

Roles and Responsibilities under the Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act (STAEA)



The *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act* (STAEA) defines how apprenticeship education and skilled trades certification work in Alberta. It explains who is responsible for setting standards, overseeing apprenticeship education, and issuing certification, so apprentices, employers, and training providers know what to expect.

Roles and Responsibilities Under the STAEA

Alberta's apprenticeship education and skilled trades system is supported by three main roles:

- the Registrar of Apprenticeship Education
- the Administrator of Designated Trades
- the Alberta Board of Skilled Trades (ABST)

Each role has a specific responsibility under STAEA. Together, they help make sure classroom and on-the-job learning and certification are consistent, up to date, and aligned with industry needs.

Registrar of Apprenticeship Education – Apprenticeship Learning

The Registrar is responsible for overseeing apprenticeship education in Alberta. This includes setting requirements for apprenticeship education programs and approving how apprenticeship learning is delivered through employers, post-secondary institutions, and other approved training providers.

The Registrar:

- oversees apprenticeship education programs.
- registers apprentices and approves apprenticeship agreements.
- sets and oversees requirements for classroom instruction (delivered by approved training providers) and on-the-job learning (delivered by employers).
- manages funding allocated by the Minister of Advanced Education.
- issues education credentials when apprenticeship programs are completed.
- maintains official apprenticeship education records.

Administrator of Designated Trades – Skilled Trade Certification

The Administrator of Designated Trades is responsible for skilled trade certification. This role focuses on assessing qualifications and issuing certification for designated trades.

The Administrator:

- manages trade certification for designated trades.
- assesses eligibility for certification.
- schedules and administers certification exams.
- issues journey person certification and Red Seal endorsements.
- maintains certification records.
- monitors compliance with restricted activities.

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Alberta Board of Skilled Trades (ABST) – Industry Expertise

The Alberta Board of Skilled Trades brings industry knowledge into the skilled trades system. Its role is to make sure standards reflect how work is actually done on the job.

The ABST:

- provides advice to the Minister and government on skilled trades.
- sets standards for journeyman certification.
- sets standards for recognizing out-of-province skilled trades certifications as equivalent in Alberta.
- reviews trades and scopes of practice.
- identifies industry trends and workforce needs.
- recommends updates so apprenticeship programs stay aligned with workplace practices.

The ABST plays an important role in providing advice and issues Board Orders, as needed, to ensure trade certification standards align with industry needs. It does not establish training standards or issue education credentials or journeyman certificates.

How the Roles Work Together

Each role under STAEA has a different responsibility, but they are designed to work together as part of one system.

Industry identifies skills needs, emerging trends, and pressures in the workforce. The Alberta Board of Skilled Trades reviews industry input and sets certification standards to ensure they align with industry needs. The Registrar oversees apprenticeship education and issues education credentials, while the Administrator applies certification standards in practice and issues journeyman certification.

This approach helps ensure that apprenticeship education and trade certification are consistent across Alberta, while still reflecting real-world industry needs.

