
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2016JTST0152-001775
Sept. 22, 2016

Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and
Responsible for Labour
Ministry of Education

Youth trades training programs offer more options for B.C. students

PORT COQUITLAM – The British Columbia government and Industry Training Authority (ITA) today unveiled updated youth trades training programs that will provide B.C. students with the opportunity to discover, explore, train and work in the trades earlier in their school years.

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Gary Herman, CEO of the ITA, announced the updated programs at Terry Fox Secondary school alongside Coquitlam School District representatives and current trades students.

Based on feedback from parents, educators, young apprentices and industry, the updated programs give students an earlier start on their career choices, offering more information to youth and their parents on options available in the skilled trades. The programs also provide students with a cohesive and streamlined path from early learning straight through to apprenticeship and into the workforce.

The updated youth trades training programs directly align with objectives outlined in B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint to increase the number of students entering the skilled trades, and to ensure students embarking on their trades journey have all the support and skills they need to be successful. The programs will ensure youth get an earlier introduction to trades certification and a career when they leave high school, yielding better outcomes, including higher transition rates into full apprenticeships and careers in the skilled trades.

To help implement these program changes, the B.C. government committed an additional \$7.8 million from Budget 2016 to the ITA over the next three years. In the coming months, the ITA will host a series of webinars with schools throughout B.C. about the updated programs and will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and B.C. school districts for full implementation by September 2017.

Quotes:

Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour –

“The updated Youth Trades Training Programs will give students earlier opportunities to learn about the trades, will provide a clear path for students discover, explore, train and work in the trades, and will ultimately yield better outcomes, including higher transition rates into full apprenticeships. With nearly one million job openings expected in the province by 2025, we need to ensure that students and their parents are aware of the diverse career opportunities available in B.C. for in-demand jobs.”

Mike Bernier, Minister of Education –

“The world is changing and our new curriculum is making sure students have the skills they need to succeed in our changing world. The ITA’s youth training program is part of this – making sure high-school students get the chance to explore the trades and start building the skills they need for the careers of tomorrow. As someone who worked in the trades, I know just how many different doors these skills can help open – and today’s announcement will help the next generation get ready to open more doors.”

Gary Herman, CEO, Industry Training Authority –

“The expanded youth programs will give students earlier exposure to skilled trades and get them thinking about the possibilities of trades careers at a younger age. There is great potential amongst youth to realize successful careers in trades, and ITA’s youth trades training programs will provide the right support and resources to help them get started on their apprenticeship journey.”

Judy Shirra, chair, board of education for School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) –

"Our partnership with ITA is a win-win and we are excited the trades pre-apprenticeship programs are being enhanced and extended to provide more opportunities for students. Providing options for our students to meet their educational and career goals is something we have done very well for many years and we are very proud of."

Jaymee Lynn, SD43, ACE IT Carpentry program graduate –

"I made one of the best decisions of my life choosing trades, not only did I graduate with a whole new family, but I have a full-time job in my field doing what I love and a whole new career ahead of me."

Quick Facts:

- The updated ITA Youth Trades Training Programs will help meet the Blueprint commitment of reaching 5,000 more students by 2018-19.
- ITA provides more than 100 apprenticeship training programs in B.C., including 50 Red Seal trades.
- There are currently more than 39,000 registered apprentices in the industry training system (including youth) – more than double the 14,676 apprentices registered when ITA was created in 2004.
- B.C. is expecting up to one million job openings by 2025 due to retirements and economic growth.
- Eight of every 10 of these job openings will require post-secondary education or trades training.

Learn More:

ITA’s youth trades training programs: <http://www.itabc.ca/youth/programs>

B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint: <https://www.workbc.ca/Training-Education/B-C-s-Skills-for-Jobs-Blueprint.aspx>

B.C. 2025 Labour Market Outlook: <https://www.workbc.ca/Statistics/Labour-Market.aspx>

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BACKGROUND

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ITA Youth Trades training programs

Two years ago, the Province launched the Skills for Jobs Blueprint with a commitment to re-engineer B.C.'s skills training system to better match industry needs, provide the highest level of training, and get students from study to the workplace more quickly. The Blueprint outlined a target of doubling the number of ACE IT spaces to 5,000 over the next two years.

