



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS

LODGE 128

They can be found working at petro-chemical, nuclear power and utility plants, pulp mills and steel mills, and fabrication shops. Others help produce consumer products like sports equipment and power tools.

Thanks to their unique skills and a boom in construction, boilermakers can look forward to excellent employment opportunities.

"We're experiencing a construction boom similar to the 1970s. With two new reactors to be constructed at the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station and the ongoing refurbishment of the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant, longer-term positions will be available," says

Ed Frerotte, apprenticeship and training co-ordinator with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Lodge 128.

"We're always actively looking for apprentices," he says. "We typically receive 300 to 400 applicants for every 100 positions. We're looking for the best. Any welding experience is helpful because it's essential in our trade. We do provide training, but experience can help put you at the front of the line."

Boilermakers build, erect, repair, test and maintain all types of boilers, tanks and pressure vessels.

They perform all types of structural and plate work on dust, air, gas, steam, oil, water and other liquid-tight contain-

ers. They also erect and install boilers, regularly working on scaffolds, and repair and maintain existing boilers and related metal products.

To work as a licensed boilermaker, you must complete an apprenticeship as a boilermaker. Though the terms and conditions of apprenticeship vary slightly by province, apprentices must complete 6,600 hours of on-the-job work experience, including 700 to 800 hours of in-school technical training, which can take four to five years to complete.

"Apprenticeship provides an opportunity to earn while you learn," Frerotte says. After completing their apprenticeship, boilermakers can apply to write

the Interprovincial Red Seal Certification exam that qualifies tradespersons to practise the trade across Canada. In most provinces, apprentices can write the exam upon completion of the last year of in-school technical training.

Lodge 128 recruits apprentices four times a year and requires all applicants to complete an aptitude test. "We're looking for strong math skills and the ability to communicate effectively in English," Frerotte says. "Some mechanical and space relations skills are also helpful."

Successful boilermakers tend to enjoy working with tools, equipment and machinery, doing very precise work expertly and

doing work that involves a degree of excitement and variety.

To be successful in their trade, boilermakers need the strength and stamina required to work with heavy parts and equipment; good coordination, mechanical aptitude and manual dexterity; the ability to tolerate noisy and dirty surroundings and heights; and the ability to work in close quarters.

"The trade offers great pay, benefits and mobility, with opportunities to work in a variety of environments," Frerotte says. "When the sector experiences a downturn, there's usually an upswing in infrastructure improvements or construction of new facilities. This trade provides many opportunities."



QUICK FACTS

With approximately 2,000 members, Lodge 128 is one of the largest members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Its main office and training facility is located in Burlington and sub-offices are located in Sarnia, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

Lodge 128 accepts applications for apprenticeships four times a year. Interested applicants can submit their resumé at any time and will automatically receive an application during the next recruitment

period. Send your resumé to the attention of apprenticeship and training co-ordinator Ed Frerotte at:

1035 Sutton Drive
Burlington, Ontario L7L 5Z8
Fax: 905-332-1094
E-mail: efrerotte@ibblocal128.org

The next recruitment period will be held April 6 to 16, 2009. Call 905-332-8109 for subsequent recruitment periods. Learn more at www.ibblocal128.org.

