

## Tower crane operator apprenticeship program coming to Durham College

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Durham College (DC) has received approval for a Tower Crane Operator apprenticeship program, making DC the only college in Ontario to offer it.

The program, developed by requests from industry leaders, will help stem the shortage of qualified tower crane operators in Ontario and across Canada.

Buildforce Canada shows a growth in demand of seven percent between 2013 and 2020 for tower crane operators.

The stats, combined with the number of retiring operators and the average 32 operators finishing their apprenticeships, shows the industry will face a shortage of approximately 548 operators by 2020.

“The skilled trades – including tower crane operators – need the kind of grassroots support that this will provide... We need the skilled, knowledgeable tower crane operators that the Durham program will produce,” says **Residential Construction Council of Ontario president, Richard Lyall**.

The program will be offered at the college’s Whitby campus and is expected to launch in January 2021.

Two different tower cranes will be mounted at the campus permanently to support the program.

DC president Don Lovisa says the new apprenticeship program is a “natural extension” of the college’s current crane operation programs.

The college offers mobile crane operator training and a one-year post-secondary certificate for crane operation and rigging and construction techniques.

“With this program, DC will be able to produce qualified operators to help keep the region and province building and growing.” says professor and program coordinator Kevin Keays.