

IRONWORKER



REINFORCING

ANNUAL SALARY: \$62,000 - \$82,000* | NOC: 7236 | Nova Scotia Designated & Red Seal Trade¹

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

WHAT WE DO

Ironworkers are broken down into three categories: generalists, structural/ornamental, and reinforcing. Those who work as reinforcing ironworkers will cut, bend, lay, place, and weld reinforcing rods, welded wire fabrics, and composite materials. They work in a variety of settings, from buildings to highways, bridges, stadiums, towers, and parking garages. At times, they will work with post-tensioning systems, hydraulic jacks and pumps, unload fabricated or straight reinforcing materials, and place these for hoisting as needed.

Reinforcing ironworkers are required to work cooperatively with other construction tradespeople, such as structural/ornamental ironworkers, crane operators, steel detailers, welders, carpenters, concrete finishers, and metal fabrication workers.²

Some reinforcing ironworkers will look for defects in structures and identify equipment deterioration. When making supports for structures, they will position and secure steel bars or mesh in concrete forms. In most of their tasks, it is necessary for them to **read blueprints and design specifications**.³ They must be prepared to **work outdoors and at heights, lift heavy materials, travel**, and work on a **sometimes seasonal basis** and under **poor weather conditions**. Suitable job candidates are **good planners** with **physical stamina, agility, safety awareness, mechanical aptitude, physical strength, coordination**, and **math and artistic ability**.⁴

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.⁵
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of NS
- High School Diploma or Equivalency⁶

DIRECT ENTRY

- Gain employment in a workplace and optionally register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) under a certified journeyperson⁷
- Complete 3600 hours as an ironworker on the job⁸ and 7- and 8-week technical training⁹ if an apprentice
- Can write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA with the completion of the above requirements¹⁰
- Other options for training are available through the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, Local 752¹¹

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

² <http://www.red-seal.ca>

³ <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/noc>

⁴ <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/ironworkerstructural-metal-fabricator-and-fitter> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/355>

⁵ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

⁶ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqgenrl.htm>

⁷ <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁸ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqironreinforcing.htm>

⁹ http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/pubs/Training_Schedule.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/skilled-workers/red-seal>

¹¹ <http://www.ironworkers.org/get-involved/find-a-local?u=272>

IRONWORKER (REINFORCING) 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

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 Ironworker (Reinforcing) 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 – 8 weeks
1st yr.

Level 2 – 7 weeks
2nd yr.

0-900 hours of employment at
70% of journeyperson rate*

\$21.33 –
\$26.59 / hr**

901-1800 hours of employment at
75% of journeyperson rate

\$22.85 –
\$28.49 / hr

1801-2700 hours of employment at
80% of journeyperson rate

\$24.38 –
\$30.39 / hr

2701-3600 hours of employment at
90% of journeyperson rate

\$27.42 –
\$34.19 / hr

Interprovincial Standards
Examination for Designation
(\$148.18)

* Ironworker (Reinforcing) Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

** Average hourly pay under collective agreement rates for mainland NS and Cape Breton Island apprentices for Commercial and Industrial work (major and non-major projects) 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 upon registration as an apprentice.

Note: NS apprenticeship registration and technical training fees are current as of April 2015. 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.