

SKILLED TRADES

PROGRAM REPORT

2024-25



JA
British
Columbia

Member of
JA Canada



SKILLED TRADES OVERVIEW



WHY SKILLED TRADES MATTER

Across Canada, the demand for skilled trades is growing rapidly. In B.C. alone, 77,000 additional tradespeople will be needed by 2032 to support expanding industries such as construction, automotive, manufacturing, and related services. These careers offer rewarding, well-paid opportunities that often don't require a four-year university degree. Through hands-on training, apprenticeships, and certifications, students can start building meaningful futures sooner.

Youth need greater access to information and inspiration about careers in the trades. Often, university is viewed as the default path, while in-demand fields such as carpentry, electrical, automotive, culinary, and technology are overlooked. Without greater awareness, Canada risks widening workforce gaps in essential industries.

To help change this, JA offers the Skilled Trades program, featuring World of Choices (Virtual) and the Skilled Trades Summit (In-Person). These experiences connect students with real professionals, open doors to diverse career paths, and prepare them for success in the skilled trades.



“

I love World of Choices! And highlighting the trades is so critical. Well done!

”

- Sarah Campden, Executive Director, Civil Engineering Technologist

PROGRAM COMPONENTS



WORLD OF CHOICES: VIRTUAL EXPLORATION

On February 27, 2025, students joined virtually to learn about Skilled Trades. They explored hands-on professions through discussions with experienced professionals and gained insight into the crucial role these trades play in building and maintaining our infrastructure.

- A live Q&A session allowed students to ask direct questions about pathways into trades.
- The session reached 118 educators and 3,080 students across the province, giving them access to professionals in fields from automotive and construction to services and manufacturing.
- Students walked away with a clearer understanding of how these careers shape communities and what steps they can take to pursue them.

This large-scale reach demonstrates the interest for trades knowledge among youth and the value of giving students access to industry voices, regardless of location.

2025 VOLUNTEERS

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | ONLINE

CONSTRUCTION

SERVICES

MANUFACTURING

AUTOMOTIVE



Mike
Grywacheski
Vice President,
Construction at
Anthem
Properties
Group Ltd.

Steven
Thomson
Superintendent at
Ledcor
Construction
Limited

Aaron
George
Head Chef at
Songhees Food
Truck

Maureen
Phung
Manager, Youth
Programs at
SkilledTradesBC

Krystal
Martin
General
Supervisor of Drill
& Blast, Highland
Valley Copper

Chelsea
Barron
Machinist
Instructor at British
Columbia Institute
of Technology

Danielle
Presley
Heavy Equipment
Technician at
Finning Canada

PROGRAM COMPONENTS



SKILLED TRADES SUMMIT: HANDS-ON IMMERSION

In May 2024 and May 2025, JABC, in partnership with Camosun College and the Colleges & Institutes of Canada, hosted the Skilled Trades Summit on Vancouver Island.

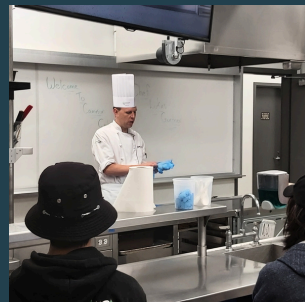
- 2025 Impact: 160 students from five school districts (Greater Victoria, Sooke, Saanich, Gulf Islands, and Cowichan Valley) spent the day at Camosun College exploring trades like Automotive, Carpentry, Culinary, Electrical, Pipe Trades, Electronics, Sheet Metal, and Fine Furniture.
- The day was opened by RBC leaders and featured resources from SkilledTradesBC, ensuring both inspiration and practical next steps for students.
- Through hands-on workshops, students got to try real trades activities, sparking interest in career pathways they may not have considered before.

The Summit provides students with tangible experiences: handling the tools, speaking with professionals, and connecting directly to institutions that can support their career journeys.



PHOTO GALLERY

MAY 2024, 2025 | IN-PERSON



STUDENT OUTCOMES



To support ongoing improvements to our programs, we surveyed students after this year's sessions. Below are the results that reflect their learning experience.

WORLD OF CHOICES | SKILLED TRADES

After participating in the World of Choices program:

- 85%** of students said they have a good understanding of the career and job opportunities that are in demand.
- 77%** of students shared they feel more optimistic about their future career and job path.
- 77%** of students expressed that they have a good understanding of the education and training pathways to the careers they are interested in.

“

I liked how I learned about tax and how business works, so I can be successful in the future.

-Student, Grade 5

I plan to use the information I learned today in the future when I get a job .

-Student, Grade 5

”

SKILLED TRADES SUMMIT

After participating in the Skilled Trades Summit:

- 81%** of students said they know what transferrable skills they need to succeed in a future career in the trades sector.
- 92%** of students stated they feel better equipped to make decisions about preparing for the workforce after participating in this program.
- 79%** of students shared that they feel more optimistic about their future career path.

98% of student participants said they would recommend this program to a classmate or friend.

“

This was a great experience that everyone should get to experience.

-Student, Grade 11

This is a good thing to do, strongly recommend.

-Student, Grade 9

”

THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SUPPORTERS



PROVINCIAL PARTNERS



NATIONAL COMMUNITY PARTNER



NATIONAL SUPPORTING PARTNERS



ABOUT US



JA British Columbia (JABC) is a not-for-profit impact organization that delivers free hands-on, immersive education in work readiness, financial health, and entrepreneurship.

Reaching thousands of young people each year through partnerships with educators, volunteers, and donors, JABC is one of the few organizations with the experience and passion to build a brighter future for the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders.



OUR VISION

A world in which young people have the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities.

PROGRAM REACH

Across British Columbia from July 2024 - June 2025



453 Volunteers



**86,686 Student
Learning Experiences**



655 Educators



**474 Schools and
Venues**



**199 Programs in
26 Indigenous Communities**

LEARN MORE

Find out more about our programs and what we do at jabc.org.



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Years of
Empowering
Lives



JA British Columbia
#570 475 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, British Columbia,
Canada V6B 4M9 jabc.org



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