

For Immediate Release

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## **Student participation in skilled trades training earns Peace River South SD59 award from Industry Training Authority**

### ***Young skilled trades workers in demand after COVID-19***

Dawson Creek – Peace River South School District No. 59 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 Peace River South 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 Peace River South 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.

“The program is possible with support from local businesses that train and sponsor students in the apprenticeship program. It’s a win-win for both the community and the students—apprentices are trained as part of the local workforce, and students get started on a path to a successful career in the trades,” said Brad Booker, District Vice Principal, Career and Experiential Education, SD59.

### **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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