

I started to work in 1963 in the vending machine business in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The pay for this work was \$160 per month. The average wage for electricians, plumbers and piano tuners was \$600 per month. It didn't require rocket science to figure where I would be at this rate in 10 or 20 years.

I started training at the School of Piano Technology for the Blind (then known as Emil Fries Piano Hospital) in 1965 and graduated in 1967. Tuning has given my family and [me] a comfortable living and, as importantly, put me on an equal footing with other trades such as I mentioned above.

When I lived in Calgary, I felt the government supported me. Since I became a qualified piano tuner, I have supported the government with my taxes as a truly productive member of my community. I went from a second-class citizen to a first-class citizen.

(Piano Technician, Portland School District, retired in 2005)

Martin Nemecek Class of 1967