

To the Apprenticeship Board of Ontario
Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities

Truck Driving Apprenticeship Initiative

Ontario alone will need up to 15,000 new Professional Drivers a year over the next 6 years. Professional truck drivers are one of the oldest work forces in Canada with 40 percent over age 45 and 15 percent over the age of 55.

The value of professional driving apprenticeship programs is critical to not only fueling this market with more drivers, but also continuing to build an industry of professional drivers. These programs fill the gap for passing on critical skills and experience. Apprentices will more quickly and deeply understand the lifestyle adjustments of long distance driving, day-in day-out application of the law, customer service, safety regulations, and how to run profitable operations. This quality orientation will go a long way to assuring a healthy future in the transportation sector.

Cowan Insurance Brokers supports the view that the education system and transport businesses need to play an active role in promoting the apprenticeship program as an important career path which is integral to the future of the Canada's economic well being.

With an aging work force that is responsible for moving 80 percent of Ontario's trade and 46 percent of gross domestic product by truck, the need for apprenticeship programs is a topic that affects all of us in some way.

Cowan Insurance Brokers is a leading property and casualty insurance broker in Ontario. We provide insurance and risk management solutions to a variety of industry sectors, and the transportation industry is one of our largest sectors. We see the cost and safety advantages of well run operations, and we know such strength comes from the people the trucking firm is able to hire. Seeing new professional drivers that are equipped to make good decisions as a result of apprenticeship programs is a standpoint Cowan Insurance Brokers strongly endorses.

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