

## Backgrounder

ICBC is investing up to \$13.3 million over four years in apprenticeship grants to help address labour shortages and strengthen B.C.'s collision repair industry.

Employers can receive up to \$56,500 per four-year auto body and collision technician apprenticeship and up to \$29,500 per two-year automotive refinishing technician apprenticeship.

To encourage timely completion, full funding is available when an apprentice completes a training level within 12 months of their previous level completion date. If training extends beyond 12 months, the level grants and completion grant are reduced by 25%.

The total investment will vary based on the number of eligible applicants who apply for and receive grants between April 1, 2026 and March 31, 2030.

### Grant types and amounts:

- **Auto body and collision technician:** up to \$7,500 for each training level completed by an apprentice and up to \$10,000 upon completion of Red Seal certification.
- **Automotive refinishing technician:** up to \$5,000 for each training level completed by an apprentice and up to \$10,000 upon completion of Red Seal certification.
- **Indigenous and women in trades grant:** \$500 for each training level (or Red Seal certification) completed or challenged by an apprentice or technician who self-identifies as First Nations, Métis, Inuit or as a woman.
- **Out-of-town allowance:** up to \$3,000 per person, per level/exam, to assist with travel when it's over 100 km each way or ferry travel is required to complete training or challenge an exam.
- **Tool grant:** one-time \$2,000 payable directly to apprentices when they complete level one training to help offset the initial cost of trade tools.



- **Alternative pathways grants:**

- Challenge grant: \$1,000 each time a technician successfully completes a level challenge exam or Red Seal certification.
- Foundations grant: \$1,000 payable for a level one apprentice who successfully completes and receives credit for a Foundations program.
- Youth Train in Trades grant: \$1,000 payable for a level one apprentice who completes and receives credit for a Youth Train in Trades program.

