



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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### **Vancouver Community College celebrates the accomplishments of their Red Seal graduates**

Vancouver, B.C. – Vancouver Community College (VCC) is celebrating alumni who have received their Red Seal designation at the inaugural VCC Red Seal recognition event.

While most academic accomplishments are celebrated with a graduation ceremony, that isn't usually the case when it comes to receiving a Red Seal designation—the interprovincial standard of excellence in the skilled trades. However, VCC recognizes the work that goes into earning a Red Seal designation should be celebrated.

“B.C.’s future will require carpenters, chefs, welders, and Red Seal trades professionals, just as much as we will need nurses, doctors, and teachers in order to build and sustain a strong economy,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “Trades workers are in high demand in B.C., and we expect more than 70,000 trades job openings in the next decade. Twenty-first century skills, like the ones achieved through trades training, apprenticeships, and Red Seal designations, give students the tools they need to be industry ready and be part of building the best B.C.”

“The goal of the event is to recognize and honour the hard work and dedication it takes for grads to achieve their Red Seal certification,” said Carolyn Hornell, VCC Associate Director, Alumni Relations. “For many graduates, receiving their Red Seal certification is incredibly meaningful, and VCC is thrilled to celebrate their accomplishments. We anticipate this will become an annual celebration.”

Six Red Seal trades are taught at VCC: culinary arts, baking, and pastry arts; hair design; auto collision and refinishing; auto service; and heavy mechanic. VCC is well-known for producing award-winning skills competitors at the regional, provincial, and national levels. This week, two VCC graduates, a chef and a baker, will be competing at the WorldSkills competition in Russia. This is the first time a Canadian school will have competitors in both categories.

“Red Seal certification is the sign of true excellence. By formally recognizing VCC students who have received their Red Seal, we honour the dedication these skilled tradespeople have to their craft and their commitment to the industry,” said Peter Nunoda, President and CEO, VCC.

VCC’s first Red Seal recognition event included all those who have received their Red Seal at VCC in the past five years. The Industry Training Authority (ITA) provides funding to the VCC trades training programs, including Red Seal recognized trades. This funding has helped lower the financial barriers to give students a more affordable way to start their journey into a career in the trades.

The ITA is honoured to join the recognition of VCC Red Seal graduates. “The dedication that goes into earning a Red Seal is cause for celebration,” said Shelley Gray, CEO, ITA. “A career in the trades opens up many pathways—be it as a journey person, business owner, or educator. Having achieved the Red Seal designation now gives this group the opportunity to not only further their career growth but also support the success of the next generation of skilled trades professionals.”

### **About Vancouver Community College**

Vancouver Community College has been inspiring students to reach their career and educational goals for over 50 years, offering post-secondary training in over 120 programs, including bachelor's degrees, diplomas, certificates, and apprenticeships. With three campuses located in East Vancouver, Downtown Vancouver, and on Annacis Island, students can choose from hands-on instruction in culinary arts, business, design, health sciences, hospitality, transportation trades, and music. For more information, visit [vcc.ca](http://vcc.ca).

### **About Industry Training Authority**

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) leads and coordinates British Columbia’s skilled trades system. ITA works with apprentices, employers, industry, labour, training providers, and government to fund training, issue credentials, support apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades. For more information, visit [itabc.ca](http://itabc.ca).

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