



For Immediate Release

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CONSTRUCTION CRAFT WORKER PROGRAM PROVIDES MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR NORTHWEST BC RESIDENTS

Northwest Community College collaborates with the Kitimat Valley Institute to deliver the first Construction Craft Worker program in the region funded by the Industry Training Authority

Kitimat, BC – The first Construction Craft Worker (CCW) training program was successfully delivered at the Kitimat Valley Institute (KVI) this April in partnership with Northwest Community College (NWCC). The four-week long pilot training program, funded by the Industry Training Authority (ITA), concludes this week, when the 14 students who participated write their final exam.

The Construction Craft Worker (CCW) is BC's 48th Red Seal trade, and tops the list of in-demand LNG occupations, with an anticipated demand of up to 11,800 Construction Trade Helpers, and Labourers by 2018. In response to this demand and in line with [B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#), ITA introduced the CCW Red Seal certification in September 2014.

This is the first time the CCW program has been offered in Northern BC. The success of the pilot course is thanks to a partnership between multiple organizations that helped raise awareness of the program, provided guidance regarding registration and financial supports, and shared resources which allowed students to attend classes at KVI. Instruction was provided by both NWCC and KVI.

"Working with Kitimat Valley Institute allowed us to offer this important program to students in the Kitimat community," says **Ken Burt, President, NWCC**. "As the demand for Construction Trade Helpers and Labourers is expected to increase in the coming years, it's especially critical to offer this training right here in the northwest where many of these projects take place."

"KVI is thrilled to host and participate in the pilot of the first Construction Craft Worker program in Northern BC," says **Sherrie Little, Interim President and CEO, KVI**. "This has been an excellent opportunity for KVI and NWCC to collaborate on a project for our community that will benefit locals. KVI looks forward to ongoing involvement in this program."

"The Construction Craft Worker program is already delivering results to help B.C. workers get the education and skills training they need to be first in line for the jobs of the future," said **Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour**. "With one million job openings anticipated by 2022, two-thirds from retirement and one-third from economic growth, programs like this as well as the new Aboriginal Construction Craft Worker program, will help to increase participation in skills training programs, ensuring we meet workforce demands in a rapidly-changing labour market."

"The partnership between Northwest Community College and Kitimat Valley Institute has given students the skills to succeed in the construction industry," said **Andrew Wilkinson, Advanced Education Minister**. "Matching training to in-demand jobs contributes to a strong, growing and diverse economy."

“It is important for British Columbians to have the skills they need to be first in line for a career in the skilled trades,” says **Gary Herman, CEO, ITA**. “The Construction Craft Worker program, offered through Northwest Community College, will provide students with the opportunity to train and develop in their trade, and prepare for the opportunities coming our way from across the province.”

ITA and NWCC would like to thank all of the organizations that helped make this inaugural Construction Craft Worker program a success.

Please see backgrounder for details on student profile, partnering organizations and additional quotes.

About the Construction Craft Worker trade

[Construction Craft Workers](#) work primarily outdoors. They prepare sites and cleanup, set up and remove access equipment, and work on concrete, masonry, steel, wood and precast by erecting projects. They also handle materials and equipment and perform demolition, excavation and compaction activities.

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Hashtags: #skills4bc #findyourfit

BACKGROUNDER STUDENT PROFILE

Faron Donesley has over 30 years of labour and construction work experience in industrial and commercial construction, utilities and power lines.

"I would like to thank the CSW Union Local 1611 for sponsoring me on this course," said **Construction Craft Worker student Faron Donesley**. "It was a chance for me to upgrade my skillset. I have years of experience, but it was time I got caught up on theory. I'm hoping this course will open up doors for work in the LNG sector."
Please see photo attached.

Cutline: Faron Donesley completed the inaugural Construction Craft Worker course taught in partnership through Northwest Community College and the Kitimat Valley Institute. He says the course helped upgrade his skillset and hopes it will help open doors to working in the LNG industry.

BACKGROUNDER ADDITIONAL QUOTES

"The Red Seal CCW program offers skilled trades employment opportunities for BC residents," says **David Hansen, Regional Employment Placement Specialist, Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP)**. "The collaborative effort to make this pilot program a success is a testament to what can be accomplished through partnerships."

"The CCW Red Seal Trade credential provides meaningful recognition for the skills and abilities of construction labourers across the province, as well as enhancing their mobility and work opportunities," say **Jeffery Anders, Field Coordinator, LiUNA - Construction and Specialized Workers Union Local 1611**. There is a significant amount of industrial construction scheduled for Northwestern BC and the timing of this course couldn't be better. These students have a bright future in the industry and Local 1611 are very happy to be a sponsor of this program."

BACKGROUNDER ABOUT PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

About Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP)

The Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP) was launched in 2006 and operates several successful programs to support and assist British Columbians who wish to get started in, or further develop, a career in the skilled trades. While no two situations are the same, eligible participants are often in low-skilled positions and lack certification, high school diplomas or essential skills. STEP helps individuals to move forward and find employment, training, career guidance and more. With 13 offices located throughout the province, STEP has connected over 9,000 individuals with new career opportunities.

About LiUNA - Construction and Specialized Workers Union Local 1611

The Labourers' Union Local 1611, is the result of the amalgamation of four existing locals. These include the Tunnel and Rock Workers' Union Local 168, the Construction and General Workers' Union Local 602, the Dock and Shipyard Workers' Union Local 1204, and the Construction & General Labourers' Union Local 1070 and Local 1093. In 2012, Local 1611 celebrated its 75th anniversary. It represents approximately 6,000 members province-wide and in the Yukon who work in various sectors, including construction, pipeline, mining, security, healthcare, dock and shipyard.

About WorkBC

WorkBC is the provincial government's access point to the world of work in British Columbia, and is committed to helping British Columbians successfully navigate BC's labour market, explore career options, and improve their skills. WorkBC is also committed to helping employers fill jobs, find the right talent and grow their business. In addition to a wealth of practical information, WorkBC offers a comprehensive database of BC job postings, an interactive map of WorkBC Employment Services Centres across the province, live chat for instant help with using the website, career tools that bring occupations to life, and a blog featuring trends, job-searching tips, employment programs and more.