



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Apprentice exams resume this summer to help restart B.C.'s economy

The Industry Training Authority and the Vancouver Convention Centre work together to resume critical exams for skilled trades professionals

Vancouver, B.C. ᑭᓴᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) – The Industry Training Authority (ITA) is proud to hold exams for up to 600 skilled trades apprentices over the course of the summer at the award-winning [Vancouver Convention Centre](#) as it resumes exams previously delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Taking place now through to the end of August, ITA exams will serve as one of the first events held at the Convention Centre as the facility resumes operations safely and gradually within current guidelines set by British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer. Each exam session will accommodate up to 10 apprentices, who are taking their Certificate of Qualification and Interprovincial exams, demonstrating their knowledge and skill level in their respective trades career. B.C. has over 100 designated skilled trades; 48 of which qualify for the prestigious Red Seal designation. Over the summer, ITA expects to support up to 600 apprentices who currently aren't able to write exams in their regular location, due to physical distancing restrictions.

"I am happy to see the collaborative effort by the Industry Training Authority and the Vancouver Convention Centre supporting our skilled trades apprentices by ensuring learners have access to safe winning conditions to complete their credential and pursue their passion for the trades," said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. "Now more than ever, we need young apprentices to cross the finish line with the skills to continue building the best B.C."

After extensive consultation with health authorities and other partners, the Convention Centre has created a comprehensive safety plan that will inform the execution of business activity held at the facility moving forward. This includes the implementation of a wide range of protective measures, including: set-up designed to adhere to physical distancing; enhanced cleaning and sanitization procedures; use of protective barriers where necessary; specialized training for Convention Centre staff; availability of hand sanitizers throughout the facility; educational signage throughout the facility, and more.

Additional Quotes:

Shelley Gray, CEO, Industry Training Authority

"Supporting the success of B.C.'s apprentices as they become trades professionals is critical to our province's long-term sustainability and economy. We're delighted that Vancouver Convention Centre has provided a safe, secure, welcoming venue for apprentices to take their exams and move to the next stage in their careers."

Craig Lehto, General Manager, Vancouver Convention Centre

"After much consultation, consideration and planning, our team has worked diligently to adapt our processes and equip the facility, so that we can host events once again, safely, and thoughtfully. Now, we are excited to welcome the Industry Training Authority and other local clients through our doors and begin contributing to the economic recovery of our province."

About the Industry Training Authority

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) leads and coordinates British Columbia's skilled trades system. ITA works with employers, apprentices, industry, labour, training providers and government to issue credentials, supports apprenticeships, fund programs, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades.

About the Vancouver Convention Centre

Located on Vancouver's downtown waterfront with a dramatic mountain backdrop, the world's first double LEED® Platinum certified convention centre offers one of the most beautiful settings in the world. The award-winning Vancouver Convention Centre features two connected buildings with a combined total of 466,500 ft² (43,340 m²) of flexible meeting, exhibition, ballroom and plenary space. The facility is committed to environmental sustainability as well as unparalleled service, technology offerings and culinary excellence. The Convention Centre is a part of [BC Pavilion Corporation](#) (PavCo), a Provincial Crown Corporation of the [Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture](#).

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Note to Editors

Photos and B-roll are available of Robert Simpson, Level 2 crane operator apprentice, taking his exam this week: <https://bit.ly/2BnNEhO>.

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