

# **TRY THE TRADES**

MANITOBA BUILDING TRADES EXHIBITION HALL



## **VISITOR GUIDE**

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# DISCOVER CAREERS FOR CREATORS

**TRY THE**



**TRADES**

MANITOBA BUILDING TRADES EXHIBITION HALL

# WHAT IS TRY THE TRADES?

From the Notre Dame to the Taj Mahal, hands of skilled workers have been drawn to create magnificent structures and push the boundaries of what's possible. That same creative spirit lives on in thousands of young people across Canada and the world today.

The Manitoba Building Trades Institute seeks to show students how an apprenticeship and career in the skilled trades industry can set them up for success and put them at the forefront of building strong communities.

**Try The Trades at MBTI is a free trades exposure program for high schools and youth groups across Manitoba giving students a first-hand look at careers in the construction industry.**

In addition to testing technical gear, tools, and participating in practical activities, students will have access to advanced VR and AR simulators during their visit.

Whether it's the experience of walking across a beam, laying brick, or operating a crane, Try The Trades' training gives students a genuine feel for work in the skilled trades while eliminating the real-life risks.



# HOW DOES IT WORK?

- 4** Hour Workshops for High School Students
- 12** Interactive Booths Staffed by Expert Tradespersons
- 30** Different Skilled Trades Careers to Explore

During a 3-4 hour visit to our Trades Exhibition Hall, classes of 24-36 students will be given access to lockers and receive a full set of Personal Protective Equipment. This includes:

- *Hard Hat*
- *Safety Glasses*
- *Utility Gloves*
- *Hi-Vis Vest*
- *Note: Students must wear closed toe shoes*

A brief video will provide an overview of the Try The Trades experience and a safety orientation before students start exploring the skilled trades. In small groups of 2-3, students will be assigned a trade booth as a starting point.

From there, students will circuit through 12 different trade booths, spending approx. 15 minutes with each trade. There, they'll get the chance to hear journeyman demonstrators speak about their industry experiences, ask questions, participate in a variety of practical, hands-on activities.



# COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS

MBTI is dedicated to creating a healthy and safe environment for all visitors and staff. To minimize the spread of COVID-19 we have implemented the following safety procedures:

- High touch surfaces are sanitized frequently.
- Each booth is equipped with hand sanitizer and surface sanitizing spray.
- PPE equipment and VR headsets are UV sanitized between each group visit.

Please note that indoor mask use will be enforced at the discretion of MBTI instructors in accordance with current Manitoba public health orders.



# START YOUR CAREER JOURNEY

Early exposure is only the first step to skilled trades success. To help students on their career journeys, we focus on identifying **2 key elements**:

**INTEREST** – Can the student envision themselves in a skilled trade career? Do they have a full grasp of the day to day of a particular trade? Are they informed about both the positive and negative aspects of a particular trade? Do they understand education requirements and potential skill upgrading required for success in the apprenticeship system?

