

# PROJECT

# MANAGER



**ANNUAL SALARY: \$49,000 - \$109,000\* | NOC: 0711 | Construction Management**

\* From PayScale ([http://www.payscale.com/research/CA/Job=Project\\_Manager%2c\\_Construction/Salary](http://www.payscale.com/research/CA/Job=Project_Manager%2c_Construction/Salary)). Does not include any benefits.

## WHAT WE DO

Under the direction of a general or senior manager, construction project managers will plan and organize activities that happen on construction projects. From the very beginning of a project to the end, they prepare and submit cost estimates, coordinate the work that leads to completion of milestones, monitor the project's progress against defined schedules, and perform various other tasks in between. These include negotiating and making revisions to contractual agreements, directing other workers with the assigned schedule, implementing quality control, purchasing materials and land, and hiring and supervising subcontractors and staff.

In general, project managers should be **organized** with the **ability to work with different groups of people**. They will normally have **several years of supervisory experience** and **possess training in civil engineering and/or project management education and certifications** (detailed below). In their day-to-day assignments, they will have to be able to **communicate effectively** with others and be highly **safety aware**.<sup>1</sup>

## PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market
- Complete a cooperative education program or job shadow while in high school
- Obtain your high school diploma or equivalency
- Can obtain employment working in the construction industry as a tradesperson and a supervisor
- Can obtain construction trade certification from the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) (<http://nsapprenticeship.ca>)
- Pursue education in civil engineering/project management:
  - The Nova Scotia Community College offers Construction Management Technology and Civil Engineering Technology diploma programs (<http://www.nsc.ca>)
  - Dalhousie University (<http://www.dal.ca>) offers a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering, Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering, Engineering Diploma, and a Project Management Certificate Program through its college of continuing education
  - Saint Mary's University (<http://www.smu.ca>) offers the Certificate in Project Management for the Project Associate, Master's Certificate in Project Management, and Project Management Course, Diploma in Engineering, three-year Bachelor of Science (General) with Diploma in Engineering (providing the first two years of an engineering degree in partnership with Dalhousie), and four-year Bachelor of Science/Diploma in Engineering with a major in mathematics
- Obtain professional designation if pursuing education as an engineer through Engineers Nova Scotia (<http://www.engineersnovascotia.ca>)
  - Complete an undergraduate degree in engineering from a Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (<http://www.engineerscanada.ca>) approved postsecondary institute, apply to become an Engineer-in-Training (EIT), complete four years of experience with supervision, and complete the National Professional Practice Exam (NPPE) (<http://www.apega.ca>)
- The Project Management Institute (<http://www.pmi.org>) offers a Project Management Professional (PMP) designation and Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) designation for project managers:
  - For the PMP, you need to have either a high school diploma with at least five years of project management experience, with 7,500 hours leading and directing projects, and 35 hours of project management education, OR a four-year degree and at least three years of project management experience, with 4,500 hours leading and directing projects, and 35 hours of project management education
  - For CAPM designation, you need to have a high school diploma and at least 1,500 hours of project experience OR 23 hours of project management education to undertake the exam
- Gold Seal Certification (<http://goldsealcertification.com>) is an option as a nationally recognized seal of education:
  - Register as a Gold Seal Intern and obtain 5 years of experience as a Project Manager (two of which can be in an assistant role), 25 education and training credits in approved courses, and 100 Gold Seal credits

<sup>1</sup> <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca> and <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/project-managerproject-coordinator>

# PROJECT MANAGERS' CAREER PATHWAY

**Pursuing Trade Designation or Trade Employment:** Refer to trade pathways for trades represented in the construction industry.

**Cooperative Education:** Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible.

**Job Shadow:** Find a mentor to job shadow while still enrolled in high school.

**Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent**

**Other Education Programs:**  
Complete a university or college program for experience and related technical training.

**Engineering/Technical Education:**

*Bachelor of Civil Engineering  
Bachelor of Science  
Master of Civil Engineering  
Engineering Diploma  
Engineering Technology Diploma  
Other Technical Diploma*

**Project Management Education:**

*Diploma Program  
Certificate Program  
Master's Certificate Program  
Other Related Courses*

**Direct Entry:**

Obtain employment on own (or apply to union with resume) to work in a trade.

*Gain experience working as tradesperson (obtain NSAA trade designation if applicable) and a construction supervisor.*

*Undertake upgrading programs and courses (in box adjacent).*

**Professional Engineer Designation in Nova Scotia (through Engineers Nova Scotia)**

- 1) Completion of undergraduate degree
- 2) 4 years as EIT and completion of NPPE

**Project Management:**

- 1) CAPM: secondary degree with 1,500 hours of project experience OR 23 hours of education to undertake the exam
- 2) PMP: secondary degree with five years of project management experience (7,500 hours leading/directing projects) and 35 hours of education OR four-year degree, three years of project management experience (4,500 hours leading/directing projects) and 35 hours of education

**Gold Seal:**

- 1) Register as Gold Seal Intern
- 2) Obtain five years of experience, 25 education and training credits, and 100 Gold Seal credits

**Progression to Senior Management Role**

**Note:** Professional designation is required to work as a professional engineer in the province of NS. Gold Seal and Project Management designations are optional but encouraged for project managers.