 105, UA Local 67, LiUNA Local 837. See Unions.

Links checked Oct 21, 2026.

Where the shortage is

> **Here is what real reports say about worker shortages. Each number lists its year and the area it covers. Regional and provincial numbers are labelled as such. None of them is a Brant only count.**

What the source says	Area	Year	Source
Ontario construction needs 126,100 workers by 2035. That is 92,000 retirements plus 34,100 for growth. After hiring young workers, a gap of about 27,300 may remain.	Ontario	2026 to 2035 forecast	BuildForce Canada
Ontario agriculture faces a peak gap of 40,600 jobs that domestic workers cannot fill in 2030. About 7,500 may stay empty even with foreign workers.	Ontario	2023 to 2030 forecast, 2024 fact sheet	CAHRC
Hard to fill jobs were most common in agriculture, manufacturing, accommodation and food, construction, and health care. More people want to become construction and maintenance electricians, millwrights, automotive service technicians and truck and coach technicians, but fewer journeypersons are free to train them.	Grand Erie: Brantford, Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk, Six Nations, Mississaugas of the Credit	2025 Labour Market Plan and EmployerOne survey	Hamilton Spectator and Workforce Planning Board
Employers in manufacturing, construction and other fields say a skilled trades shortage is one of their biggest problems.	Grand Erie	In Demand Skilled Trades Study, year to confirm	Workforce Planning Board
Outlook rated Good for power system electricians, power line workers, pipefitting supervisors, mechanic supervisors, butchers, farm managers and four kinds of farm labour. Most other trades are rated Moderate. Welders are rated Very limited.	Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region, which includes Brant	2025 to 2027	Job Bank
Ontario agriculture employed 71,700 people in 2024. 38.1 percent were over 55. Job Bank says the sector faces persistent labour shortages. The Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region had about 10,100 farm workers.	Ontario, and the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region	2024 data, 2025 to 2027 outlook	Job Bank agriculture profile
About 3,280 people work as industrial electricians. Outlook Moderate, because retirements open jobs even as jobs decline.	Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region	2025 to 2027	Ontario labour market

What we could not find

We did not find a published count of how many tradespeople Brant County alone is short. A Brant only number is to confirm. The EmployerOne reports may have more detail by trade to confirm. EmployerOne survey page

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Careers available

> **This page lists farm careers first, then every trade on the official Ontario trade list. Trades are sorted with the highest local demand at the top. You can sort any column or filter by sector.**

Farming and agriculture careers

Farm jobs in our region have some of the best outlooks Job Bank shows. These outlooks are for the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region, which includes Brant and Brantford, for 2025 to 2027. They are regional numbers, not Brant only numbers.

Farm career	NOC group	Regional outlook	Job Bank wage (2023 to 2024 data)
Livestock labourer	85100	Good	no local data
Harvesting labourer (vegetable farm worker)	85101	Good	Median $17.95 an hour (2023 to 2024 data)
Nursery and greenhouse labourer	85103	Good	no local data
Specialized livestock worker and farm machinery operator	84120	Good	$17.95 to $32.50, median $20.51 an hour (2023 to 2024 data)
Manager in agriculture (farm manager)	80020	Good	no local data
Agricultural service contractor and farm supervisor	82030	Moderate	no local data

The farm machinery wage is for all of Ontario, because the regional link shows the Ontario table. The farm trades on the Ontario list, such as Agricultural Equipment Technician, Agricultural Dairy Herdsperson, Agricultural Fruit Grower and Agricultural Swine Herdsperson, are in the big table below. See the farming page for local farm employers, training and funding.

Every Ontario trade, highest demand first

The top 25 are shown here. See every trade at Skilled Trades Ontario.

Source of the trade list: the official list of 144 trades set out under the **Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, Ontario Regulation 876/21**, as published in the **Trades Established Under BOSTA chart** (Oct 5, 2022 version). Each trade name links to its Skilled Trades Ontario page. The live list on **Skilled Trades Ontario** loads inside the page and could not be read directly, so any trade added after 2022 is to confirm.

Compulsory means you must be a registered apprentice or hold a certificate to do the work. **Voluntary** means the trade is not compulsory. Ontario calls these trades non compulsory.

