



# STEAMFITTER/PIPEFITTER

ANNUAL SALARY: \$58,000 - \$84,000\* | NOC: 7252 | Red Seal & Compulsory Certified Trade<sup>1</sup>

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

## WHAT WE DO

Steamfitters/pipefitters are responsible for laying, fabricating, maintaining, installing, repairing, and servicing equipment and piping systems for water, steam, gases, chemicals, and fuel. They must be able to utilize drawings, specifications, and codes to measure and make adjustments to metal, plastic, and fibreglass pipes, valves and fittings, and check systems for leaks or other imperfections. On occasion, steamfitters/pipefitters may be called in to replace worn sections of piping or perform quality control checks. Steamfitters/pipefitters use blueprints and other drawings to cut openings for piping with power tools, decide on the appropriate sections of pipes for each job, weld, braze, cement, solder, thread pipe joints, and flush systems. The work itself is complex and requires individuals who can perform a variety of tasks throughout the day.<sup>2</sup>

Steamfitters/pipefitters are expected to **work in shifts, travel, be coordinated and methodical, and have mechanical aptitude, planning skills, and patience.** Persons suited for this trade are **safety aware, agile,** and able to **climb to heights and work in cramped spaces,** and have the ability to **learn and understand blueprints.** Experienced steamfitters/pipefitters can become foremen, superintendents, or start their own business.<sup>3</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>4</sup>
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency<sup>5</sup>

## PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS<sup>6</sup>

- Memorial Composite High School (<http://www.cbv.ns.ca/mchs>) Plumbing Program worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credit when you register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)
- Nova Scotia Community College's one-year Steamfitting/Pipefitting Certificate Program (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credits), two-year Pipe Trades Diploma Program (worth 2000 apprenticeship hours and Level 1 technical training credits), and one-year Plumbing Certificate Program (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and some Level 1 technical training credits)<sup>7</sup>
- 12-week Steamfitter/Pipefitter Pre-Employment Program worth 510 apprenticeship hours from the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA), Local 56 (through the UA 56 Pipe Trades Career College)<sup>8</sup>

## DIRECT ENTRY<sup>9</sup>

- Gain employment in a workplace with at least one journeyperson and register as an apprentice
- Must complete 7200 hours of on-the-job experience and 6- and 7-week technical training
- Must write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA
- Additional training is available through UA Locals 56, 244 and 682

<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> and <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/steamfitterpipefittersprinkler-system-installer> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/157>

<sup>4</sup> <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

<sup>5</sup> <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqgenrl.htm>

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

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

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ualocal56.ca>

<sup>9</sup> <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqsteamfitter.htm>, [www.ua.org](http://www.ua.org) and <http://www.ualocal682.ca>

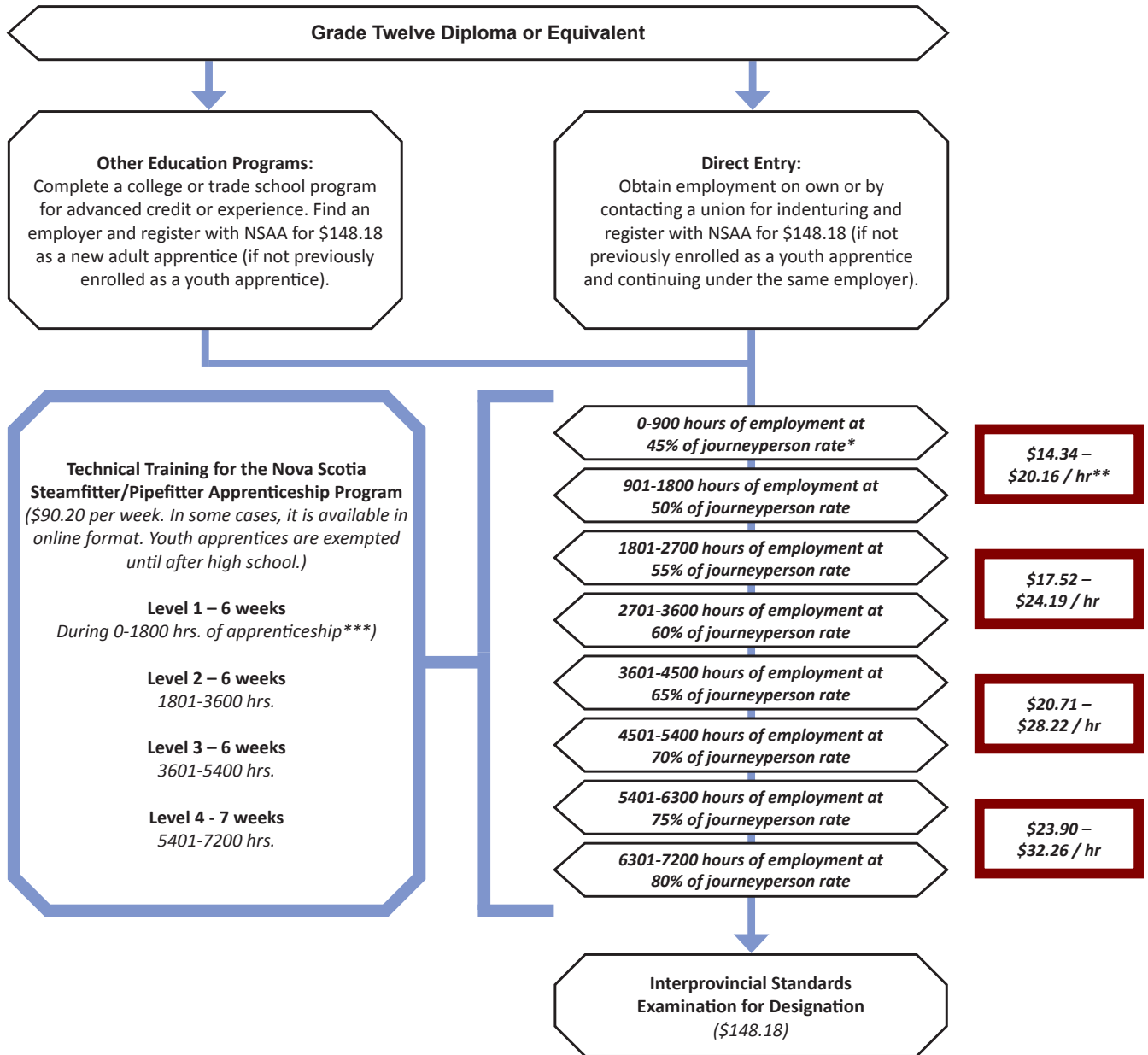
# STEAMFITTERS/PIPEFITTERS' CAREER PATHWAY

**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.



\* Steamfitter/Pipefitter Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

\*\* Average hourly pay for Industrial, light and heavy Commercial, Institutional, and small jobs work under summer 2016 mainland NS and Cape Breton Island collective agreement rates.

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 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.