

# SHEET

# METAL

# WORKER



**ANNUAL SALARY: \$56,000 - \$82,000\* | NOC: 7233 | Red Seal & Compulsory Certified 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

Sheet metal workers are responsible to design, lay out, measure, fabricate, assemble, or repair sheet metal products. They work with tools such as power shears, press brakes, drill presses, and even computerized cutting equipment, and materials like black iron, galvanized steel, stainless steel, aluminum, copper, brass, nickel, and tin, but also use other alloys and metal substitutes. Some people working in this trade choose to specialize in areas such as installation, shop manufacturing, or servicing and maintenance.<sup>2</sup>

Generally, sheet metal workers perform a number of tasks in the course of their work, such as reading engineering and architectural drawings, developing patterns for sheet metal using computer-assisted design and drafting software, operating metalworking machines and cutting equipment, fitting and joining sheet metal parts, grinding off and buffing seams, joints and other rough surfaces, and conducting quality inspections.<sup>3</sup>

Sheet metal workers **work indoors and outdoors, seasonally, both on construction sites and in shops, at heights, and independently or in a team.** They are required to **lift heavy materials** and **stay in uncomfortable positions for long periods of time.** Persons suited for this trade are **safety aware**, have **physical stamina, agility, coordination, reading comprehension skills, math skills,** and **technology skills.** With experience, a sheet metal worker can become a specialist in design or layout work, or in estimating costs, or advance to supervisory roles or start their own business.<sup>4</sup>

## 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 (O<sub>2</sub>) Program, and Building Futures for Youth. 16- to 19-year-olds can become a Youth Apprentice.<sup>5</sup>
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency<sup>6</sup>

## PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS<sup>7</sup>

- Nova Scotia Community College's 20-week Sheet Metal Worker Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate of Accomplishment Program, worth 600 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credit when you register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)

## DIRECT ENTRY

- Gain employment in a workplace and register as an apprentice with the NSAA under a certified journeyperson<sup>8</sup>
- Must complete 7200<sup>9</sup> hours as a sheet metal worker and 6- and 8-week technical training<sup>10</sup>
- Must write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA<sup>11</sup>
- Additional training is available through the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, Locals 409 (Halifax) and 56 (Sydney)<sup>12</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.red-seal.ca>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/sheet-metal-worker> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/361>

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

<sup>6</sup> <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/reg/atqsheet.htm>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www.nsc.ca/learning\\_programs](http://www.nsc.ca/learning_programs)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca>

<sup>9</sup> <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>

<sup>10</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>11</sup> <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/skilled-workers/red-seal>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.smw409.ca> and <http://www.smr56.ca>

# SHEET METAL WORKERS' CAREER PATHWAY

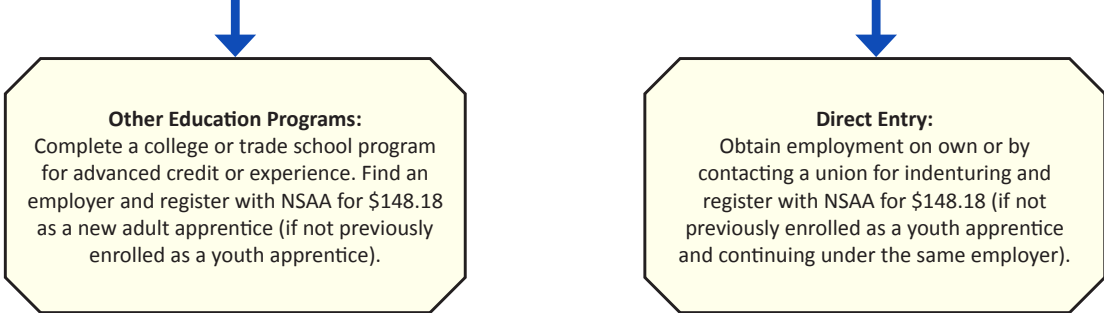
**Cooperative Education:** Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible. Provides 100 apprenticeship hours per course credit.

**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.

**O<sub>2</sub> 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 O<sub>2</sub> or cooperative education and provides upwards to 300 apprenticeship hours in 3 co-op credits.

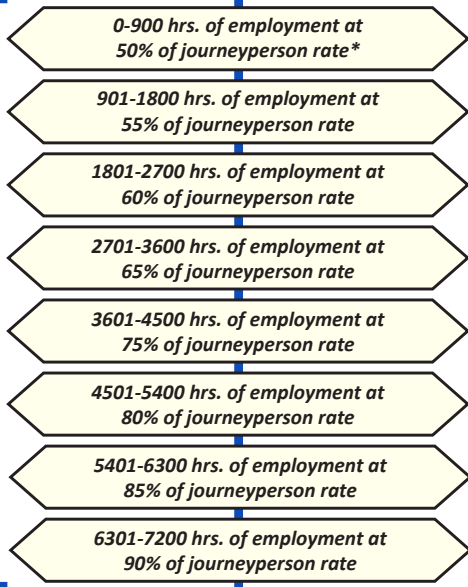
**Youth Apprenticeship:** Ages 16-19. Paid hours that can be counted toward trade designation. Find a certified employer and register with the province (\$14.89 fee for identification). May overlap with co-op placements in high school.

**Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent**



**Technical Training for the Nova Scotia Sheet Metal Worker 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**  
*During 0-1800 hrs. of apprenticeship\*\*\*)*
- Level 2 – 6 weeks**  
*1801-3600 hrs.*
- Level 3 – 6 weeks**  
*3601-5400 hrs.*
- Level 4 – 6 weeks**  
*5401-7200 hrs.*



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

\* Sheet Metal Worker Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.  
 \*\* Average hourly pay for light and non-light Commercial, major and non-major Industrial, decking and non-decking work for mainland NS and Cape Breton Island as of summer 2016 collective agreement rates. Apprentices may also be able to access employment insurance benefits while in class and tax incentives (for more information go 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.