

For Immediate Release

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KEY SUPPORT FOR TRADES TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE SOUTH FRASER REGION

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

Surrey, BC – The [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) has introduced the Apprenticeship Advisor who will act as an on-the-ground resource for apprentices and employers in the South Fraser region. Over 70 local apprentices, employers and industry representatives gathered at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel yesterday to meet **Dal Dhatt, ITA's Apprenticeship Advisor for the South Fraser region**, along with **Gary Herman, ITA CEO**.

As the new Apprenticeship Advisor for South Delta, Surrey, Langley and White Rock, Dhatt brings over eight years of experience motivating and counseling individuals towards employment. Having joined the Industry Training Authority in 2007, Dhatt previously worked as the Administrator for Youth Initiatives, responsible for overseeing the Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training (ACE IT) and Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) programs.

"ITA is necessary to ensure that our children are prepared for the jobs of tomorrow," said **Peter Fassbender, MLA for Surrey-Fleetwood and Minister of Education for BC**. "Dal Dhatt will be instrumental in building the knowledge base and awareness of the BC apprenticeship system and will be a key liaison to apprentices and employer sponsors."

"Congratulations to Dal Dhatt on his appointment as Apprenticeship Advisor to Surrey," said **Amrik Virk, MLA for Surrey-Tynehead and Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizen's Services**. "The Advisor is an invaluable resource who will help students get a head start on trade certifications, transition smoothly from school to work, and connect with employers so they can secure apprenticeships."

[Apprenticeship Advisors](#) serve as an extension of the ITA Customer Support team, and provide regional support to apprentices and sponsors in order to create 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 that took place in 2013, and included input from multiple stakeholders. The initiative is also in direct response to the recently launched [B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#), and recommendations made in [The McDonald Report](#).

To date, ITA has hosted a total of 10 Apprenticeship Advisor Open House events across the province (Kelowna, Nanaimo, Terrace, Prince George, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Victoria, Cranbrook, Abbotsford, and Surrey). Over 670 apprentices, employers and industry representatives have attended to meet their local Apprenticeship Advisor and to learn more about the support available in their community. Over the next two

months, Open Houses will also be taking place in Burnaby, Coquitlam, North Vancouver and Prince George. For more information visit <http://www.itabc.ca/events/apprenticeship-advisor-meet-greet>.

There are a total of 15 Apprenticeship Advisors located across the province in the following regions:

Lower Mainland, Coast & Mountains

- Vancouver and Richmond
- North Shore, Whistler and Sunshine Coast*
- Burnaby, New Westminster, and North Delta
- Fraser Valley*
- South Fraser
- North Fraser

Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Rockies

- Interior, Kamloops*
- Interior, Kelowna
- South East*

Northern B.C.

- North West*
- North East
- Central North, Prince George South*
- Central North, Prince George North

Vancouver Island

- North Island
- South Island

*In addition to supporting apprentices and sponsors, these six Advisors will also focus on supporting apprentices within local Aboriginal communities.

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For interviews, additional event photos or more information, please contact:

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