

# Brick & Stone Masonry OYAP

## Career Opportunities

### **As a Mason, what would I do?**

Masons work with brick, concrete block, glass block, tile, terra cotta and stone. Work can be as simple as building a wall or as complex as installing an ornate exterior or constructing a skyscraper. No matter what the job, the skill and precision required by a mason has yet to be replaced by machines.

As with many construction trades, masonry work is primarily performed outdoors. Masons work in all weather conditions year around. The work is very physical, involving the use of hand tools, power tools and material handling equipment. Every brick and block must be laid by hand and requires the skill of a craftsman. Masons must also be able to read blueprints, understand building codes and be knowledgeable of industry safety guidelines and rules for handling hazardous materials.

### **Will a masonry career sustain me?**

Yes! In general, the construction industry is very busy but masons in particular are in high demand. Current shortages along with an aging workforce across Canada are fuelling the demand for new apprentices to replace and add to the number of skilled masons in Canada.

### **What opportunities can a masonry career lead to?**

Refractory and restoration workers; estimators; self-employed contractors

### **How do I become an apprentice and what does it involve?**

As a high school student, you need to A registered Brick & Stone Mason apprentice requires 5600 hours of training, 80% on-the-job and 20% in-school. In-school training is divided into three levels - Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Optimally, an apprentice will be in school for 2 months of the year and on the job for the remaining 10 months.