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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2019AEST0104-002189  
Nov. 14, 2019

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training  
Industry Training Authority

### **Opening doors to trades training for youth, women**

VANCOUVER – New funding is being invested in thousands of youth, women and under-represented groups to get the training and support they need for apprenticeships and employment in the skilled trades.

At Sir Charles Tupper Secondary school, Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training, announced that \$12.4 million will support seven new programs to help 2,036 women and other under-represented groups access opportunities for pre-apprenticeship training, apprenticeship services and employment.

Additionally, an estimated 1,300 secondary students throughout B.C. will benefit with access to trades training, with \$1.37 million to fund Industry Training Authority (ITA) Youth Work in Trades programs at 51 school districts and several independent schools.

“Our government is committed to moving the dial for women, young people and under-represented groups who want to reap the economic benefits of a good paying, family-supporting career in the trades,” said Mark. “We value the tradespeople who work hard every day to keep our lights on, our homes warm and our cars running. These new programs will open pathways to opportunity for young people who wish to pursue their dream careers in the trades, while also ensuring employers have access to an industry-ready labour force to continue building the best B.C.”

The ITA is providing \$12.4 million in supports for women and other under-represented groups, with funding provided through the Canada-BC Workforce Development Agreement. The programs increase access to opportunities for apprenticeship training, apprenticeship services and employment.

Funding for the Youth Work in Trades programs comes from the ITA’s annual youth budget. It is a dual credit program for students in grades 10-12 that allows them to earn credits towards high school graduation and begin the paid work-based training component of an apprenticeship.

“Access to the Youth Work in Trades program gives students a head start on training for a good career by providing real-world experience and high school credits,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “Together with the ITA and school districts across the province, we are ensuring that students have better opportunities to transition into the workforce.”

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The 2018 Labour Market Outlook projected nearly 71,000 trades job openings in the province through 2028.

- Trades careers where skilled workers are in demand include millwrights, heavy-duty mechanics and carpenters.
- November is Apprenticeship Recognition Month in B.C.

### Quotes:

#### **Paulette Higgins, director of training investment, ITA —**

“ITA is thrilled with the opportunity to continue supporting and expanding programs for women and other under-represented groups, and to encourage youth to pursue one of the 100 rewarding trades careers in B.C. Innovative approaches to pre-apprenticeship training, apprenticeship services and employment help increase the number of under-represented people working in the trades and completing their apprenticeships.”

#### **Suzanne Hoffman, superintendent, School District 39 —**

“Working with the ITA, the district is able to provide hands-on trades training in our secondary schools and on-the-job training that provides engaging learning opportunities. Such programs expose our students to some of the diverse range of opportunities that exist, where they can begin to consider how they can match career paths with their interests and passions.”

#### **Riley McBride, electrical apprentice, Protec Installation Group —**

“I really benefited from having the opportunity to learn and work in a trade while in high school at Sir Charles Tupper Secondary. I’m already a Level 3 electrical apprentice, and I’ve found a great career where I can combine hands-on work with problem solving and planning. Being able to see a project progress and see a finished project is my dream job.”

### Learn More:

Industry Training Authority: <https://www.itabc.ca/>

Canada-BC Workforce Development Agreement programming: [www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/Labour-Market-Programs/Workforce-Development-Agreement-programs-informati.aspx](http://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/Labour-Market-Programs/Workforce-Development-Agreement-programs-informati.aspx)

WorkBC: [www.workbc.ca/](http://www.workbc.ca/)

A backgrounder follows.

### Contacts:

Sean Leslie  
Communications Director  
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and  
Training  
250 893-4403

Nicole Adams  
Director of Communications  
Industry Training Authority  
nadams@itabc.ca  
604 364-1039

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Programs support youth and women in trades**

Six service providers will receive a total of \$12.4 million for two-year contracts to support women and other under-represented groups in the trades to access opportunities for pre-apprenticeship training, apprenticeship services and employment.

The contracts started in September 2019.

#### **Women in Trades Training Programs:**

- BC Construction Association: \$1,303,178 for Skilled Trades Employment Program
- BC Federation of Labour: \$2,354,800 for BC Centre for Women in The Trades
- Camosun College: \$1,580,000 for Women in Trades Training Program
- Excel Career College: \$492,525 for Practical Approach to Women in Trades Program
- Okanagan College: \$1,537,492 for Women in Trades Training Program
- Thompson Rivers University: \$740,192 for EmpowerHER: Attract, Recruit, Retain Women in Trades Training Program

#### **Equity Seeking Groups in Trades Training Programs:**

- BC Construction Association: \$4.4 million for Skilled Trades Employment Program

Fifty-one school districts and independent schools are receiving a total of \$1.37 million for Youth Work in Trades Programs for the 2019-20 school year:

#### **(School district/community/amount):**

8 Kootenay Lake: \$20,000  
19 Revelstoke: \$20,000  
20 Kootenay-Columbia: \$20,000  
22 Vernon: \$20,000  
23 Central Okanagan: \$40,000  
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin: \$20,000  
28 Quesnel: \$20,000  
33 Chilliwack: \$30,000  
34 Abbotsford: \$40,000  
35 Langley: \$40,000  
36 Surrey: \$40,000  
37 Delta: \$40,000  
38 Richmond: \$40,000  
39 Vancouver: \$40,000  
40 New Westminster: \$30,000

41 Burnaby: \$40,000  
42 Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows: \$40,000  
43 Coquitlam: \$40,000  
45 West Vancouver: \$30,000  
46 Sunshine Coast: \$20,000  
47 Powell River: \$20,000  
48 Sea to Sky: \$20,000  
49 Central Coast: \$10,000  
51 Boundary: \$10,000  
52 Prince Rupert: \$20,000  
53 Okanagan Similkameen: \$20,000  
54 Bulkley Valley: \$20,000  
57 Prince George: \$30,000  
58 Nicola-Similkameen: \$20,000  
59 Peace River South: \$20,000  
60 Peace River North: \$30,000  
61 Greater Victoria: \$40,000  
62 Sooke: \$30,000  
63 Saanich: \$30,000  
64 Gulf Islands: \$20,000  
67 Okanagan Skaha: \$20,000  
68 Nanaimo Ladysmith: \$30,000  
69 Qualicum: \$20,000  
70 Alberni: \$20,000  
71 Comox Valley: \$30,000  
72 Campbell River: \$20,000  
73 Kamloops/Thompson: \$30,000  
75 Mission: \$30,000  
78 Fraser-Cascade: \$20,000  
79 Cowichan Valley: \$30,000  
81 Fort Nelson: \$20,000  
82 Coast Mountains: \$20,000  
83 North Okanagan-Shuswap: \$30,000  
84 Vancouver Island West: \$10,000  
85 Vancouver Island North: \$20,000  
91 Nechako Lakes: \$10,000

Independent schools: \$40,000

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