How demand is set: each trade is matched to the closest Job Bank occupation group (NOC). The outlook is the Job Bank outlook for the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region for 2025 to 2027. The match from trade to NOC group is our own and is to confirm. Trades the Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie named in 2025 as in demand locally sit at the top of their outlook group and say "named locally". Trades with no matching group say "no local data".

Wages are Job Bank prevailing hourly wages for the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region, reference period 2023 to 2024, updated Nov 19, 2025. Where Job Bank has no checked regional figure here, the table says "no local data".

Trade	Code	Sector	Compulsory or voluntary	Job Bank wage (2023 to 2024 data)	Local demand ▼
Agricultural Dairy Herdsperson	640D	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Good
Agricultural Swine Herdsperson	640S	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Good
Powerline Technician	434A	Construction	Voluntary	no local data	Good
Retail Meat Cutter	245R	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Good
Automotive Service Technician	310S	Motive power	Compulsory	$20.00 to $46.15, median $30.00 (2023 to 2024 data)	Moderate (named locally)
Electrician Construction and Maintenance	309A	Construction	Compulsory	no local data	Moderate (named locally)
Industrial Mechanic Millwright	433A	Industrial	Voluntary	$22.68 to $50.00, median $36.00 (2023 to 2024 data)	Moderate (named locally)
Truck and Coach Technician	310T	Motive power	Compulsory	no local data	Moderate (named locally)
Aboriginal Child Development Practitioner	620B	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Agricultural Equipment Technician	425A	Motive power	Voluntary	$25.00 to $49.00, median $36.71 (2023 to 2024 data)	Moderate
Alignment and Brakes Technician	310E	Motive power	Compulsory	no local data	Moderate
Appliance Service Technician	445A	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Auto Body Repairer	310Q	Motive power	Compulsory	no local data	Moderate
Auto Body and Collision Damage Repairer	310B	Motive power	Compulsory	no local data	Moderate
Automotive Electronic Accessory Technician	310K	Motive power	Compulsory	no local data	Moderate
Automotive Glass Technician	274L	Motive power	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Automotive Painter	410N	Motive power	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Brick and Stone Mason	401A	Construction	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate

Cement (Concrete) Finisher	244G	Construction	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Child Development Practitioner	620C	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Child and Youth Worker	620A	Service	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Programmer	670C	Industrial	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Construction Boilermaker	428A	Construction	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Construction Craft Worker	450A	Construction	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate
Construction Millwright	426A	Construction	Voluntary	no local data	Moderate

Click a column title to sort. The default sort is highest demand first.

Getting started in a trade

Your path into a trade

1. **Explore trades.** Look at the full list and the Skilled Trades Ontario trade pages.
2. **Start in high school if you can.** The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, called OYAP, lets students start a trade through co op. Grand Erie schools have reported that you need to be a full time student, at least 16, with 16 credits. The Grand Erie OYAP page link no longer opens, so these rules are to confirm. Talk to your guidance counsellor. See Mohawk College OYAP
3. **Try a pre apprenticeship.** These are free, government funded programs that include training, safety courses and an 8 to 12 week work placement. Mohawk College was waiting on 2026 start dates. Mohawk pre apprenticeship. Six Nations Polytechnic also runs pre apprentice programs.
4. **Find a sponsor.** A sponsor is an employer or union that will train you. See local employers and unions.
5. **Register.** You and your sponsor sign a training agreement and register through the Skilled Trades Ontario portal. Start an apprenticeship
6. **Work and go to school.** Most of your learning is on the job. You also take in class levels at a college or training centre.
7. **Write your exam.** Many trades end with a Certificate of Qualification exam. Then you are a journeyperson.

