

For Immediate Release

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## **KEY SUPPORT FOR TRADES TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE IN VICTORIA**

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

**Victoria, BC** – The [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) has introduced the Apprenticeship Advisor who will act as the on-the-ground resource for apprentices and employers in the Victoria area. Over 90 local apprentices, employers and industry representatives gathered at the Hotel Grand Pacific yesterday to meet **Kyle Preston, ITA's Apprenticeship Advisor for Victoria**, along with **Gary Herman, ITA CEO**.

Preston is a certified Red Seal journeyman and an experienced advisor and former Apprenticeship Instructor with the Greater Victoria School District. He brings over 20 years of leadership experience having worked within multi-stakeholder environments such as education, healthcare, municipal services and private enterprise industries.

[Apprenticeship Advisors](#) serve as an extension of the ITA Customer Support team, with the primary focus of providing regional support to apprentices and sponsors, creating 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 in 2013 that included input from multiple stakeholders. It is also in direct response to the recently launched [B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#) as well as recommendations made in [The Industry Training Authority and Trades Training in BC: Recalibrating for High Performance](#) (the McDonald Report).

ITA now has 10 Apprenticeship Advisors located in Cranbrook, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Terrace, Vancouver / Lower Mainland and Victoria regions. Three of the Apprenticeship Advisors, who are located in Cranbrook, Kamloops and Vancouver's North Shore area, will also work on initiatives to support Aboriginal Peoples throughout the province.

ITA is **currently recruiting five additional Apprenticeship Advisors** to increase support to the following regions: Northeast Region (Prince George), Northwest Region (Prince Rupert) and three in the Lower Mainland to service Greater Vancouver, the Tricities area and the Fraser Valley. These roles will be filled by the end of 2014.

A decorative graphic in the top right corner consisting of a grid of colored squares in shades of orange, blue, and light blue, arranged in a pattern that tapers to the right.

NEWS RELEASE

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