

# INSULATOR



**ANNUAL SALARY: \$73,000 - \$85,000\* | NOC: 7293 | Nova Scotia Designated & Red Seal Trade<sup>1</sup>**

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

## WHAT WE DO

Heat and frost insulators are responsible to work with different insulation material to prevent the passage of heat, cold, moisture, vapour, sound and fire. They not only maintain these materials once they are installed, but also have the job of interpreting design specifications to determine what initially must be installed. Sometimes, insulators will lay out and fabricate parts on the job, or be called upon to seal off or remove older insulation and reduce health risks to adjacent workers or the general public. The structures and systems they might be required to work on include: plumbing, air-handling, heating, cooling and refrigeration, piping and pressure vessels, walls, flooring, and ceiling. An experienced insulator might become a foreman, superintendent, or estimator.

Insulators must be prepared to **work indoors and outdoors**, in **shifts**, and **travel between various locations**. They are required to **work from heights** on scaffolds, aerial lifts, and ladders. People suited for this field will also have **safety awareness, math skills, good physical stamina and coordination, agility**, and the **ability to withstand uncomfortable positions for long periods of time, work alone or in a team, and in confined spaces**.<sup>2</sup>

## PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market, job shadow or take a test drive in a trade
- Hours toward apprenticeship can be obtained from approved public school programs and experiences like Cooperative Education, Skilled Trades, and summer youth programs
- Individuals 16- to 19-year-old can become Youth Apprentices
- Participate in youth Health and Safety courses where offered in Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency

## PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- Related technical training, such as in roofing, carpentry, sheet metal work, and heating and cooling systems
- Some of these programs are available through the Nova Scotia Community College<sup>5</sup>

## DIRECT ENTRY

- Gain employment in a workplace and optionally register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) under a certified journeyperson<sup>6</sup>
- Complete 7200<sup>7</sup> hours as an insulator on-the job and 6- and 7-week block releases<sup>8</sup> through the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers, Local 116, if an apprentice
- Can write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA upon completion of the above requirements<sup>9</sup>
- Other options for training are available through Local 116<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>. Certification/apprenticeship is not presently needed in this trade in NS, but encouraged.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.red-seal.ca>, <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/heat-and-frost-insulator> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/364>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

<sup>4</sup> <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqinsul.htm>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.nsc.ca/learning\\_programs](http://www.nsc.ca/learning_programs)

<sup>6</sup> <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>

<sup>7</sup> <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqinsul.htm>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/pubs/Training\\_Schedule.pdf](http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/pubs/Training_Schedule.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/skilled-workers/red-seal>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.insulators.org>

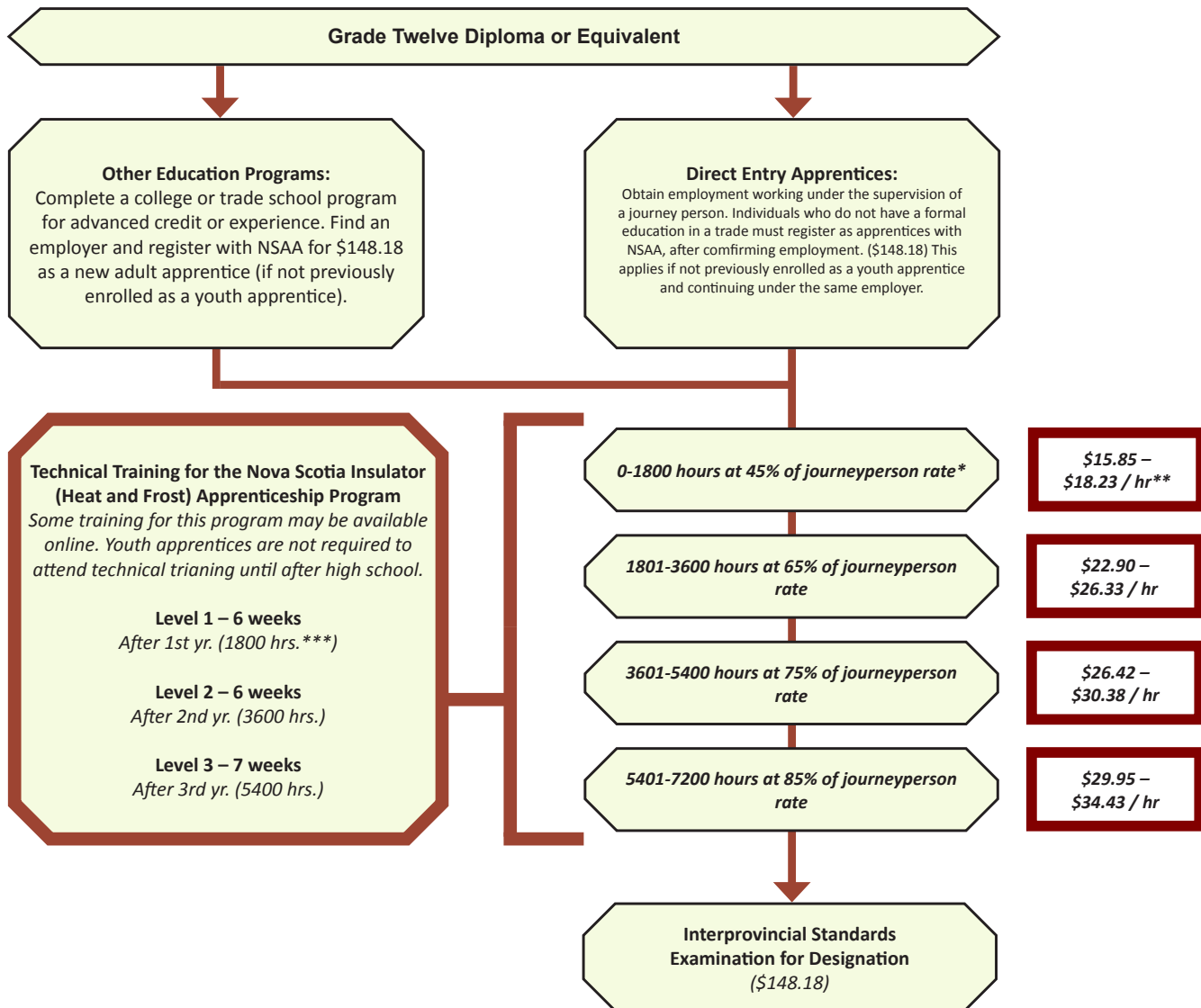
# INSULATORS' CAREER PATHWAY

**Cooperative Education:** Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible. Provides 100 apprenticeship hours per course credit. Co-op placement must be completed under the supervision of a journey person.

**Skilled Trades:** High school courses satisfying academic requirements and providing 110 apprenticeship hours per course credit, if taught by a journey person.

**Summer Youth Programs:** Are available to students in Grades 10 and 11 providing up to 300 apprenticeship hours through a combination of i-class and on-the-job placements, earning the students up to 3 high school Co-op credits.

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



\* Insulator (Heat and Frost) Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

\*\* Average hourly pay for Industrial (major and non-major) and Commercial projects for heat and frost insulators in mainland NS and Cape Breton Island collective agreement rates as of 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 fees are current as of September 2017. 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.