

For Immediate Release

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Kelowna Employers Recognized for Helping Apprentices Succeed in Trades Training

Industry Training Authority (ITA) presented Certificates of Recognition to local employers training the next generation of BC's tradespeople.

Kelowna – Twelve local employers who hire tradespeople were recognized last night by the Industry Training Authority for their commitment to hiring and training apprentices in their community. The event was well attended by 60 community and industry members, apprentices, and employers. Currently, there are more people retiring from the skilled workforce than entering it so employers, like the ones recognized last night, are integral to ensuring BC trades industry is ready to respond to the growing labour demands. This event is part of ITA's regional tour to thank BC's skilled trades employers for their contributions to the apprenticeship system in BC.

"Work experience is vital to our apprentices and these employers are stepping up to provide the necessary hands on training to help them succeed," says Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. "We need more employers to hire and train apprentices to make sure the next generation of tradespeople in B.C. are getting the work experience they need to be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow."

Over 100,000 trades job openings are expected in the next 10 years and only one in five employers that hire tradespeople hires apprentices right now. Employers not only provide employment but mentorship for aspiring tradespeople. Apprentices attain 80% of their trades training in the workplace so without employer sponsors, they would not be able to complete their trades training programs.

"Being able to train and groom apprentices for the future is in our best interest," said Ryan Wuthe, Store Manager, Penticton and Regional Business Development Manager, Boyd Autobody & Glass. "We're not only passing down trades knowledge but the work ethic and culture of the industry."

"We are so proud to have employers sponsors like the ones who attended the recognition event last night," says Gary Herman, CEO, Industry Training Authority. "A large part of apprentice success is dependent on the right hands-on experience so we need more employers like our champion employers to keep our apprentices on track to achieve certification."

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. www.itabc.ca

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