

# Retooling Teacher Certification

## Bridging the Vocational-Technical Teacher Gap in Alberta

David Hunt and Brett Fawcett | June 2024

### Key Points

- Alberta has long struggled with a shortage of skilled tradespeople.
- This a complex issue requiring a multifaceted solution, but one vital element of the solution is to expose more young Albertans to the trades in high school.
- Schools can increase access to these courses only if they have an adequate supply of qualified teachers.
- Alberta has too few teachers with trades expertise.
- This teacher shortage is partly, perhaps primarily, due to the current lack of flexibility in the pathways available for skilled tradespeople to become certified teachers.
- This paper recommends three ways that Alberta can improve the flexibility of these pathways, to increase the number of skilled tradespeople who become teachers.
  - Policy Option 1: Expedite BEd Process for Subject Experts
  - Policy Option 2: Integrate BEd Requirement into Flexible Training
  - Policy Option 3: Open Certification Process After Letter of Authority
- These three options are based on policy already in place in jurisdictions around the globe that rank highly for vocational education.
- Thus, the quality of education in Alberta would not be jeopardized by their implementation.

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CONTACT

Catharine Kavanagh  
Alberta Liaison Officer  
tel: 905-528-8866 x 709  
ckavanagh@cardus.ca

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