

## AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING TECHNICIAN

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### Occupation Description

Automotive Refinishing Technicians work on the surfaces of motor vehicles, primarily in restoring vehicle finishes once body work has been completed. Some of the duties that an automotive refinishing technician completes include: removing layers of old coatings; matching colours and mixing paints; preparing surfaces for painting by spot filling, sanding, and masking; applying primers, primer surfacers, sealers, base coats, single-stage and clear coats; cleaning and polishing painted surfaces; and applying protective coatings.

Many Automotive Refinishing Technicians work in close contact with Auto Body and Collision Technicians who tend to work in multi-shop companies, independent or dealership auto body and collision shops. Automotive refinishing duties may overlap with Auto Body and Collision Technicians' duties, particularly in small shops. In larger places of employment, Automotive Refinishing Technicians likely work as specialists after body repairs have been completed. They may also work with estimators, partspersons, detailers, preppers, glass installers and production managers. While they may work as part of the repair team, Automotive Refinishing Technicians tend to work independently. They may work in the automotive, truck and transport, commercial transport, heavy equipment, motorcycle, specialty vehicle, aviation and aerospace sectors.

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the ITA website.

### Pathways to Certification

In BC, an individual can become certified as an Automotive Refinishing Technician by completing the Automotive Refinishing Technician program or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them and challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Foundation programs, where available, provide adults and youth who do not have work experience or employer sponsorship with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the occupation. Individuals who wish to enroll in a Foundation program must register directly with the training provider.

### Recommended and/or Required Education

The following education is **recommended** for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 10 or equivalent including English 10, Math 10, and Science 10
- Preferred: Grade 12



