

EXPANDED CO-OP



“I think if I’d had that chance in high school, I would have jumped right in there, full-blown.”

– Mike Holmes, Co-op Employer

Co-op helps employers discover and train future employees.

When Mike Holmes, well-known contractor and star of *Holmes on Homes*, was approached to take on a co-op student, he was interested right away. “I’m high on the skilled trades industry,” he explains. “The idea of tempting the kids in school into the skilled trades ... it was just fabulous.”

Students who choose co-op are looking for alternatives or enhancements to learning in a regular classroom. Sometimes they know exactly what they want to do. Sometimes they don’t. Mike understands this and the important role employers play.

“I want students to get the experience of real work, not just the thought of working. Giving them the chance to say, ‘Hey, you know what? I like this.’”

So what would Mike say to other employers about taking a co-op student?

“It was easy and it doesn’t cost any money, so let’s be serious; it’s a very smart move.”

As for Mike’s co-op student, he earned four credits in one semester.

“This placement has allowed me to use my talents.”

– Kevin, apprentice machinist

Expanded Co-op gives students who need workplace accommodations practical opportunities to succeed.

Kevin, who is deaf, was looking for a way to pursue his goal of becoming a machinist. He found it through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. As an apprentice machinist, he quickly discovered he had the right mix of skills and talent to be successful, and his employer saw him as a valuable part of the team.

“I really enjoy lathe work and milling. The work has to be exactly right.”

What it is

A program that allows students to apply two co-op credits towards their compulsory high school graduation requirements, with no limit on earning optional co-op credits.

Who it’s for

Students who are heading for university, college, apprenticeship or the workplace.

How it helps

Students have the opportunity to:

- Experience hands-on learning
- “Test-drive” career options
- See the relevance of their classroom learning
- Develop the essential skills and habits required in the workplace
- Gain valuable work experience that will help build a resumé for postsecondary programs and future employment.

