

Heavy-Duty Equipment Technician

Keep excavators, haul trucks and loaders running at mines and job sites. One of the best-paid trades.

TYPICAL PAY

\$80,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$55k to \$110k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Equipment dealers, mines, construction fleets, field service t...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 with math, physics and shop. Alberta students can start in high school through RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program). Ontario has OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program).
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
 Equipment dealers (Toromont, Finning, Brandt, Wajax), mines, construction companies, municipal fleets and forestry contractors all hire apprentices. Dealers recruit straight from college pre-apprenticeship programs.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
 With Skilled Trades Ontario (trade code 421A), Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, SkilledTradesBC or your province's authority.
- 4 Work and study** 4 years
 Ontario requires 7,000 hours: 6,280 on the job plus 720 in school. Alberta runs four 8-week school periods over four years.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
 Pass the exam. Heavy Duty Equipment Technician is a Red Seal trade, so the ticket works in every province.

Pros and cons

- + Among the best-paid Red Seal trades
- + Paid apprenticeship, no student debt
- + Strong demand in mining, construction and forestry
- Heavy, dirty, cold, and sometimes remote
- 12-hour shifts and rotations away from home
- Serious crush and hydraulic injury risks

Good to know

The biggest trucks on earth

Oil sands haul trucks like the Caterpillar 797 carry around 360 tonnes per load and stand taller than a two-storey house. A single tire costs more than a new car. Heavy-duty techs keep them running.

Finning started in Vancouver

Finning, founded in Vancouver in 1933, is the world's largest Caterpillar dealer. Toromont covers Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Atlantic Canada and Nunavut. Both run big apprentice programs.

Optional boosts

Manufacturer training. Hydraulics and electronics. Agricultural equipment technician (a second trade). Truck and coach ticket.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Heavy-duty equipment mechanics, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Skilled Trades Ontario: Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
 Red Seal Program
 Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/heavy-duty-equipment-technician>



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