

For Immediate Release

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North Okanagan-Shuswap School District receives award for their commitment to training youth apprentices

The Youth Work in Trades Performance Award celebrates school districts for setting students on the path to a successful career in the skilled trades.

Salmon Arm, BC – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA) gathered yesterday with 25 employers, apprentices, and educators to award North Okanagan-Shuswap School District 83 (SD83) with the Youth Work in Trades Performance Award for having the highest number of Youth Work in Trades program registrants in their region. The award includes \$5,000 in additional funding to assist the district to further develop their [Youth Work in Trades](#) program.

Youth Work in Trades is a dual credit program that allows youth to begin a paid work-based training component of a skilled trades apprenticeship while still in secondary school. As 80 per cent of trades training takes place on the work site and 20 per cent takes place in the classroom, it is important that school districts provide students with the opportunity to gain awareness of what a career in trades looks like and get a head start on the crucial hands-on experience required for their trades training.

“By opening the doors of opportunity through the Youth Work in Trades program, I hope young people are inspired by the pathways to a long-lasting, good-paying career in the trades,” says Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “School districts like SD83 and the employers who help connect young people in the North Okanagan and Shuswap regions with the skills they need are adult allies in building up our youth, building the skilled workforce employers need, and building the best BC.”

“Youth are the future of skilled trades in BC,” says Shelley Gray, Chief Executive Officer, ITA. “We’re thankful for the dedicated and committed school districts and educators that connect students to local employers through the ITA Youth Work in Trades program.”

“When I first heard that we were going to receive this District Performance Award, I immediately thought that this award belongs to our entire community,” says Reid Findlay, District Principal, Career Programs, North Okanagan-Shuswap School District 83. “This award wouldn’t be possible without our local employers taking on student apprentices, the commitment and dedication from our students in seeing the value in work-based training, and the support our Career Programs team offers to everyone to help make all of this come together.” Findlay notes that each secondary school in the district has a career centre where students and parents can connect with knowledgeable staff to learn more about the apprenticeship system and the dual credit pathways.

In addition to SD83, seven other school districts received a Youth Work in Trades Performance Award. Each school district presented with the award is considered a top-performer supporting trades work experience within their region.

About the Industry Training Authority (ITA)

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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Staff from North Okanagan-Shuswap School District No. 83, youth apprentices, local employer sponsors, and Industry Training Authority representatives came together to celebrate the school district's Youth Work in Trades Performance Award, presented at the Prestige Harbourfront Resort in Salmon Arm on May 2.

Media Contact

Nicole Adams
Director of Communications
Industry Training Authority
604.364.1039
nadams@itabc.ca