



Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board
2003-2004 Annual Report

Meeting the challenges of the future



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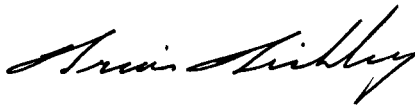
June 2004

Honourable Dr. Lyle Oberg
Minister
Alberta Learning
204 Legislature Building
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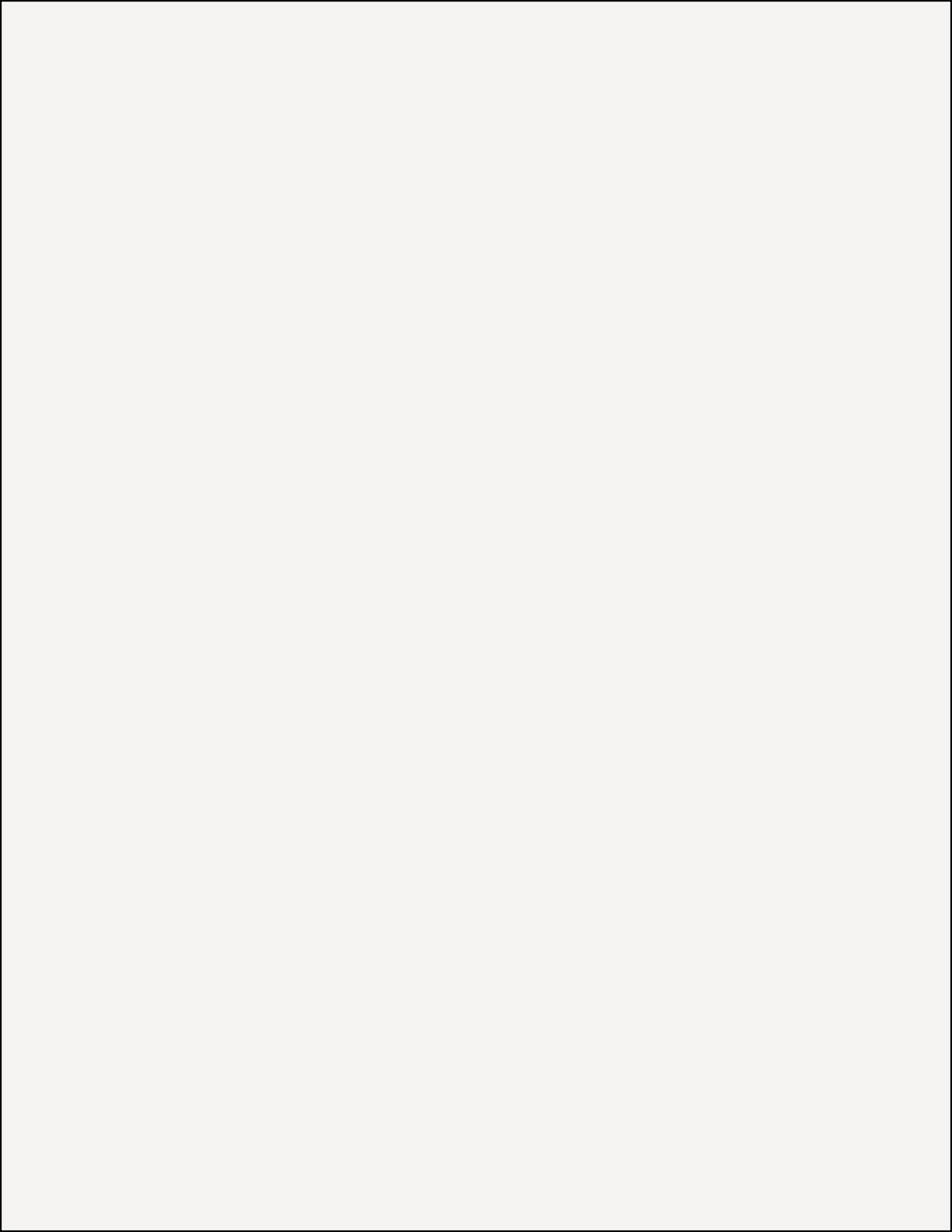
Dear Dr. Oberg:

I am pleased to provide you with the twelfth Annual Report of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board. This report covers the Board's operations and achievements for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. It also presents a statistical overview of the Alberta apprenticeship and industry training system.