**APTITUDE** – How does the student's existing skills and preferences align with a particular trade?

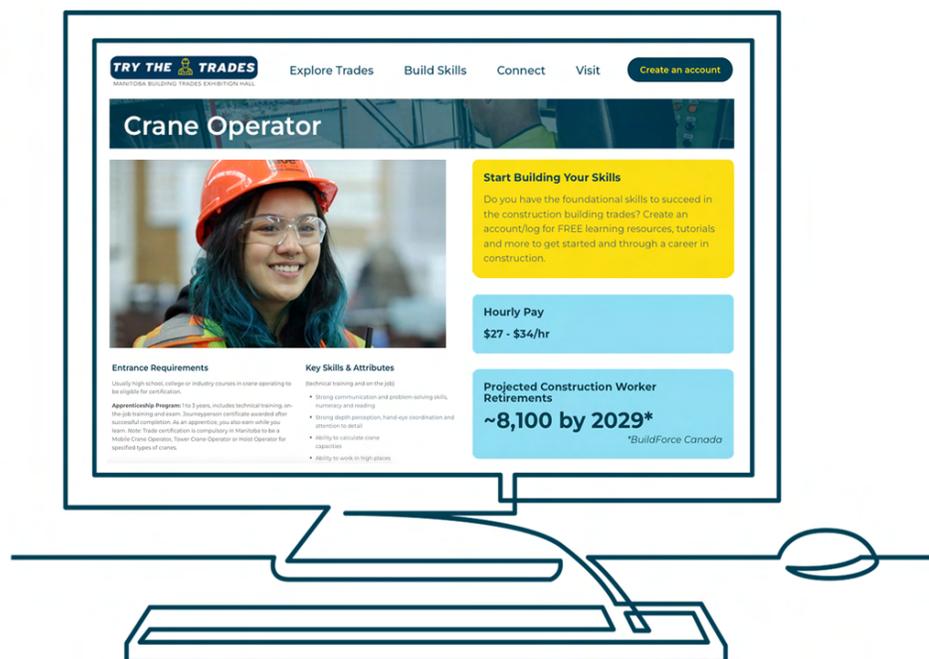
Recognizing that education and personal development is a journey, work in the skilled trades can be emotionally, physically, and mentally demanding and it is important for students to be given the information, assessments and learning materials to make an informed choice about working in the trades.

An in-person visit to Try The Trades will help stimulate interest while exploring aptitude can be done from anywhere using the **Try The Trades Online Construction Hub**.

**Visit [TryTheTradesMB.ca](https://www.trythetradescanada.ca)**

Our new Online Construction Hub is complete with industry info, videos, testimonials, and essential skill tests for math and literacy.

This portal will assist educators in identifying and assessing youth looking to progress on their trades journey by creating skills benchmarks with additional learning resources.



# CONSTRUCTION HUB ONLINE USER GUIDE

## EXPLORE THE TRADES

**NOTE:** To get the most out of TryTheTradesMB.ca we suggest using Google Chrome.

Curious about working in the Canadian construction industry but not sure which trade is the best fit for you? Start your career journey here! Explore each of our Try The Trades career pages and learn about over 30 different trades career options. You'll discover:

- Salary information
- Job details (duties and responsibilities)
- Skills for success
- Region-specific entry requirements and apprenticeship info
- Fun facts and statistics

**GALLERY:** Browse the video gallery to get a behind the scenes look at the roles, responsibilities and skillsets of workers in the Canadian construction industry. Plus, hear stories from real trades professionals about their experiences working in the field.

**TRADE CARDS:** Want to save info about a trade that interests you for later? Each career page comes with a printable PDF trade card with all the key info.

## BUILD YOUR SKILLS

Now that you've had a chance to explore and learn about the many exciting careers in the trades, it's time to assess your skills using our interactive Try The Trades Learning Centre.

1. Visit the Try The Trades home page and click "Build Your Skills."
2. Create an account. Once you've signed in, you'll be taken to your job seeker dashboard. Here you'll find an updated list of career resources specific to the construction industry.



3. Click the grid icon in the top right panel and select "Learning Centre."
4. Click "Start Here" to access the list of skilled trades learning assessment courses.

### HOW TO SELECT A LEARNING CENTRE COURSE:

- Choose a course from the list and select "Enroll"
- Click the SkillPlan icon in the top left corner to return to the landing page. You should now see new courses appear in the "My Courses" section.
- Select the course you would like to start and begin working your way through the assessment modules.

## CONNECT TO OPPORTUNITIES

The unionized building trades are the best trained, most productive and highest-quality workers in the country. Learn how joining a union can support you in your successful career by providing safe working conditions, benefits, flexibility and job satisfaction.

- Find links, contact info and resources from Manitoba Building Trades' affiliated unions.



