

For Immediate Release

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## **Student participation in skilled trades training earns Powell River SD47 award from Industry Training Authority**

### ***Students are engaged, focused, and happy during their skills development***

Powell River – Powell River School District No. 47 has received the Industry Training Authority (ITA) Youth Work in Trades Performance Award for the highest number of students in trades training in their region.

“Congratulations to Powell River School District for partnering with the ITA in order to deliver the highest standard of trades training to students in the region,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “Our government is helping support B.C. youth in every corner of the province to explore dynamic career opportunities in the trades while also acquiring their high school credentials. I am so proud of all the young people who are pushing the envelope and finding their passion in the trades. As Minister, I sincerely believe that a Red Seal certification is just as valuable as a degree.”

ITA’s Chief Executive Officer Shelley Gray thanked all partners for helping students on a path to success. “The Powell River School District, teachers, and employers in the program are providing students with crucial hands-on experience that is required for their apprenticeship training.”

The award includes \$5,000 in additional funding to assist the district to further develop their [Youth Work in Trades](#) program. Seven other school districts received a Youth Work in Trades Performance Award.

“Over the past 15 years, I have been directly involved with putting over 750 students through our trades programs in auto service, carpentry, culinary arts, hairdressing, and welding,” said Jim Palm, Career Education, SD47. “It never ceases to amaze me how engaged, focused, and happy our students are during their skills development in each trade. It is a real bonus connecting with past graduates to hand them a \$1,000 Youth Work in Trades scholarship from the ITA and the Ministry of Education for 900 plus hours of paid work as they progress on their apprenticeship road. Simply an amazing head start on life.”

### **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](http://itabc.ca).

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