Respectfully submitted,

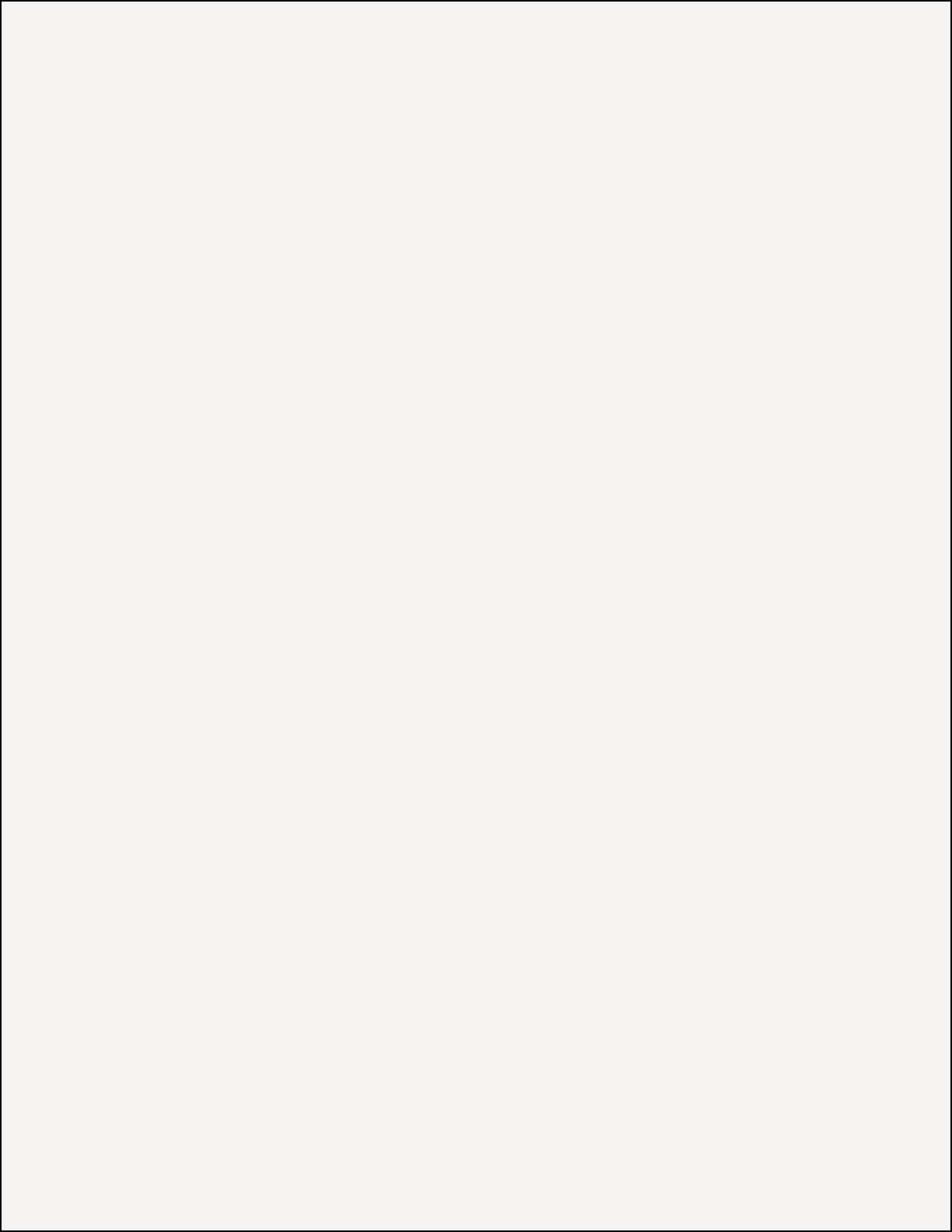


Brian Bickley
Chair



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Message from the Board Chair

As the new Board Chair, I am pleased to present the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board 2003-2004 Annual Report.

Looking back

There is a lot to be proud of this past year. The Board worked hard to strengthen partnerships with industry, and to sustain pride in the trades as reflected in the theme of the 2003 Industry Network Workshop, *Yours, Mine and Ours – The Industry Network*. It continues to promote this pride through activities such as the annual Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board Awards.

The Board worked with stakeholders to ensure the apprenticeship and industry training system remains relevant by regularly reviewing trade standards, technical training and course content. It stepped up its efforts to promote apprenticeship as an excellent post-secondary educational choice. Efforts to expand the base of skilled workers by tapping into non-traditional workers, such as Aboriginal people, have proved successful. Employers and graduating apprentices continue to express their satisfaction with the system.