Apprenticeship readiness checklist

Career interest form

Local employers hiring tradespeople

> **These employers had trades jobs posted in Brant or Brantford in 2026. Listing them is for information only. Postings change, so use the careers links.**

Employer	Trades jobs seen	Careers link
Ferrero, Brantford	Maintenance Millwright (433A licence), Electrician and PLC	jobs.ferrero.com and millwright posting
Tigercat Industries, Brantford	Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, Millwright 433A, welders	Tigercat jobs on Jobs.ca. An official careers page is to confirm.
Barry Callebaut, Brantford	Production jobs and maintenance roles	jobs.barry-callebaut.com
Brant Tractor, Brantford	Farm and construction equipment service	branttractor.ca. No careers page found to confirm.
County of Brant	Seasonal equipment operators in roads	brant.ca careers
City of Brantford	Municipal jobs	brantford.ca careers

You can also search Job Bank for trades jobs, with the place set to Brantford. Farm employers are on the farming page.

Unions recruiting apprentices

> **Union apprenticeships are run by unions and contractors together. LiUNA says its programs are free to apprentices. Listing these unions is for information only.**

Union local	Covers	Trades	How to apply
IBEW Local 105	Hamilton, Brantford, Oakville, Stoney Creek	Electrical. Apprentices start at 40 percent of the journeyperson rate, with a first period package of $36.96 an hour.	Join IBEW, Local 105
UA Local 67	From the Oakville border to Fort Erie, south of Highway 401, which includes Brantford. UA 67 About page	Plumbing, Steamfitting, Welding	Online application. Then an aptitude test and interview. Requirements
LiUNA Local 837	Greater Hamilton, Niagara, Brant and Kitchener Waterloo	Construction Craft Worker, Cement Finisher, Precast trades, OYAP	Apprenticeship programs. Area from LiUNA Our Local page.
Carpenters Local 18	Its own site names Hamilton and Niagara offices only. Whether it covers Brant is to confirm.	General carpentry, drywall, acoustic and lathing	local18.ca. Hamilton office 905 522 0752.

Film and stage crews

IATSE Local 873 is a film and TV crew union, not a trades apprenticeship. Its contract zones run from Toronto out to the Hamilton border. Whether it covers Brant is to confirm. Its website is down right now, so no link is shown.

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Cost of training and apprenticeships

- **Registering as an apprentice:** no fee is listed by Skilled Trades Ontario. Source to confirm
- **Level 1 classroom fees:** paid by the Ontario government for 2026. Level 2 and up still have fees. Ontario memo
- **Classroom fees at a college:** Fanshawe lists about $400 to $600 a level, plus other fees. Many trades are $400 a level in 2026 to 2027. Fanshawe Mohawk fees are to confirm.
- **Union programs:** LiUNA Local 837 says its programs are free to apprentices. You bring your own boots and hard hat. LiUNA
- **Pre apprenticeship:** free for eligible people. Mohawk
- **Farm programs:** Fanshawe Agri Business Management is about $4,280 total for Canadian students. Fanshawe
- **Tools:** the Ontario Tools Grant pays $400 to $1,000 by trade. See Grants.
- **Lost wages in school:** EI and the Canada Apprentice Loan can help. See Grants.

Government grants and supports

> **Some programs changed. The federal Apprenticeship Incentive Grant and Completion Grant are closed. Canada now points apprentices to EI and the Canada Apprentice Loan.**

Program	Status	What you can get	Who can get it
Canada Apprentice Loan	Open	Up to $4,000 per school period, up to $20,000 total. No interest while you are in training.	For registered apprentices in Red Seal trades.
Apprenticeship Incentive Grant	**Closed**	Was $1,000 a year, up to $2,000.	Closed Mar 31, 2025. Last document deadline was Mar 31, 2026.
Apprenticeship Completion Grant	**Closed**	Was a one time $2,000.	Closed Mar 31, 2025. Last document deadline was Mar 31, 2026.
EI during in school training	Open	EI regular benefits while you are in full time school for your trade.	You need a 16 digit reference code from the province. The 1 week waiting period is served once per program.
Ontario Tools Grant	Open	$1,000 motive power, $600 construction, $600 industrial, $400 service.	Level 1 done on or after Apr 1, 2020, a training agreement, and 12 months registered.
Ontario Apprenticeship Completion Bonus	Open	$2,000 for finishing a non Red Seal trade.	Out of high school and finished the trade. Apply within 180 days of getting your certificate.
Apprentice Development Benefit	Open	Help with living costs, child care and travel while in full time class.	Registered apprentice in full time class.
Better Jobs Ontario	Open	Up to $28,000 for training of a year or less, up to $35,000 for up to 2 years. Living allowance up to $500 a week.	Any of 3 ways: laid off and not working; laid off and now in a temporary job; or not laid off but out of work 12 weeks or more in a low income household. Ontario publishes no dollar income line.
OSAP	Open	Grants and loans for college and university.	Based on financial need. Some apprenticeship programs may qualify to confirm.
Indigenous Student Bursary	Open	$1,000 to $3,500, set by your school.	Indigenous students in approved programs, including apprenticeships, with financial need.
GREAT SEED Apprenticeship Award	Check site	Students reapply each year and can get up to four SEED awards in total.	Registered with GREAT and the province, 70 percent average, financial need.
4-H Ontario and farm scholarships	Varies	The 2026 examples are closed. Check for next year.	Rules vary by award.

