

For Immediate Release

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PRINCE RUPERT BUSINESSES SHARE STORIES OF SUCCESS WORKING WITH SKILLED TRADES APPRENTICES

Prince Rupert, BC – The [Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce](#) hosted a free interactive lunch information session yesterday in partnership with the [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) for local employers in the skilled trades sector on how hiring apprentices can help them grow their business and build a loyal and sustainable workforce.

With 80 per cent of trades training taking place on the worksite, employer sponsors provide invaluable hands-on experience to apprentices and constitute an essential component of the apprentice's journey towards certification.

The Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce event included a panel of local employers, school district representatives, apprentices and industry who shared their experiences of hiring apprentices, how they overcame challenges and achieved success with apprenticeships, and how they've built loyalty amongst their employees.

ITA's local Apprenticeship Advisor, Crystal Bouchard, was also at the event to share resources and supports that are available to employer sponsors, including tax credits, to ensure a successful apprenticeship for both the apprentice and the employer. The Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce also spoke to Chamber memberships about the importance of connecting with the local business community.

"Apprentices add value to businesses with energy, fresh ideas and innovation," explains **Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**. "Prince Rupert businesses have a role to play by giving apprentices the opportunity for hands-on learning and growth in the workplace. Our government is working hard to provide more opportunities for apprenticeships, co-ops and work placements to build a strong, sustainable economy, and a bright future for all British Columbians."

"Only one in five trades employers hire apprentices and we need more to step up and hire and train the next generation of tradespeople in BC," says **Gary Herman, CEO, ITA**. "Apprenticeships are beneficial for both employers and apprentices, and we hope this event provided encouragement and support for employers that already have apprentices and those that are thinking about hiring one in the future."

"The Prince Rupert Chamber is committed to providing opportunities for local employers to learn about how to make Apprenticeships work for them to strengthen their businesses and build the community," says **Michelle Bryant-Gravelle, President, Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce**.



About the Industry Training Authority

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) leads and coordinates British Columbia's skilled trades system. ITA works with employers, employees, industry, labour, training providers and government to fund training, issue credentials, support apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades. www.itabc.ca

About the BC Chamber of Commerce

The BC Chamber of Commerce was established in 1951 by BC's local Chambers and Boards of Trade, with a mandate to drive business advocacy on behalf of its BC-wide network.

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