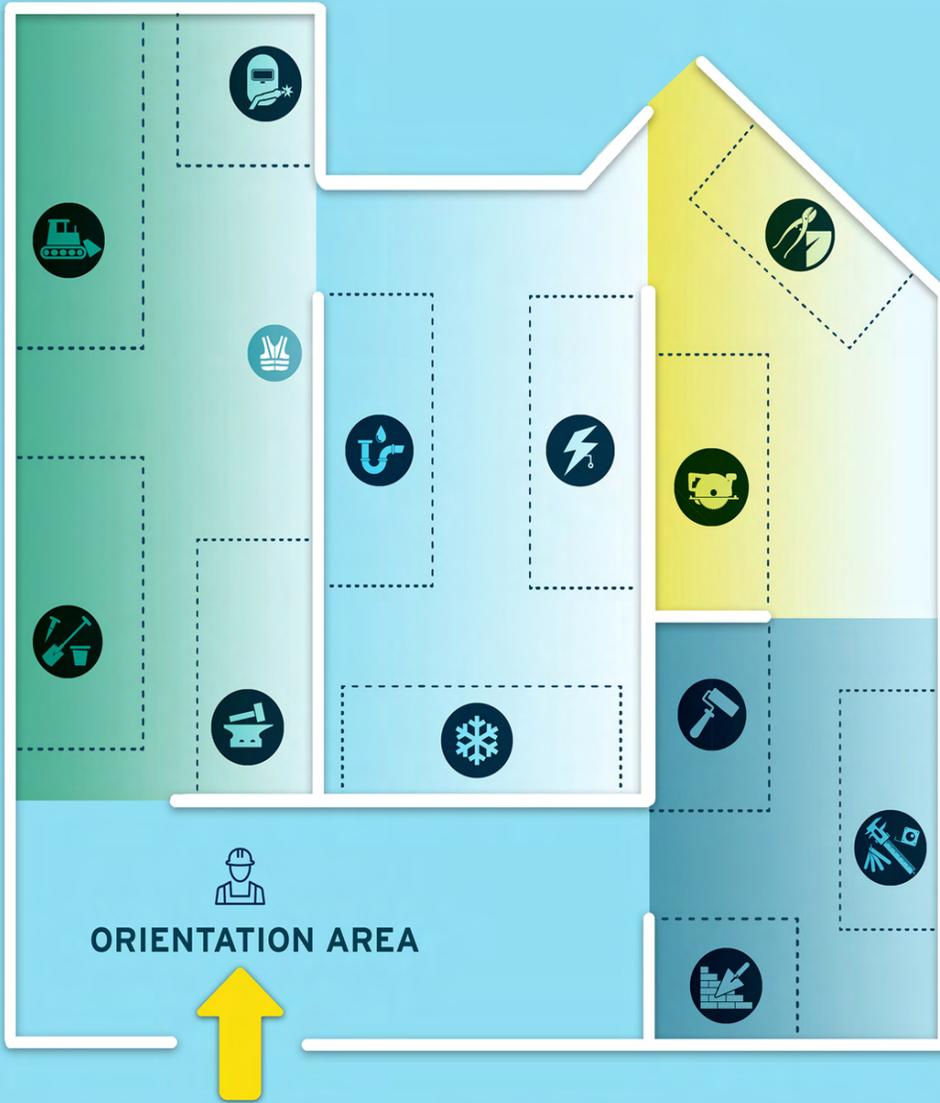
Learn More at [TryTheTradesMB.ca](https://www.TryTheTradesMB.ca)

Book Your Visit Today



204-956-7425

# EXHIBITION HALL MAP



## TRADE BOOTHS

-  LABOURERS/  
CONCRETE FINISHERS
-  IRONWORKERS
-  HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
OPERATORS
-  CARPENTERS
-  PIPING TRADES
-  INSULATORS
-  ELECTRICIANS
-  SHEETMETAL
-  BOILERMAKERS
-  MILLWRIGHTS
-  BRICKLAYERS
-  PAINTERS



# ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN



## Labourers / Concrete Finishers

Labourers use diverse skills in a variety of construction activities, including preparing construction sites, moving equipment and materials, installing water and sewer lines, operating hand tools, often working with concrete, and cleaning up finished sites. They are essential in assisting many other trades on site.

