


DIRECT ENTRY PROGRAM

EAST PRESTON EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY



Entering a trade can be a hard thing to do for some people, especially for people who don't have the proper knowledge and experience about it. This barrier is a lack of a proper understanding of what to do is what keeps some away from joining a trade that they are interested in taking up. Luckily the East Preston Empowerment Academy created a program that helps people with no prior work experience in a trade to learn from scratch. This program is for people who are interested in picking up a trade that they have recently been interested in or a replacement option to a post-secondary education. EPEA created the "Direct Entry Program" to combat the lack of African Nova Scotians within the trade industry, simply because they lack the formal education needed to understand the trade industry. In 2018, EPEA partnered with Irving Shipbuilding Inc. and NSAA in the Pathways to Shipbuilding program, where we discovered several African Nova Scotians looking to enter the trades.

The long-term goal is to create opportunities for African Nova Scotian community members to succeed along skilled trades pathways. This is also for African Nova Scotian who did complete an apprenticeship, but were unable to find employment. Through this program, participants will be able to select from a wide variety of trades to take classes in. These courses include training to become an Automotive Technician, Carpenter, Concrete Finisher, Construction Electrician, Industrial Mechanic/Millwright, Plumber, Oil Heat Technician, and Sheet Metal Worker. All of which are in high demand in Nova Scotia. Participants have the privilege to of course select which trade best suits them and can proceed on with the training process.

As with other programs that EPEA offers, we educate all of our participants in proper safety training for the work place. The reason for this training is to make the participants more aware of workplace safety and also make the transition to the workplace more seamless for the potential employers and employees. As employers are looking to hire or provide skill training to employees, this training will allow the employer to focus on the skill training. We offer Standard First Aid & CPR “C” Training where participants enhance basic first aid skills and the skills necessary to respond to choking, respiratory and cardiovascular emergencies in infants, children and adults. Certified Fall Arrest and Protection course that provides professional training in the hazards associated with working from heights and compliance with Workplace Health and Safety Regulations. Throughout the course, experience will be gained in harness fit, an overview and presentation of system components involved when working from heights and learn how to complete a fall calculation and emergency procedures. A course on the Introduction to WHMIS – (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems), where participants learn the basic overview of WHMIS principles and establishes a solid foundation to support workplace-specific training on the safe storage and handling of controlled/hazardous products. Upon successful completion of the course, students receive basic WHMIS certification. The Final safety course we offer is the Introduction to NS OH&S Act. In this course, students are introduced to the Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Act of Nova Scotia, which is required by any person employed in a Nova Scotia workplace. This is a generic, introductory course that provides basic knowledge of the Act for students and is considered to be the basis from which more specific training can be given.

The Direct Entry Program also offers soft skills training in leadership, working in teams, computer skills, portfolio development, problem solving, communications skills, and diversity and respect in the workplace. Participants will also receive training in cultural enrichment, to help them develop strong racial identity skills, and develop strategies to deal with

racism in the work place. At the end of this initial training period, the participants will be registered as apprentices with NSAA and begin working towards Certification. With the creation of this program, EPEA only continues to provide the best training and education you need to succeed in the trade industry. Along with giving African Nova Scotian the knowledge and skills needed to give back to their community.

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