

For Immediate Release

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## **SCHOOL DISTRICT 34 RECOGNIZED IN ABBOTSFORD 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 trades

**Abbotsford, BC** – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA) visited Abbotsford yesterday where 36 employers, apprentices, educators and ITA representatives gathered to award Abbotsford School District (SD 34) with the Youth Work in Trades Performance Award for having the highest program registration in their region. The award includes \$5,000 in additional funding to assist the district with the development of their [Youth Work in Trades](#) program.

The Youth Work in Trades program is a dual credit program that allows youth to begin a paid work-based training component of an apprenticeship while still in secondary school. Generally, as 80 per cent of training takes place on the work site and 20 per cent takes place in the classroom, it is important that school districts expose the skilled trades to students early in their education to build awareness about the opportunities available, and to help them get the hands-on experience that is a crucial component of their trades training journey.

“Our government wants B.C. kids to know there’s a bright future ahead of them in the trades because youth are the builders, creators and innovators of our province’s future,” said **Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**. “Great things are happening when we all work together to introduce youth to skilled trades training opportunities like the Youth Work in Trades program.”

“To make trades training work for young people, it is important for schools to partner with employers to give more students work experience,” says **Gary Herman, Chief Executive Officer, ITA**. “ITA’s Youth Work in Trades program gives students an opportunity to ‘earn while they learn’ a trade in a workplace.”

“The Abbotsford School District is very proud of our long term positive relationships with local businesses to provide students with work experience and apprenticeships in the skilled trades,” says **Rick McDonald, District Career Program Coordinator**. “Our SD 34 Youth Work in Trades Program continues to gain strength as our graduates continue to benefit with a smooth transition into paid apprenticeships with great local employers.”

In addition to SD 34, 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. [itabc.ca](http://itabc.ca)

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