



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MOU increases trades education and employment opportunities for people on the North Coast

Kitimat, 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 Kitimaat Valley Education Society (KVES), is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Through this MOU, KVES becomes a sponsor of local apprentices, creating an appropriate cultural approach to an apprenticeship pathway and experience. As an apprenticeship sponsor, KVES may register apprentices, track their hours, and work with contractors to hire local and Indigenous apprentices.

KVES provides education and training opportunities through the Kitimat Valley Institute (KVI) facility.

“Kitimat Valley Institute is thrilled to partner with the ITA to assist in ensuring apprentices from across the North Coast who are working with KVI have their hours recorded,” said Tanya Regin, President and CEO, Kitimat Valley Institute.

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 workforce.

“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.”

Kitimat is home to the LNG Canada project, and the MOU will help increase apprenticeship opportunities for all Indigenous people in the region.

About Kitimaat Valley Education Society

Kitimaat Valley Education Society (KVES) is committed to providing education and training opportunities that meet community and industry training needs, provided through the Kitimat Valley Institute (KVI) facility. KVES is a self-sustaining organization, a leader in training and education, and a partner of choice for individuals, community, and industry for developing and employing qualified people.

About the 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.

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