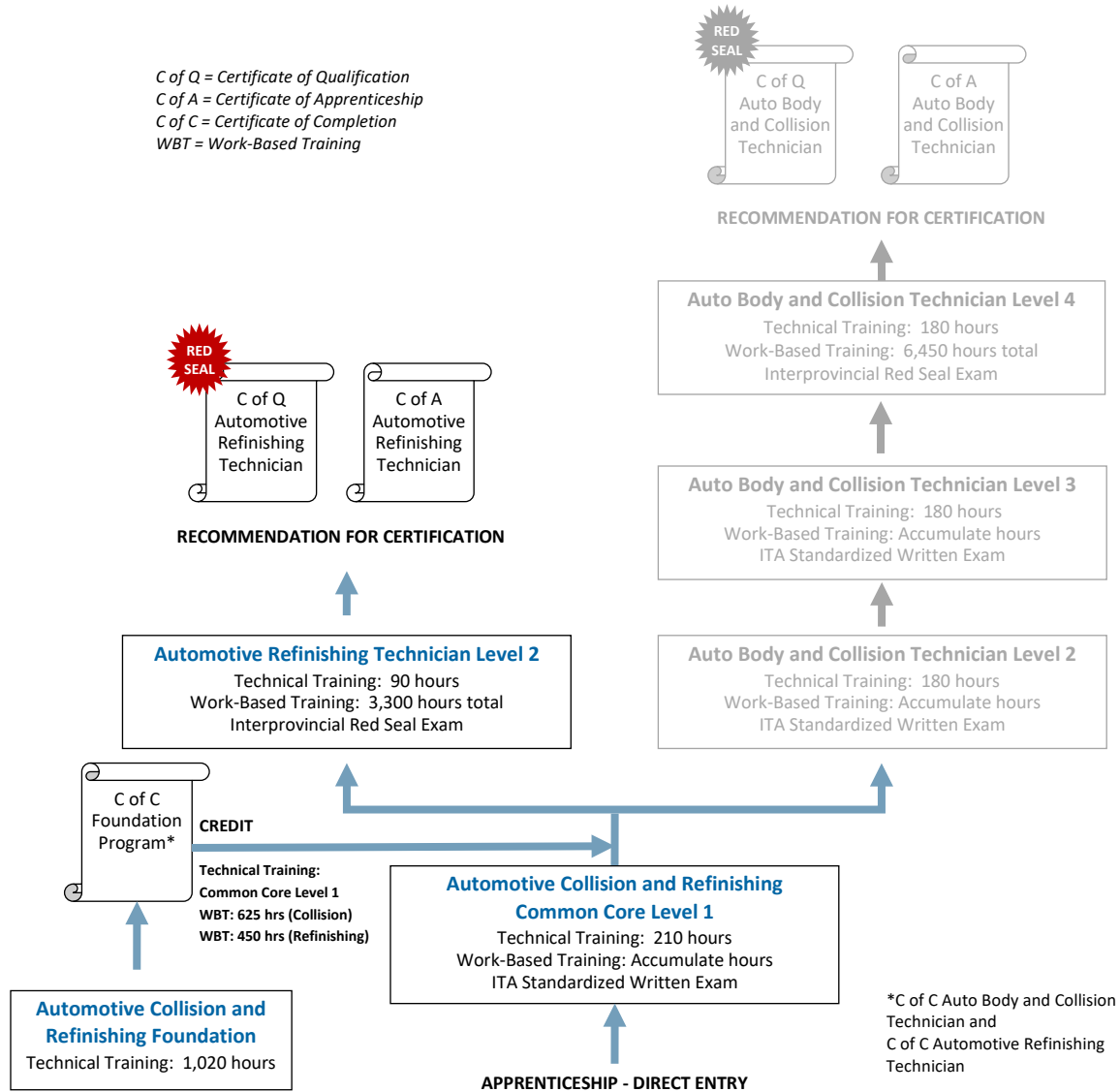
## **ITA Registration**

Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with ITA along with their sponsor. Application forms for all programs are available from the ITA website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the ITA website.

Those who wish to challenge the Automotive Refinishing Technician certification must complete the Automotive Refinishing Technician Challenge Application and submit it to ITA. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.

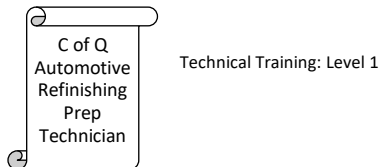
## Apprenticeship Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Automotive Refinishing Technician apprenticeship pathway.



### CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program



### Apprenticeship Program Standards

<b>Credentials Awarded</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Automotive Refinishing Technician – Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement</li> <li>▪ Automotive Refinishing Technician – Certificate of Apprenticeship</li> </ul>										
<b>ITA Registration Prerequisites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice</li> </ul>										
<b>Completion Requirements</b>	<p>Certification as an Automotive Refinishing Technician is awarded upon successful completion of:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Requirement</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Level of Achievement Required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Technical Training</td> <td>           Minimum 70% in each level of technical training:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Common Core Level 1: 210 hours and ITA Standardized Written Exam</li> <li>▪ Level 2: 90 hours</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interprovincial Red Seal Exam</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 70%</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Work-Based Training</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3,300 hours</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recommendation for Certification</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Requirement	Level of Achievement Required	Technical Training	Minimum 70% in each level of technical training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Common Core Level 1: 210 hours and ITA Standardized Written Exam</li> <li>▪ Level 2: 90 hours</li> </ul>	Interprovincial Red Seal Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimum 70%</li> </ul>	Work-Based Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3,300 hours</li> </ul>	Recommendation for Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority</li> </ul>
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Recommendation for Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority</li> </ul>										
<b>Program Duration</b>	<p>Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but the program generally takes 2 years to complete.</p> <p>The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by an ITA-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.</p>										
<b>Sign-off Authority</b>	<p>Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Automotive Refinishing Technician – Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement</li> <li>▪ Automotive Painter – Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement</li> <li>▪ Automotive Refinishing Technician – Certificate of Qualification</li> <li>▪ Auto Body and Collision Technician - Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement</li> <li>▪ Automotive Collision Repair Technician – Certificate of Qualification</li> <li>▪ Motor Vehicle Body Repairer (Metal and Paint) – Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement</li> <li>▪ ITA-issued letter authorizing supervision and sign-off of apprentices in this occupation</li> </ul>										
<b>Challenging a Level</b>	<p>The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Level</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Prerequisites</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Common Core Level 1 (when Common Core Exam implemented)</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ N/A</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Common Core Level 1 (when Common Core Exam implemented)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ N/A</li> </ul>						
Level	Prerequisites										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Common Core Level 1 (when Common Core Exam implemented)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ N/A</li> </ul>										



