

# For your Information

## Automotive Service Technician Program Updates



### Alberta's Automotive Service Technician apprenticeship program is being updated!

Vehicles are changing fast – apprenticeship education for Automotive Service Technicians (AST) is keeping up.

- The updated AST curriculum will make sure Alberta's AST apprentices learn the skills needed on the job today and into the future.
- The changes also make sure Alberta's AST program is in line with Red Seal standards, making it easier for Alberta journeypersons to work anywhere in Canada.

### Curriculum Updates

Here's a quick look at some of the key changes:

- **1st period:**
  - More training on vehicle hoist safety and use
  - New information about trailers and trailer hitches
  - More focus on following maintenance schedules
  - Introduction to HVAC system safety and recharging
  - Introduction to hybrid and electric vehicle safety
- **2nd period:**
  - New section on gas metal arc welding
  - More detail on transaxles, final drive gear set, and axle shafts and bearings
- **3rd period:**
  - More focus on vibration analysis
  - New information on advanced driver assistance systems
  - Added types of diagnostic tests
- **4th period:**
  - More training on diesel vehicles and transmissions
  - New section on electric and hybrid vehicle control system diagnosis

### Hours and Weeks Updates

Total program length is about the same, but how it's split between classroom and on-the-job hours is changing.

- **Classroom Instruction:**
  - Increases from 8 weeks to 9 weeks each period.
- **On-the-job hours:**
  - For new apprentices (starting August 29, 2025 or later):
  - Decreases from 1,560 to 1,530 hours per year
  - For current apprentices (starting before August 29, 2025):
    - No change. On-the-job hours remain at 1,560 per period.
  - Apprentices keep their existing record book. No updates are required, and no progress is lost.
- **Trades Qualifier – Work Experience Program:**
  - Hours: Decreasing from 9,360 to 9,180 (*for applicants on or after August 29, 2025*).
  - Months: No change. Remains 72 months.

### Timeline

- **Periods 1 and 2** changes start in **2025/26** school year.
- **Periods 3 and 4** changes start in the **2026/27** school year.