Industry Training Partnerships defines essential skills for the workplace in Manitoba as “the reading, writing, numeracy, communication, teamwork, thinking, learning and computer skills required to successfully perform in the workplace and to maximize the use of other types of training.”

Employees at all levels must be able to

* read and understand a range of text from written work orders to online and print-based technical and policy documents
* utilize complicated workplace documents including technical manuals, blueprints, and health and safety regulations
* fill out and compose forms, work orders, and reports
* clearly speak and carefully listen in one-on-one and group settings
* know when and how to use numbers accurately whether measuring, converting imperial measurements to metric, or developing budgets and reports
* navigate through print and online sources to find information specific to a task
* think through workplace problems and challenges
* work as a team, whether on the plant floor or in company or union meetings
* keep learning and adapting to changes such as introducing International Standards Organization (ISO) requirements, and new technology

Source: Industry Training Partnerships, Manitoba Competitiveness, Training and Trade. “Essential Skills—The Foundation for Success.” www.gov.mb.ca/tce/itp/fact\_sheets/essential.pdf (19 March 2007). Reproduced with permission.