Farm business funding from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is on the farming page. Most of it is for farm businesses, not workers.

Grant eligibility checklist

Which income brackets qualify

> **Most apprentice supports do not check your income. A few use financial need. Here is each one.**

Program	Income bracket or test	Notes
Canada Apprentice Loan	No income test	See the official page for full rules.
EI during in school training	No income test	Based on insurable hours worked, not income level.
Ontario Tools Grant	No income test	Based on registration and Level 1.
Ontario Apprenticeship Completion Bonus	No income test	Based on finishing the trade.
Apprentice Development Benefit	The Ontario page lists no income test.	Ask Employment Ontario.
Better Jobs Ontario	Low income household, only if you were not laid off. Ontario publishes no dollar income line. Laid off people, including those now in a temporary job, can also qualify	You give your household income for a needs check.
OSAP	Based on financial need. No single income line is published here to confirm	Use the OSAP estimator.
Indigenous Student Bursary	Financial need, set by your school	Ask your school financial aid office.
GREAT SEED Apprenticeship Award	Financial need	Plus a 70 percent average.
Apprenticeship Incentive and Completion Grants	Closed	No longer open.

We did not find published dollar income brackets for any of these programs. Where a dollar line exists, it is to confirm.

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How to apply for each grant

Canada Apprentice Loan

1. Sign in to My Service Canada Account.
2. Choose Canada Apprentice Loan and apply online. Add your bank details.
3. Apply as early as 3 months before school starts and no later than the last day of school.

Step by step guide

EI during in school training

1. Get your 16 digit reference code when you are approved for full time school.
2. Apply for EI online, up to 7 days before your last day of work.
3. Get a new code for each block of school.

Ontario Tools Grant

1. Watch for an email with an application link once you qualify.
2. Or **apply online**. You need your Client ID and bank details. It takes about 10 minutes, per the application page.
3. Under 18 uses a paper form from your apprenticeship office.

Completion Bonus and Apprentice Development Benefit

For the Completion Bonus, apply within 180 days of getting your certificate. The Development Benefit package comes when you start full time class. For both, contact **Employment Ontario**.

Better Jobs Ontario

1. Book with an Employment Ontario service provider.
2. Show how long you have been out of work, your schooling and past jobs.
3. Research at least 3 schools, including one college and one career college.
4. Give your household income for the needs check.

OSAP and the Indigenous Student Bursary

Apply for OSAP online. For the bursary, use your school's own form.

GREAT SEED Apprenticeship Award

Register with **Grand River Employment and Training** and follow the steps on its page.

Apprenticeship Incentive and Completion Grants

You cannot apply. Both are closed. **Source**

Career of the Day: Agricultural Equipment Technician

2026-10-19

> **Keep the tractors and combines running on farms across Brant.**

An Agricultural Equipment Technician fixes the machines farms depend on. Think tractors, combines and planters.

In our region, Job Bank shows a wage from $25.00 to $49.00 an hour, with a median of $36.71. That is for the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula region in 2023 to 2024.

Skilled Trades Ontario lists 6,280 hours on the job and 720 hours in school. Fanshawe College runs the school part. You need an employer sponsor first. Brant Tractor in Brantford is one local equipment dealer to ask.

Motive power apprentices can get the $1,000 Ontario Tools Grant once they qualify.

All stories

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