

The Automotive Industry Needs YOUth!

The first automobile in Canada was registered to a Hamilton, Ontario resident in 1898. The cost of this vehicle was approximately \$1,000. By 1925, 11% of Ontario's population owned automobiles. Today, over 16 million cars travel Canada's roadways. The automotive industry has indeed come a long way during the past 100 years. Today's vehicles have over 10,000 functions controlled by computerized electronic components.

Three years into the new millennium and the automotive industry is developing leading-edge technology at an unprecedented rate in its history. Contemporary vehicles have five times the computerized electronic power as the guidance system used for the last Apollo moon shot. The high-tech components in today's vehicles require a new breed of highly trained technicians to maintain and service these vehicles. Features like GM's Night Vision System and On Star GPS (Global Positioning System), a satellite-based navigation, security, and aid service are becoming the norm for the automotive industry.

With the recent downturn in the technology sector, more and more individuals are looking at other career options. The automotive industry typically but inaccurately viewed by many as low-tech and blue-collar is in dire need of apprentices. In particular, auto service technicians and auto body specialists are the most in demand workers here in the Ottawa region. In reality, individuals with an inclination towards technology will do well in this new technology sector. A natural affection for cars is not necessary but will go a long way in making the work enjoyable.

If you wish to consider a career in the automotive sector, consider the following:

- Technology is complex and sophisticated
- Diagnostic skill requirements are needed
- Repairs are unquestionably more specialized and require sophisticated equipment
- Lifelong learning is a must
- The industry itself plays a greater role in training than in the past
- Technology used in the automotive sector is gender-neutral. There are plenty of opportunities for women
- Compensation and benefits are very attractive

If you are considering a new career or are simply starting to look at your career options, consider the automotive industry. Sharp minds need apply! For additional information, contact your Ottawa Apprenticeship Client Services Unit at (613) 731-7100.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/apprenticeship/Skills/main.html>