

For Immediate Release

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Delta Chamber of Commerce and the Industry Training Authority Seeking Delta's Best in Skilled Trades Apprenticeship

RICHMOND, xʷməθ kʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) – Successful apprenticeships require both dedicated employers and hardworking apprentices. For the first time ever, the Delta Chamber of Commerce and the Industry Training Authority are partnering to recognize those who go above and beyond as part of Delta of Chamber of Commerce's Hats Off to Excellence Awards. ITA is sponsoring two award categories, Above and Beyond – Apprentice of the Year and Above and Beyond – Apprentice Sponsor of the Year. Nominations are being accepted from September 15 to October 15, 2020.

Over 860,000 job openings are expected in B.C. over the next 10 years and of those, 12 percent of the opportunities will require skilled trades training. The Above and Beyond awards celebrate employers and apprentices who contribute to ensuring B.C. will be best prepared to respond to the increasing demand of the labour market.

The life-changing impact of a great employer is invaluable. Sponsoring apprentices isn't just about giving them a job or work experience; it's about passing on their knowledge and the value of being a Red Seal or certified tradesperson and the pride of being a part of an industry that builds B.C. The Apprentice Sponsor of the Year award recognizes the employer that provides exceptional trades training as well as mentorship that guides their apprentices to certification and successful careers.

The Apprentice of the Year Award is being awarded to an apprentice who is a dedicated learner and advocate for skilled trades. Apprentices are the future of B.C.'s trades workforce and the recipient of this award will serve as a role model for current and future apprentices.

"I am inspired to see the partnership between the Delta Chamber of Commerce and the Industry Training Authority," says Rick Gibbs, Chair of Manufacturing Sector Advisory Group at ITA and Vice Chair of the Delta Chamber of Commerce. "As a Red Seal Electrician myself, and an employer of many trades and apprentices, I know firsthand how much work and dedication is required to deliver a successful apprenticeship. These awards give well deserved recognition to all those individuals and organizations who go above and beyond to further trades careers in B.C. as well as provide inspiration to young people to look at trades as a very real and rewarding career opportunity"

"We're thrilled to be partnering with ITA to honour apprentices and apprentice sponsors in this year's celebrations! With two of B.C.'s largest industrial parks Tilbury and Annacis Island located in Delta, the need for skilled tradespeople is critical to support our local industrial economy. ITA's Red Seal Certification for

trades supports high quality training standards for apprentices resulting in a highly skilled workforce with excellent career opportunities."

"Role models have lasting impacts on people's lives and we're proud to partner with the Delta Chamber of Commerce to celebrate those that are going above and beyond in making the best of their apprenticeship journey as an employer or apprentice," said Shelley Gray, Chief Executive Officer, ITA. "Apprentice sponsors and apprentices are the backbone of the future of trades in B.C. and the Above and Beyond awards is our way of saying 'thank you' to those that are making a positive impact in the world of skilled trades."

Nominations for the Apprentice Sponsor of the Year and Apprentice of the Year can be submitted to the Delta Chamber of Commerce, www.deltachamber.ca, from September 15 to October 15, 2020. A panel of local business owners and community leaders will select the winners in time for the Delta Chamber of Commerce's virtual 69th Hats Off to Excellence Gala on November 19, 2020.

[About Delta Chamber of Commerce](#)

The BC Chamber of Commerce is the largest and most broadly-based business organization in British Columbia. Representing more than 125 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and 36,000 businesses of every size, sector and region of the province, the B.C. Chamber of Commerce is The Voice of Business in B.C.

[About ITA](#)

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.

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