

For Immediate Release

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Local 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.

Pitt Meadows – 22 local employers from Port Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and Mission, 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 over 90 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.

"Apprentices are the future of our trades industry and these employers are playing a key role in training the next generation of tradespeople for BC" says **Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**. "We need more employers to hire and train apprentices so we can continue to build the best BC and ensure that British Columbians are ready for the jobs of today and 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.

"Having gone through an apprenticeship myself, I understand the value of having an encouraging and supportive employer sponsor," say **Graham Roberts, Foreman, R.J. Gas Ltd.** "At RJ Gas, we believe that if you invest time and create a supportive environment for your apprentices, the return is invaluable in loyalty and quality of work, and that's why hiring apprentices just makes sense to us."

"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 and these employers are keeping our apprentices on track to complete their trades training and achieve certification."

Employers Recognized:

Beckville Woodcrafts Ltd.
Cairns Electric Ltd.
Canadian Tire - Coquitlam
Cedar Valley Alignment
Correctional Service of Canada
Colwin Design Ltd.
Currie Creek Electrical
Earls Kitchen and Bar - Port Coquitlam
Electrical Joint Training Committee

Faria Mechanical
Freemantle Trailer Repair Ltd.
International Union of Operating Engineers
Jewel Holdings
Keystone Electric
Lisi Mechanical
Maple Ridge Volkswagen
Marv Jones Honda
R.J. Gas
Riverside College
Schubert Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
Swanese Golf and Country Club
West Cascades Electrical

Event photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/industrytrainingauthority/42922637775/in/dateposted-public/>

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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