**ACTIVITY:** Hands-on introduction to concrete forming. Students will use various trowels, levels and edge trowels to build out common concrete forms like sidewalks and pillars.



## Ironworkers

Ironworkers assemble, hoist, repair and service steel framework and other metals and materials used in buildings, bridges, highways, dams and other structures. They can manufacture prefabricated construction components and buildings, and custom-fabricate fine wrought-iron architectural ornamentation.

**ACTIVITY:** Ironworkers must love heights! Students will get a feel for wearing a full fall protection harness and test their balance walking across a steel I-beam (Don't worry, it's on the ground). To take it to the next level, try the virtual reality glasses and experience what working conditions are like at 30 stories high!



## Operating Engineers

Heavy equipment operators run heavy equipment used in the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, airports, gas and oil pipelines, tunnels, buildings and other structures, typically on construction sites and in industrial zones.

**ACTIVITY:** While we can't exactly put students in a front-end loader... we can do the next best thing. Students will get in the virtual driver's seat of common heavy equipment machines with our two simulators. The technology built into our simulator ensures that they duplicate physical equipment behavior, response, and terrain/load interactions to provide the most realistic operator experience in the industry.

# ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN



## Boilermakers

Boilermakers build, repair, test and maintain all types of boilers, tanks and pressure vessels and related metal products for building manufacturing and industrial processes in heavy industry. They perform structural and plate work on dust, air, gas, steam, oil, water and other liquid-tight containers.

**ACTIVITY:** Boilermakers are the best welders out there! Students will learn the basics of welding and try out their skills on the welding simulator. The simulator has realistic puddle to help students respond and adjust their welding technique. Simulates sparks, slag, grinding and weld cooling.



## Piping Trades

The piping trades include plumbers, pipe fitters, steam fitters, HVAC installers, and sprinkler fitters. Piping trades workers install, remodel, and maintain systems that carry water, steam, air and other liquids or gases necessary for sanitation, industrial production, heating, air conditioning and many other systems. They measure, cut and bend pipe, and weld, caulk, solder, glue or thread joints at residential, commercial and industrial job sites.

**ACTIVITY:** We take the walls down and show students what plumbing really looks like residential and commercial buildings. Our custom stand-alone sprinkler fitter simulators allow students to cut and secure pipe in a self-contained motorized system. Once students pipe the water supply and drainage, they can flip the switch and see their sprinkler in action.



## Insulators

Heat and frost insulators work with more than just heating and cooling, they also help reduce the passage of sound, air, smoke and fire. They are essential to every large institutional, commercial and industrial construction project in the country, as well as residential construction. As Canada looks to address climate change, building energy efficiency is critical. Insulators will be in-demand for new builds and retrofits.

**ACTIVITY:** Students participate in hands-on insulation application to various structures, including pipes and framing. After insulation is applied, students will be able to test their work with an energy efficiency and heat loss test!

# ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN



## Electricians

Electricians install new electrical systems and test, replace, upgrade and service existing systems in all types of buildings and structures. There's also growing demand for specialized work with controls, fiber optics and communication and computer networks.

**ACTIVITY:** Students will be exposed to the wide variety of work for electricians – from simple switches and industrial conduit to lineman jobs on large hydro towers. Students will bend conduit of different sizes, try pulling wire from within a wall, and install switches on an electrical panel (nothing is connected to power – of course).



## Sheetmetal

Sheet metal workers design, create, assemble, install and repair sheet metal products, including heating, venting and air conditioning systems, pollution control systems and other metal structures. They work indoors and outdoors, on construction sites and in shops. They work with sheet metal, air-conditioning, heating and roofing contractors, fabrication shops or manufacturing companies.

