

November 2021

The Cosmetology Association of Nova Scotia (Association) and the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (Agency) are pleased to provide you with an update on the development and implementation of a second cohort of apprentices for the Hairstylist Apprenticeship Pilot Program.

The goal of this second Hairstylist Apprenticeship pilot program has been to expand the reach of the apprenticeship pathway throughout the province to further determine the interest of salon owners and potential apprentices. There was no maximum to the number of apprentices or salons accepted in the second Pilot as we wanted to mirror how apprenticeship works as closely as possible.

The apprenticeship pathway provides an alternative pathway for individuals who may be interested in a career as a Hairstylist but prefer to enter the trade directly by working in a salon as a paid employee, while being trained. This is a value-add to the current method of training and seeks to increase the number and diversity of Hairstylists in Nova Scotia.

An apprentice being trained under a licensed Cosmetologist requires 3,600 hours (approximately two years). In addition to learning on the job, apprentices attend 120 hours (four weeks) of in-class training each year and 180 hours of online learning each year, with a licensed Master Cosmetologist (Hairdressing) Instructor. The Association and the Agency implemented this second pilot, with the apprenticeship registration of apprentices to salons commencing in March 2021 and registration has now closed.

Nineteen (19) individuals started the second Pilot, there are currently sixteen (16) active apprentices. Due to COVID-19, we understand that apprentices were not able to progress at the same rate due to Public Health restrictions and salon closures; however, we are anticipating a level one in-class session from April 7 to May 11, 2022. A second in-class session will be confirmed at a later date and that level two training will be completed in 2023. Upon completion of the full program, including all the standards and required testing, apprentices will receive a Hairstylist certificate of qualification from the Agency and a licence to practice cosmetology (Hairdressing) issued by the Association.

For further information on the Hairstylist Apprenticeship Pilot, please contact the Agency at 902-424-5651 or the Association of Nova Scotia at 902-468-6477, extension 207.