

Technical Writer

You explain complicated products clearly: help pages, manuals, procedures and developer guides.

TYPICAL PAY

\$75,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$56k to \$111k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Limited

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Software companies, engineering firms, government, medical device...

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 10 to 12
English, plus computer science, physics or any technical subject. Being good at both halves is the whole point of this job.
- 2 Degree or diploma** 2 to 4 years
English, communications, journalism, computer science or engineering. All of these lead here.
- 3 Add the missing half** 6 months to 2 years, usually part time
Writers learn the technology, engineers learn to write. A technical communication certificate does either.
- 4 Build a public portfolio** A few months
Write or fix documentation for an open source project. It is public, it is real, and hiring managers can read it.
- 5 First role** 1 to 2 years
Junior technical writer, or a move sideways from customer support, testing or engineering inside a company you already work for.

Pros and cons

- + The highest starting pay of any writing career on this site
- + Benefits and steady employment, unlike most creative writing work
- + Remote work is normal
- Job Bank rates the 3-year outlook as limited in most provinces and very limited in Ontario
- AI tools are being pointed straight at routine documentation
- Engineers do not always have time for your questions

Optional boosts

Docs as code. API documentation. Reading code. Information architecture.

Good to know

Plain language is federal policy

The Canada.ca Content Style Guide requires federal web content to use short sentences and simple words, because research cited in the guide suggests about half of Canadians face literacy challenges.

It is a small, well-paid field

Job Bank counted about 8,000 technical writers in Canada in 2023, but the low end of the wage range is \$27.00 an hour, higher than the median for several other creative careers.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Technical Writer in Canada, wages (updated November 2025)

Job Bank: Technical Writer in Canada, job outlook

Canada.ca Content Style Guide

Editors Canada: professional certification

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/technical-writer>



Scan for the full clicker