

For Immediate Release

October 28, 2015

LOCAL EMPLOYERS RECOGNIZED IN LANGLEY FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO TRAINING YOUTH APPRENTICES

ITA launches inaugural province-wide Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour to acknowledge employers dedicated to preparing workers to meet future economic demands

Langley, BC – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA) launched the Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour in Langley at the Coast Langley City Hotel & Convention Centre. Over 34 employers, apprentices, educators and ITA representatives gathered to celebrate youth apprenticeship and its employer sponsors in Langley, Delta, Surrey and Abbotsford for their commitment to preparing and setting students on the path towards a successful career in the skilled trades.

ITA launched the Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour in collaboration with school districts across the province to acknowledge local employers dedicated to training the future of trades in BC. With 80 percent of training taking place on the worksite, employer sponsors provide hands-on experience to apprentices, and constitute an essential component of the apprenticeship journey towards certification.

“The partnership efforts of both employer sponsors and school districts are crucial to the success of the apprenticeship pathway across our province,” says **Gary Herman, CEO, ITA**. “Hiring an apprentice is about far more than giving students work experience hours—it is about preparing them for the workforce and passing on their knowledge to strengthen the skilled trades community.”

“Without the support of local businesses, these programs wouldn’t happen,” says **Mary Polak, Langley MLA**. “Thank you to all the sponsors for helping our young workforce.”

“We want our young people to be first in line for the wide range of jobs opening up in British Columbia,” says **Rich Coleman, Fort Langley-Aldergrove MLA**. “Thanks to our local businesses and apprenticeship programs, young people are gaining the hands-on experience needed to prepare them for a successful career.”

“It is critical for employers to invest in our youth,” says **Donna Hais, Partner, RW Wall Ltd Langley**. “In today’s day and age, we need to be creative, innovative and proactive in attracting and engaging youth in our industry in order to meet the economic demands of our province.”

The Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour events will also take place in Nanaimo, Burnaby and Prince George.

About the Industry Training Authority

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) leads and coordinates British Columbia’s skilled trades system. ITA works with employers, employees, industry, labour, training providers and government to issue credentials, manage apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades. ITA is also a key

collaborator in *B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint*, which sets out a plan for re-engineering our education and training system to support our growing and changing economy, and to help British Columbians take full advantage of the opportunities presented by these changes. www.itabc.ca

-30-

For interviews or more information, please contact:

Susan Kirk
Director of Communications, ITA
Cell: 604-315-9959
Email: skirk@itabc.ca

Kyla Way
Edelman
Cell: 604-613-6413
Email: kyla.way@edelman.com