

For Immediate Release

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Student participation in skilled trades training earns Kamloops-Thompson SD73 award from Industry Training Authority

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Kamloops – Kamloops-Thompson School District No. 73 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 Kamloops-Thompson 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 Kamloops-Thompson School District, teachers, and employers in the program are providing students with crucial hands-on experience that is required for their apprenticeship training.”

“Initially when I enrolled in the trades construction sampler program, I was looking to simply expand my knowledge for trades as I knew how much of an essential life skill it is,” said Portia Comrie, a Grade 11 student in the school district. “Being a young woman, I figured it would be difficult. However, after those four months, I became aware of how accepting the world of trades is and how many incredible opportunities there are for women. I was so inspired by my electrical instructor that I have since decided to explore electrical as a career option and have recently been accepted into the Youth Train in Trades program at Thompson Rivers University for my grade 12 year.”

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.

“We are pleased to again be recognized for our efforts in connecting our students with their futures through the Youth Work in Trades program,” said Kathleen Karpuk, Chair of the Board of Education for Kamloops-Thompson. “Our students have tremendous opportunities because of the support and encouragement of the ITA and the many Kamloops businesses that continue to offer places for our students to gain insight into skilled trade careers in a range of industries.”

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.

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