Alberta's image as a quality system continues to extend beyond its borders with several countries expressing interest in the Alberta apprenticeship and industry training system model.

I want to thank past Board Chair, Cliff Williams, and former Board members for laying down an excellent foundation for the Board, and for helping to strengthen the network of committees that make up Alberta's respected 'bottom-up' apprenticeship and industry training system.

Looking ahead

As the Board moves forward, some initiatives anticipated to support its priorities and advance its goals include:

- pursuing the transferability of the skills, knowledge and experience of certified tradespeople to other post-secondary programs.
- identifying new initiatives to enhance on-the-job training with industry.
- continuing communication with school staff and parents throughout Alberta to increase the awareness of the trades as an excellent choice of post-secondary education for youth.
- continuing the development non-traditional sources of skilled workers in anticipation of future skill shortages.

I look forward to continuing collaboration with industry, employers and apprentices on these initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Bickley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Bickley
Chair

Vision

Highly skilled and trained people in designated trades and occupations meeting the needs of industry.

Mission

To establish and maintain high quality training and certification standards in the apprenticeship and industry training system.

Principles

Accessible – Individuals wishing to pursue a career in the designated trades or occupations have access to apprenticeship and industry training.

Funded by all – Apprentices, trainees, employers, and government contribute to the financial cost of training.

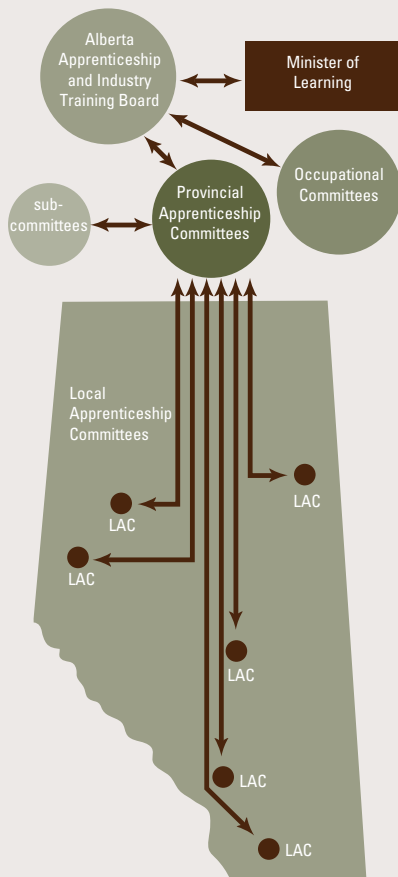
Industry-driven – Industry is responsible for setting training and certification criteria and standards, and for providing on-the-job training and work experience.

Supported by government – Government, with advice from industry, has a role in regulating apprenticeship training and helping individuals acquire the skills needed to work in designated trades and occupations.

Collaborative – Apprenticeship and industry training is based on effective partnerships among stakeholders.

Apprenticeship at a Glance

Structure and Organization of the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training System



- Alberta has 50 designated trades and four designated occupations.
- Apprenticeship programs in most of the designated trades are three to four years in length.
- Apprentices spend approximately 80 per cent of their apprenticeship gaining on-the-job training and work experience, and the other 20 per cent in technical training.
- Employers hire and register apprentices, pay wages and provide supervision by a certified or qualified tradesperson.
- There are over 10,000 employers in Alberta currently training apprentices.
- The most common age for Alberta apprentices to register in their first trade is 19.
- While in high school, students can become employed apprentices through the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP). In RAP, they obtain hours of on-the-job training and work experience as credit toward both an apprenticeship program and a high school diploma, as well as earn an income.
- In 2003, 168 apprenticeship scholarships of \$1,000 each were awarded. Fifty Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) students were also awarded \$1,000 scholarships.
- Apprentices and employers contribute to the cost of technical training by paying tuition fees and purchasing books and other supplies.
- Currently, apprentices pay approximately 10 per cent of the cost of their technical training.
- Over 1,000 technical training classes were offered in Alberta in 2003-2004.
- Most apprentices are eligible for employment insurance while attending technical training. Apprentices who demonstrate financial need may qualify for a grant.
- After completing their first year of technical training, 76 per cent of apprentices complete their apprenticeship within two years of their earliest possible completion date.
- Alberta's apprenticeship and industry training system relies on a network of over 100 committees made up of approximately 800 individual industry representatives.

