

ELECTRICIAN



ANNUAL SALARY: \$72,000 - \$89,000* | NOC: 7241 | Red Seal & Compulsory Certified Trade¹

**Based on a 40-hour work week at current collective agreement rates for journeypersons. Does not include benefits.*

WHAT WE DO

Construction electricians plan and assemble, install, make adjustments to, inspect, operate and maintain electrical systems having to do with construction sites. Sometimes, they perform tests to ensure the safety of the same systems. Their other tasks range from reading and interpreting blueprints to analyzing functionality and compatibility of systems prior to, and after, completing installation procedures. The diversity of their work is such that they can be involved with heating, lighting, power and security, communication, and control systems. As a construction electrician, you learn to interpret complex drawings and code specifications, test continuity of circuits, and connect power to audio and visual communication equipment and signal devices. Some of the work overlaps with the jobs of industrial electricians, who work on similar systems once they are put into place.²

Construction electricians **work indoors or outdoors, alone or in a team, and at heights**. They must have **ability to use electronics, good eyesight, physical stamina, and ability to work safely and follow instructions**. They should also have **mechanical aptitude, enough colour vision** for necessary wiring installations, **good hand-eye coordination, reading comprehension, and science and math ability**. Experienced electricians can progress to roles as estimators, electrical inspectors, foremen, and superintendents, or start their own business.³

PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market, job shadow or take a test drive in a trade
- 500 hours toward apprenticeship can be obtained from approved public school programs and experiences like Cooperative Education, Skilled Trades, the Options and Opportunities (O₂) Program, and Building Futures for Youth. 16- to 19-year-olds can become a Youth Apprentice.⁴
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency⁵

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS⁶

- Memorial Composite High School (<http://www.cbv.ns.ca/mchs>) Electrical Program worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credit when you register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)
- The Constructing the Future (Bridging to Apprenticeship) Program from the Black Business Initiative (<http://www.bbi.ca/training>) worth 375 apprenticeship hours
- One-year Electrical Construction and Industrial Certificate Program (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training) and two-year Diploma Program (worth 2000 apprenticeship hours, Level 1 technical training, and some Level 3 and Level 4 technical training); two-year Electrical Technician Diploma (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training); and two-year Electro Mechanical Technician Diploma (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training) from the Nova Scotia Community College (<http://www.nsc.ca>)

DIRECT ENTRY⁷

- Gain employment in a workplace with at least one journeyperson and register as an apprentice
- Must complete 7200 hours of on-the-job experience and 7-week blocks of technical training
- Must write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA
- Additional training is available through the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Locals 625 (Mainland NS and Prince Edward Island) and 1852 (Cape Breton Island)

¹ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>. You **must** be or be working towards becoming certified to work in this trade in NS.

² <http://www.red-seal.ca> and <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca>

³ <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/electrician> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/176>

⁴ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

⁵ <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqconst.htm>

⁶ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁷ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqconst.htm>, <http://energize625.ca/training> and <http://ibew1852.net>

ELECTRICIANS' CAREER PATHWAY

Cooperative Education: Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible. Provides 100 apprenticeship hours per course credit.

Skilled Trades: High school courses satisfying academic requirements and providing 110 apprenticeship hours per course credit (Grades 10 and 11) and a 100-hour co-op placement.

O₂ Program: In-school learning and on-the-job training through 100-hour co-op placements. Available in select high schools. The *Building Futures for Youth Program* is offered primarily for students already enrolled in O₂ or cooperative education and provides upwards to 300 apprenticeship hours in 3 co-op credits.

Youth Apprenticeship: Ages 16-19. Paid hours that can be counted toward trade designation. Find a certified employer and register with the province (\$14.89 fee for identification). May overlap with co-op placements in high school.

Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent

Other Education Programs:

Complete a college or trade school program for advanced credit or experience. Find an employer and register with NSAA for \$148.18 as a new adult apprentice (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice).

Direct Entry:

Obtain employment on own or by contacting a union for indenturing and register with NSAA for \$148.18 (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice and continuing under the same employer).

Technical Training for the Nova Scotia Construction Electrician Apprenticeship Program
(\$90.20 per week. In some cases, it is available in online format. Youth apprentices are exempted until after high school.)

Level 1 – 7 weeks
During 0-1800 hrs. of apprenticeship***)

Level 2 – 7 weeks
1801-3600 hrs.

Level 3 – 7 weeks
3601-5400 hrs.

Level 4 – 7 weeks
5401-7200 hrs.

0-900 hrs. of employment at
45% of journeyperson rate*

\$16.00 –
\$20.86 / hr**

901-1800 hrs. of employment at
50% of journeyperson rate

\$19.55 –
\$25.03 / hr

1801-2700 hrs. of employment at
55% of journeyperson rate

2701-3600 hrs. of employment at
60% of journeyperson rate

3601-4500 hrs. of employment at
65% of journeyperson rate

\$23.11 –
\$29.20 / hr

4501-5400 hrs. of employment at
70% of journeyperson rate

5401-6300 hrs. of employment at
75% of journeyperson rate

\$26.66 –
\$33.38 / hr

6301-7200 hrs. of employment at
80% of journeyperson rate

**Interprovincial Standards
Examination for Designation**
(\$148.18)

* Construction Electrician Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

** Average hourly pay for Commercial and Industrial (non-major and major) work under collective agreement rates for mainland NS and Cape Breton Island as of summer 2016. Apprentices may also be able to access employment insurance benefits while in class and tax incentives (refer to <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/about/financial-assistance>).

*** 6 months of work is considered equivalent to approximately 1000 credit hours. If a program is taken that is pre-approved for advanced credit, an apprentice may be credited with equivalent on-the-job hours and technical training credits.

Note: NS apprenticeship registration and technical training fees are current as of April 2016. If an individual applies to be certified on past experience, they must go through the trade qualification program (<http://nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/forms/TQGP.pdf>) at a cost of \$740.77.