To meet this goal, the ITA consulted with over 1,200 stakeholders including career educators, technical educators at both the secondary and post-secondary levels, employers, First Nations, school districts, post-secondary institutions, parents and youth apprentices. The consultations found there was a need to:

- broaden youth programs so that students are exposed to the trades earlier in the school system;
- create opportunities to discover and explore the trades at an early age to develop the skills to better prepare for and succeed in secondary school apprenticeship programs like Youth Train in Trades (currently ACE IT); and
- provide students and parents with a clearer path from early learning, to secondary school, through to post-secondary and into the workforce;

The result of the consultations was the formation of a more cohesive suite of program building blocks: Discover, Explore, Train and Work, which provide a clear and optimal training pathway for youth apprentices.

To help implement the updated programs, government announced in Budget 2016 that the Industry Training Authority would receive an additional \$7.8 million over three years.

The updated programs will be implemented over a one-year transition with courses available for student enrolment in January 2017, and classes starting in September 2017.

Youth Discover the Trades (currently YES 2 IT)

- The Youth Discover the Trades program is an opportunity for youth to get hands-on experience in a trade at an event in their local community. The events connect students, parents and teachers with local tradespeople and their employers showcasing first-hand what a career in trades is really like.
- Program Participants: grades 5 to 10

Youth Discover the Maker Way (Currently Maker Day)

- With Youth Discover the Maker Way, students get the opportunity to put away the books

for a day and work in small teams in their classrooms to build a creative solution to a design challenge. The program is offered as a one-day event, a unit in your class, or as a year-long learning program.

- Program Participants: grades 5 to 10

Youth Discover: Lions in the House

- In partnership with the BC Lions, the Lions in the House initiative is focused on the power of choice and being the best you can be. Students are challenged to examine their choices as it relates to their own personal opportunities and those available in the trades. The event consists of an interactive assembly with speeches from prominent Leos as they discuss their own experiences in making significant life choices, interspersed with athletic competitions that provide a unique opportunity for the students to compete against each other.
- Program Participants: grades 6 to 9
- Each year 25 schools are visited throughout the province.

Youth Explore Trades Skills (Currently Skills Exploration 10-12)

- This program gives students hands-on experience in four trades (carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and automotive). Students will learn the basics, explore their interests and get a sense of what trades career they could pursue. The 120-hour course consists of four modules (approx. 30 hours each) and non-paid work experience. After completing this program, students can move onto one of the dual-credit programs, such as the Youth Train Program (ACE IT) or the Youth Work Program (SSA).
- Program Participants: grades 10 to 12

Youth Explore Trades Sampler (Currently various programs such as TASK)

- This program allows students to explore up to five trades in greater depth. They will be given the opportunity to gain practical skills and can even complete certifications that trades employers are looking for. The 300+ hour program is a great way for students to prepare for an apprenticeship program such as the Youth Train Program (ACE IT) or the Youth Work Program (SSA).
- Program Participants: grades 11 and 12

Youth Train in Trades (Currently ACE IT)

- This program gives students the opportunity to get a head start on their technical trades training by attending a trades training class at a local secondary school, a partner post-secondary institution or an ITA-certified training facility. Students will learn from skilled instructors and earn credits that count toward their secondary school diploma and Level 1 of their technical training. Youth Train and Youth Work programs can be taken in any order and there are no prerequisites.
- Program Participants: grades 10 to 12

Youth Work in Trades (Currently SSA)

- This program gives students the opportunity to get on-the-job training as a youth apprentice. Students get a head start on the work-based training needed for a trades

apprenticeship (up to 480 hours) while still in secondary school. They will be able to earn an income while also earning up to 16 credits toward their secondary school diploma. In addition, students are given the chance to earn a \$1,000 award by meeting specific program criteria. Youth Train and Youth Work programs can be taken in any order and there are no prerequisites.

- Program Participants: grades 10 to 12

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