



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **MOU increases trades education and employment opportunities for Nuu-chah-nulth peoples**

Tofino, B.C.— As part of its commitment to supporting success in trades education and apprenticeship for First Nations, and actively working towards reconciliation, Industry Training Authority (ITA), in partnership with Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC), is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

“The MOU establishes Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council’s and ITA’s working relationship in increasing Nuu-chah-nulth participation in trades and apprenticeship training leading to achieving Certificates of Qualification, Certificates of Apprenticeship, and Red Seal endorsement which advances the betterment, prosperity, and well-being of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples,” said Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council President, Judith Sayers. “As the MOU has been supported by the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Board of Directors, it ensures that the interests we pursue are put forth by our communities and its members. We look forward to building our relationship with ITA to support educational and skills training that focus on Nuu-chah-nulth peoples within our communities.”

Through this MOU, NTC becomes the sponsor of apprentices working on local projects, ensuring employment for their local communities and creating an appropriate cultural approach to an apprenticeship pathway and experience. As an apprenticeship sponsor, NTC has the responsibility to register apprentices, track their hours, and work within their community’s Community Benefit Agreements to ensure contractors are hiring registered apprentices.

This MOU formalizes an agreement to support apprenticeship opportunities and training that will offer greater local skills creation and employment opportunities, economic development, and a sustainable work force.

“Fostering an environment that gives Indigenous people more control over—and success in—trades training and apprenticeship is an essential part of our journey towards reconciliation,” said Michael Cameron, Director of Indigenous Initiatives with ITA. “We’re confident that this will attract new and different contractors and urge those that haven’t been working with First Nations employers to work with them.”

A number of construction projects are already planned for the region, which will immediately benefit from this MOU, including the construction of a Big House for the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nations. Several training programs funded by ITA are starting in the community in September, including a Trade Sampler program followed by a Carpentry Foundation program, which will quickly increase the number of apprentices sponsored by NTC.

**About Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council**

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) provides programs and services to over 10,000 registered members. The role of the NTC is to represent 14 First Nations in three regions stretching 300 kilometers of the Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island from Brooks Peninsula in the north to Point-no-Point in the south. The NTC represents Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Ehattesaht/Chinehkint, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Kyuquot/Checklesah, Mowachaht /Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tseshaht, Uchucklesaht and Ucluelet First Nations and provides a variety of programs and services to them.

**About the Industry Training Authority (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](http://itabc.ca).

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**Media Contact**

Nicole Adams  
Director of Communications  
Industry Training Authority  
604-364-1039  
[nadams@itabc.ca](mailto:nadams@itabc.ca)