### Apprenticeship Program Standards

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**Cross-Program Credits**

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

**Credential**

**Credit(s) Granted**

Automotive Refinishing Prep  
Technician – Certificate of  
Qualification

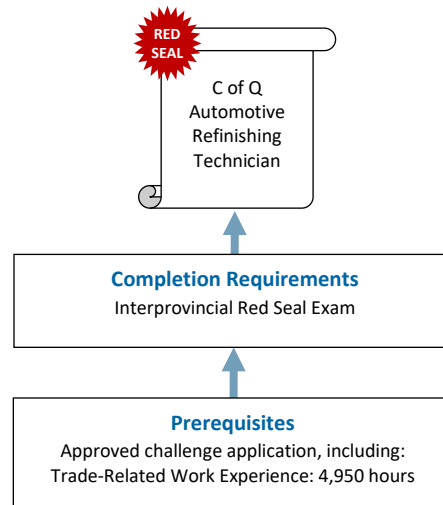
- Technical Training: Level 1



## Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Automotive Refinishing Technician challenge pathway.

*C of Q = Certificate of Qualification*



### CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

*Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program*

None

## Challenge Program Standards

<b>Credentials Awarded</b>	Automotive Refinishing Technician – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement	
<b>ITA Registration Prerequisites</b>	An approved Challenge Application, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4,950 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation</li> </ul>	
<b>Credentials Entitled to Challenge</b>	Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met the prerequisites for challenging this program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
<b>Completion Requirements</b>	Certification as an Automotive Refinishing Technician is awarded upon successful completion of:	
	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Level of Achievement Required</b>
	Interprovincial Red Seal Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 70%</li> </ul>

## Foundation Program

Refer to the Apprenticeship pathway diagram for this program to see how the Automotive Collision and Refinishing Foundation program leads to apprenticeship in this trade and in Auto Body and Collision Technician.

### Foundation Program Standards

<b>Credentials Awarded</b>	Automotive Refinishing Technician – Certificate of Completion Auto Body and Collision Technician - Certificate of Completion				
<b>Enrollment Prerequisites</b>	Contact training provider. Prerequisites vary between training institutions				
<b>Completion Requirements</b>	A Certificate of Completion in this program is awarded upon successful completion of: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Requirement</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Level of Achievement Required</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Technical Training</td> <td>▪ Minimum 70%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Requirement	Level of Achievement Required	Technical Training	▪ Minimum 70%
Requirement	Level of Achievement Required				
Technical Training	▪ Minimum 70%				
<b>Program Duration</b>	Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but program generally takes 1,020 hours (34 weeks) to complete, assuming 30 hours in school per week.				
<b>Credit toward Apprenticeship</b>	Individuals who complete the Automotive Collision and Refinishing Foundation Program will receive the following credit toward completion of the Auto Body and Collision Technician apprenticeship program and the Automotive Refinishing Technician apprenticeship program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Technical Training: Common Core Level 1</li> <li>▪ Work-Based Training: 625 hours towards Auto Body and Collision Technician</li> <li>▪ Work-Based Training: 450 hours toward Automotive Refinishing Technician</li> </ul>				



## Supporting Documents

Automotive Refinishing Technician Program Outline (2020) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC. Available from the ITA website.

Automotive Refinishing Technician Red Seal Occupational Standard (2018) – Prepared by industry experts, under the guidance of the federal government, for Red Seal trades to define the national standard of competence for the trade. Available from the Red Seal website: [www.red-seal.ca](http://www.red-seal.ca).

## Contacts

The **Industry Training Authority** (ITA) manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact ITA Customer service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone: 778-328-8700  
Toll Free (within BC): 1-866-660-6011  
Website: [www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca)

Fax: 778-328-8701  
Email: [customerservice@itabc.ca](mailto:customerservice@itabc.ca)

## Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved: March 2002 (ITAC)  
Updated: November 2006 (ITA)  
Updated: December 2009 (ITA)  
Updated: June 2016 (ITA)  
Updated: May 2020 (ITA)  
Updated: March 2021 (ITA)

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit [www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca) for the most current version.