



PAINTER

ANNUAL SALARY: \$43,000 - \$80,000* | NOC: 7294 | Nova Scotia Designated & Red Seal Trade¹

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

WHAT WE DO

Painters are responsible to apply finishes in residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial construction projects. In doing so, they prepare surfaces such as wood, drywall, stucco and metal, etc., for paint, high performance coatings, waterproofing, and fireproofing. Usually, painters are employed by construction companies to perform the work on either various sites or the same site over many years.² Painters will apply wallpaper, read job specifications to determine the amount of materials that they need to complete a project, clean surfaces through scraping, sanding, sandblasting, hydro-blasting and steaming, remove old wallpaper and paint, repair cracks and other holes in walls, and apply sealer as necessary. Before applying their paint, they have to mix and thin it to the desired colour and texture. Painters also assemble and erect scaffolding, advise customers, and provide estimates.³

Painters must be prepared to have **variable work days that change with the seasons and are highly dependent on the weather**. They **work in shifts, on their own or in a team, indoors and outdoors, in uncomfortable positions, and at heights**. Persons suited for this trade typically should have **math skills, good physical stamina, focus, agility, and coordination**, the ability to **lift heavy objects and climb**, and **safety awareness**. They will also be able to **understand drafting specifications and read and interpret blueprints**. With experience, a person employed in this trade can progress to supervisory roles, or start a business.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

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

- Available through the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 39⁷

DIRECT ENTRY

- Be employed and optionally register as an apprentice under a journeyperson to be certified⁸
- Complete 5400⁹ hours of on-the-job experience (if an apprentice) and technical training as required and made available by employers or unions
- Can write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) if you complete the above hours¹⁰
- Length of apprenticeship varies with each employer or union. There is no training offered from the province.

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/painter-and-decorator> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/364>

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/atqpaint.htm>

⁷ <http://www.dc39.ca>

⁸ <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁹ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqpaint.htm>

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

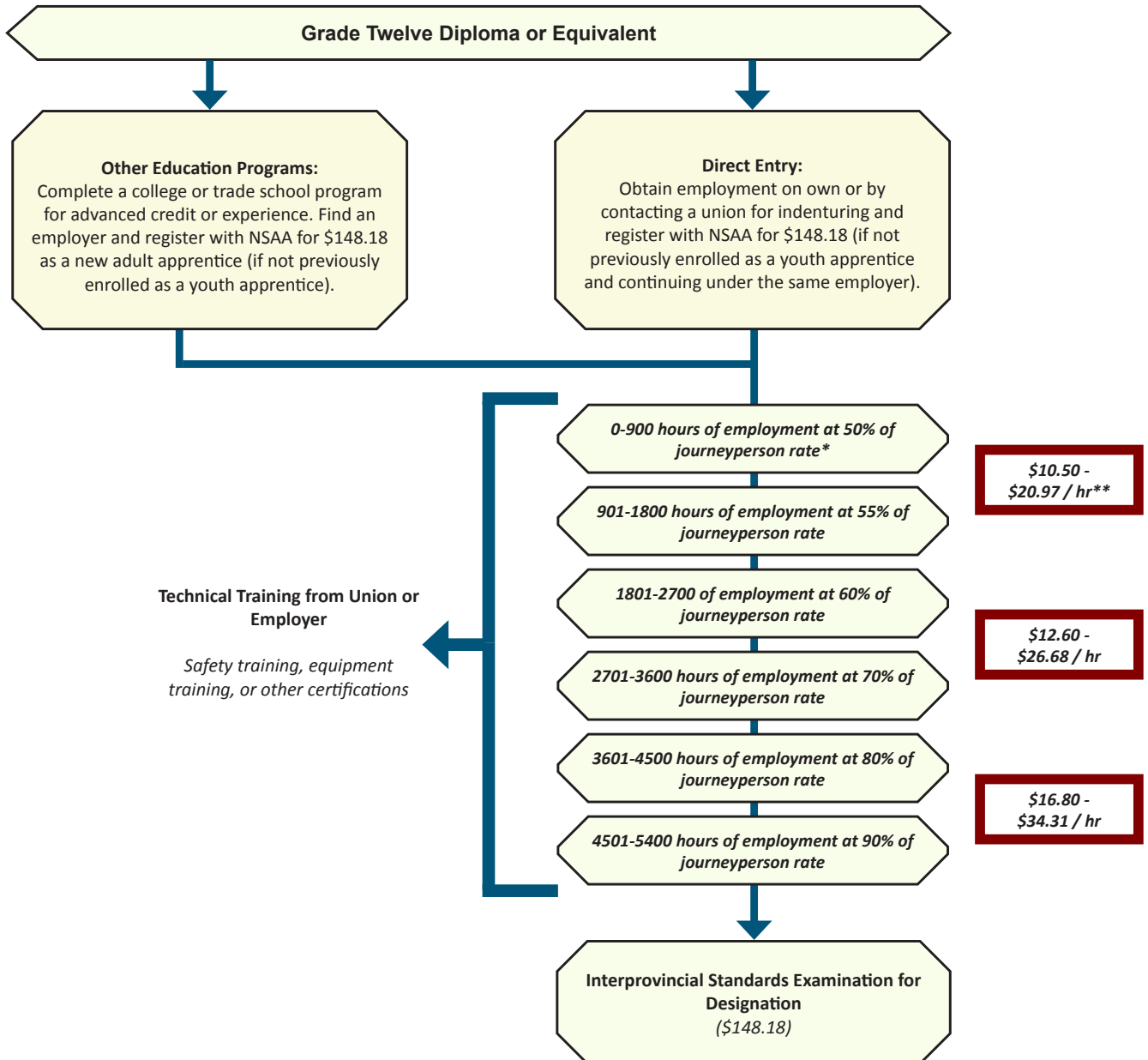
PAINTERS' CAREER PATHWAY

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.



* Painter Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

** Average hourly pay for major and non-major Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (new and re-paint) projects for mainland NS and Cape Breton Island for painting work (including tasks such as drywall finishing) 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>).

Note: 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. The NS apprenticeship registration fee is 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.