**ACTIVITY:** At this booth, students will receive a PPE upgrade with cut-proof gloves as they handle different types of metal and roofing materials. Students will learn the basics of how industrial steel ducting is assembled by taking apart and putting back together our Try The Trades "Iron Man."

**Additional/Alternate:** Under the instruction of the booth demonstrator, students will use sets of pliers and snips to form sheet metal into whistles they can take home as a Try The Trades souvenir.



## Painters

Painters apply paints and a range of coatings to protect interior and exterior surfaces and structures from weather, mold and erosion. Solvents, fire retardants and sealants are examples of materials they apply to structures such as bridges, pipelines, towers, dams, machinery and industrial complexes.

**ACTIVITY:** Experience a career as an industrial painter - virtually. Our simulator is the leading training tool for the painting and coating industry. Learn about the painting trade in a fun and engaging way while testing your spray painting precision.

# ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN



## Carpentry + Scaffolding

Carpenters construct, maintain and repair structures made of wood and wood substitutes, steel, concrete and other materials. Scaffolders assemble systems that are temporary structures used to support equipment and material and to provide access for workers in the construction and maintenance of buildings and facilities.

**ACTIVITY:** Build Your Own Scaffolding! Explore the wide range of carpentry tools at the Try The Trades woodshop. Demonstrators will show students proper techniques for hammering and cutting wood to specifications. Students also have the chance to properly assemble a complete scaffolding unit. This is our loudest trade booth!



## Millwrights

Millwrights install, service, and repair all types of industrial machinery and heavy equipment used in many industries. They work on a range of equipment like pumps, compressors, turbines and mining equipment using a combination of hand, power and precision tools. Millwrights also develop strong blueprint reading and troubleshooting skills in pneumatics, hydraulics and other specialized fields.

**ACTIVITY:** For millwrights, it's all about measurement and accuracy. Students will handle the most diverse set of tools in the skilled trades. They will use micrometers to test their measurement accuracy on small parts, and survey large structures with a top-of-the-line total station tripod.



## Bricklayers

Bricklayers are essential for creating sturdy structures. They work with masonry materials such as brick, concrete block, stone, structural tile and pre-cast panels to construct and repair structures like walls, partitions, patios, arches, fireplaces, chimneys and other elements.

**ACTIVITY:** See what it's like to assemble a brick wall from the ground up! With the use of classroom lime mortar, students will handle various materials to prep, lay out, and apply brick tile to a real wall.

# MBTI AQUAPONICS LAB

## ADD ON-EXPERIENCE: AQUAPONICS + URBAN AGRICULTURE

We offer optional afternoon sessions and programming in our **MBTI Aquaponics Lab** for groups interested in a full day learning experience!

Aquaponic farming uses a combination of aquaculture (fish farming), hydroponics (growing plants without soil in nutrient rich water), and microorganisms. Together they create a synergistic growing technique where both fish and plants are grown together in the same system without discarding water or adding chemical fertilizers. Not only does it allow for an year-round harvesting, it's organic **zero-waste agriculture**.

By actively working to maintain a healthy aquaponics ecosystem, this hands-on initiative allows students to gain exposure to the sustainable, and nutritional benefits of aquaponics farming while also learning how to build and operate their own aquaponics systems.

A core part of learning focuses on the socioeconomic impacts of food production – specifically in addressing food insecurity.

Activities include:

- Seeding + harvesting
- Monitoring crops and fish
- Testing + water quality maintenance
- Scouting for insects + abnormalities
- Managing lab inventory

**Want to make aquaponics a part of your school's sustainability curriculum?**  
Contact us to discuss year-round programming options at MBTI. Call 204-956-7425.



# BOOK YOUR TRADES HALL VISIT TODAY

Learn More at [TryTheTradesMB.ca](http://TryTheTradesMB.ca)

## **CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO**

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# **MBTI**

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