



For Immediate Release
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Kamloops Chamber of Commerce Partners with Industry Training Authority to Increase Apprenticeship Sponsorship in Community

This is the first pilot partnership between a Chamber of Commerce and ITA

Kamloops, BC – [Kamloops Chamber of Commerce \(KCC\)](#) and the [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) are pleased to announce a partnership to raise awareness of the benefits of hiring apprentices within the community. Sponsoring and training apprentices is integral to strengthening BC's trades community, enabling the province to respond effectively to the increase in demand for skilled people in the coming years.

This visionary partnership marks the first agreement between a Chamber of Commerce and ITA to educate and engage with business owners to advance sponsorship of apprentices in BC.

Small and medium size businesses make up a large portion of BC's economy and have the potential to positively influence the growth of trades in the province. The new partnership is part of the effort to establish stronger partnerships with industry, as per the goals set in [BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#). ITA and KCC will work together to engage employers of the greater Kamloops area to help them establish a model for successful apprentice sponsorships.

Funding for this pilot is provided through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement.

ITA Quote:

Gary Herman, CEO, ITA: "We are excited to partner with the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce to connect with employers and ensure that they are accessing the right resources to get the most out of the apprenticeship program," says. "The demand for skilled tradespeople is on the rise and there has never been a better time to hire and train apprentices across BC."

KCC Quote:

Steve Earl, President, KCC Board of Directors: "The Kamloops Chamber of Commerce believes that promoting apprenticeships to employers is key to our province's increasing need for skilled workers. It is our hope that this partnership with the ITA will build a model for use in other communities in BC."



Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson –

“As a long time community member, I am thrilled about the partnership between the Industry Training Authority and the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce. Not only will this help our local businesses meet their staffing needs, but it will also provide more employment opportunities for our current and future residents. This is a positive step forward for our community.”

Todd Stone – MLA for Kamloops-South Thompson –

“Our community continues to grow as more people come to work and live in Kamloops. A recent labour market study by R.A. Malatest & Associates shows that nearly 35,000 new jobs are expected in our city and the regional districts of Thompson-Nicola and Fraser-Fort George by 2025, with qualified and experienced tradespeople in high-demand.

The partnership between the Industry Training Authority and the Kamloops Chamber of Commerce couldn't happen at a better time. It'll help our current and future workers get the training they need, and keep our community thriving in the future.”

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