

Both the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) offer two-year technical, industrial, business and vocational programs, as well as apprenticeship training. SAIT also incorporates the Alberta College of Art, which offers one- to four-year programs in studies such as painting, sculpture and ceramics.

Technical/vocational training aimed at developing occupational skills is available through adult vocational centres in most major cities and towns. In addition to academic upgrading, these centres provide short and intensive employment courses and basic English for immigrants. There are also about 65 private trade schools operating under government supervision.

The Banff School of Fine Arts is a residential centre with a renowned reputation for education in the visual and performing arts such as music, drama, ballet and painting. The centre also has schools in management and environmental studies.

Manpower policy and programs

The Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, which tries to ensure full employment in the province, provides three basic services: regulating and administering the training and certification of tradesmen through the apprenticeship and

journeyman levels; identifying and meeting short- and long-term manpower needs and helping individuals to plan and prepare for the transition from training to work to retirement.

The apprenticeship and certification programs cover 39 designated trades. Alberta Career Centres provide career information, vocational and educational counselling, testing and referrals for training. Manpower Mobility offices in Edmonton, Toronto, and London, England, recruit individuals to meet labour needs which cannot be met locally.

The provincial and federal governments work in close co-operation under the terms of the Adult Occupational Training Agreement. This agreement provides financial support for on-the-job and training-in-industry programs, for upgrading and retraining the work force, and for initial training for specific skills. The provincial government has parallel legislation to provide financial assistance to students who are proceeding through post-secondary education and training but who are not eligible for federal government support.

Health and social services

The Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan provides basic health and hospitalization coverage for all citizens. Coverage includes the services of general practitioners,