

For Immediate Release

November 20, 2014

## **KEY SUPPORT FOR TRADES TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE IN KAMLOOPS**

Industry Training Authority introduces local Apprenticeship Advisor to act as an on-the-ground resource for apprentices and employers

**Kamloops, B.C.** – The [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) has introduced the Apprenticeship Advisor who will act as the on-the-ground resource for apprentices and employers in the Kamloops area. Over 60 local apprentices, employers and industry representatives gathered at the Coast Kamloops Hotel and Convention Centre yesterday to meet **Helen Poss, ITA's Apprenticeship Advisor for Kamloops**, along with **Gary Herman, ITA CEO**.

As Kamloops' new Apprenticeship Advisor, Helen brings six years of experience in the employment services field as a trade consultant, and as an employment placement specialist and facilitator. Helen has an extensive knowledge of BC's apprenticeship system, having most recently worked with the BC Construction Association and the BC Shuswap Nation Tribal Council.

"Through our partnership with ITA, Kamloops students will have the support they need to successfully complete their apprenticeship thanks to the work of Helen Poss and the apprenticeship advisor program," said **Minister Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure and Deputy House Leader**.

"There is an increasing need for skilled tradespeople right here in Kamloops and throughout British Columbia," said **Minister Terry Lake, Minister of Health**. "This on-the-ground support will ensure that students get the necessary advice and guidance to succeed in their apprenticeship program."

[Apprenticeship Advisors](#) serve as an extension of the ITA Customer Support team, with the primary focus of providing regional support to apprentices and sponsors, creating a positive impact on continuation and completion rates for apprenticeship. Key responsibilities include building knowledge of the BC apprenticeship system, advising apprentices and sponsors, boosting apprentice success, and supporting apprentice and sponsor connections.

The introduction of the Apprenticeship Advisor initiative was the result of an in-depth, province-wide consultation into apprenticeship supports in 2013 that included input from multiple stakeholders. It is also in direct response to the recently launched [BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#) as well as recommendations made in [The Industry Training Authority and Trades Training in BC: Recalibrating for High Performance](#) (the McDonald Report).

ITA now has 10 Apprenticeship Advisors located in Cranbrook, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Terrace, Vancouver / Lower Mainland and Victoria regions. Three of the Apprenticeship Advisors, who are located in Cranbrook, Kamloops and Vancouver's North Shore area, will also work on initiatives to support Aboriginal Peoples throughout the province.

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of a grid of squares in various shades of orange, blue, and light blue, arranged in a pattern that tapers to the right.

NEWS RELEASE

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