

HVAC Staffing – Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is The Redwood HVAC Staffing Program?

The Redwood HVAC Staffing is a **tuition-free** program that supports women, 2-spirit, non-binary, and trans people who have been affected by gender-based violence to pursue training and careers in the HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) industry.

We know that economic independence is a key factor in helping survivors of violence rebuild their lives and remain free from abuse. HVAC Staffing supports our participants to become licensed Gas Technicians in the HVAC industry, which is the first step in accessing stable employment, a living wage, and a long-term career.

HVAC Staffing is a supportive program. In addition to HVAC training and certification, we provide our participants with counselling and case management, employability workshops, networking opportunities, peer mentorship, and financial support for childcare, transportation, and more. Technical training is completed at George Brown College.

2) What is HVAC?

HVAC stands for Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning. Sometimes you will see an added R (HVACR) where the R refers to refrigeration.

HVAC professionals ensure indoor spaces don't get too hot or too cold, and they help maintain indoor air quality through proper ventilation and air flow. They install, maintain, and repair the systems we use for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, as well as certain appliances.

There are many areas of work and possible career paths in the HVAC industry, including becoming a Gas Technician.

3) What kind of training is provided? What kind of work do Gas Technicians do?

The Redwood's HVAC Staffing program supports participants to obtain a G3 Gas Technician license and a G2 Gas Technician license as an entry-point to careers in the HVAC industry.

Gas Technicians install, inspect, repair, and maintain gas lines and gas equipment. Gas Technicians work on gas lines and gas meters, as well as gas-powered appliances like furnaces, fireplaces, water heaters, and others.

There are many opportunities for growth in the HVAC industry and you can always build on your gas technician training with additional certifications.

For more information about the Gas Technician trade and its associated skills, wages, and job prospects, see the [Government of Canada's Job Bank page on Gas Technician](#).

4) What are the benefits of a career as a Gas Technician and a career in the HVAC industry?

We support folks impacted by gender-based violence to pursue careers in the HVAC industry because this industry offers livable wages, stable job opportunities, and great options for career growth.

In Ontario, you can make between \$18 and \$41 per hour working as a Gas Technician, depending on your level of experience. What you earn will increase as you gain more work experience and if you pursue further qualifications, such as completing an apprenticeship.

You can work in private companies, or you can pursue a union apprenticeship to become a certified HVAC or a Sheet Metal journey person, among other trades. As a certified journey person, you are entitled to the highest wages associated with your trade.

5) How do I know if working as a Gas Technician and a career in the HVAC industry is right for me?

If the answer to any of the following questions is “yes,” a career as a Gas Technician/a career in HVAC could be right for you!

- Do you enjoy fixing things yourself?
- Do you like to know how machines work?
- Do you like working with your hands and doing physical work?
- Do you like problem-solving and variety on the job?

In determining whether Gas Technician is the right career for you, you will also want to consider your aptitude and interest in using skills such as:

- Performing math calculations
- Precision and attention to detail
- Following safety protocols and procedures
- Customer service
- Effective oral and written communication
- Teamwork and time management

6) How much does training cost?

HVAC Staffing is a tuition-free and supportive program. The Redwood will cover training-related costs, such as tuition, required textbooks, and required course materials. Participants are also eligible to receive other financial support, including childcare and transportation.

7) Besides training, what else does this program entail?

In addition to Gas Technician training, participants also receive supports to help them succeed in their training, including motivational counselling, advising and case management, referrals, and peer mentorship. Program staff work closely with participants to provide support throughout their training journey.

HVAC Staffing also provides a supportive peer environment. The skilled trades are still a cis-gender male-dominated field, but as a participant of HVAC Staffing, you will be part of a cohort of women, 2-spirit, non-binary and/or trans folks who support one another to succeed

HVAC Staffing also offers workshops for our participants on topics such as resume building and networking, apprenticeship readiness, and financial empowerment and confidence-building for the

skilled trades to help participants build their employability skills, learn more about their career options, and access information to support their financial and emotional well-being.

8) How do I know if I am eligible for this program?

This training is open to women, 2-spirit, non-binary, and trans people.

Eligible participants must also be:

- Able to work and study in Canada
- Able to attend training both online and in person in Toronto
- Enthusiastic and motivated to pursue a career in the HVAC industry
- Able to fully commit to training and meet course attendance requirements
- Able to fully commit to staying connected with program staff and attending program workshops

9) When can I start and how long will I be in training?

HVAC Staffing holds two program cohorts per year, usually in Fall and Spring. We run regular information sessions where you will learn more about whether the Redwood HVAC Staffing program is right for you and how to apply.

For information about the next information session, reach out to Program Coordinator Taylor Carvalho Stewart at tcstewart@theredwood.com

Training is part-time and it will take you about six months to complete your G3 training. From there, we will provide guidance and support in your next steps, whether that is to continue to pursue training for your G2 (level 2) license, apply for an apprenticeship, or seek employment.

10) How is this program funded?



This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Union Training and Innovation Program.

The opinions and interpretations in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Canada.

11) How can I learn more?

If you are interested in learning more about the next cohort of HVAC Staffing and receiving information and a registration link for our next information session, please reach out to:

Taylor Carvalho Stewart

Program Coordinator

tcstewart@theredwood.com

[416-936-1045](tel:416-936-1045)

Abrah McKeen

Program Manager

amckeen@theredwood.com

647-637-1090