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NEW TRADES TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO BUILD IN-DEMAND SKILLED WORKFORCE

Fifteen students graduate from BC's first Enhanced Construction Craft Worker pilot program addressing the largest area of occupational demand in the LNG sector

Prince Rupert, BC – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA), with support from the Government of British Columbia, has successfully delivered the province's first ever Enhanced Construction Craft Worker (E-CCW) pilot program in northwest BC near Prince Rupert. The program, funded by ITA, concludes today with 15 Aboriginal students graduating with their first level of technical training. All of the graduating students have been hired by Coast Industrial Construction and will be working on a LNG construction project.

The E-CCW training program is an integral step towards leveraging our province's LNG-related and construction employment opportunities, and directly aligns with [B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#) to increase the number of Aboriginal people in the skilled trades by 15,000 over the next 10 years. This program also supports ITA's confirmed action in [An Action Plan for LNG Trades Training](#) to develop a specialized CCW program targeted at Aboriginal people.

This program is key to addressing the demand for Construction Craft Workers in British Columbia. Over the next 10 years, the province is going to see the development of hundreds of major projects and the LNG sector alone could generate thousands of jobs. It is projected that Construction Craft Workers will be the largest area of occupational demand for the construction phase of LNG development. By 2024, 6,300 job openings are anticipated in the LNG sector alone.

The program provides support with essential skills assessment and upgrading, CCW Level 1 technical training, and employment coaching and job placement, which includes a dedicated workplace mentor.

Four key partners in northwest BC were involved in the delivery and funding of the first E-CCW pilot program:

- **Gitxaala Nation** – Project host
- **Coast Educational Development and Research (Cedar)** – Program management and reporting, recruiting, screening and assessment, job-placement and post-placement management
- **Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT)** – Skill building and technical training with Workplace Certifications through the Coastal Training Centre
- **Coast Industrial Construction (CIC)**, construction company owned by Gitxaala Nation – Employer and apprentice sponsor

A second E-CCW pilot program, hosted by the Tl'azt'en Nation, is scheduled to conclude on March 11, 2016, with a graduation ceremony in the northern interior of BC (near Fort St. James).

QUOTES

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

“B.C. is projected to be one of the economic leaders in the country in the next two years and First Nations are an important part of keeping our province diverse, strong and growing. Congratulations to the 14 graduates of the Enhanced Construction Craft Worker pilot program who will now have the skills training and work experience necessary to be employed in the upcoming LNG sector as well as in numerous other careers in B.C.’s construction sector.”

Gary McDermott, Director, Aboriginal Initiatives, ITA –

“The E-CCW pilot program is key to ensuring Aboriginal people have the skills and training they need to benefit from LNG development. Through this entry-level program, we are investing in British Columbians to ensure we have an employable workforce first in line for job openings in our province.”

Gabriel McKay, E-CCW Program Graduate –

“This new program interested me as I’ve worked a bit in construction previously, but never any did formal training like this. After completing this program, I’ll have the skills to work on a construction site or even start building my own house. I look forward to continuing my training with the goal of obtaining my red seal in this trade.”

Finn Conradsen, General Manager, Coast Industrial Construction (CIC) –

“Coast Industrial Construction is very pleased to announce that all 14 students from the E-CCW pilot program will be hired on to work on the LNG Canada project in Kitimat. This is a huge boost for CIC and a great conclusion to all of the planning and hard work that went into this program.”

Tim Innes, Gitxaala Nation –

“This is a great program for our community and our members. It shows that with hard work anything is possible and these students now know they are capable of earning a red seal trade endorsement.”

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 the [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.

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Twitter Hashtags: #Skills4BC, #FindYourFit
Photos from the event: bit.ly/ECCW_Grad_PR

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About the Enhanced Construction Craft Worker Program

The [Enhanced Construction Craft Worker \(E-CCW\)](#) program is a training and employment program to support Aboriginal people to enter and succeed in the Construction Craft Worker (CCW) trade. The E-CCW Program is intended for Aboriginal people in BC to address systematic barriers to training and employment. The program provides specialized training and employment supports in three areas:

1. Access to up-front essential skills assessment and upgrading, life skills, work skills, cross-cultural skills, and industry-required certificates.
2. CCW Level 1 in-school technical training with classroom supports.
3. Connections to apprentice sponsorship and employment with a workplace mentor.

Upon completion of the E-CCW program, participants can go on to complete the CCW Level 2 technical training to earn their [Red Seal certification](#).

About the Construction Craft Worker Trade

A Construction Craft Worker installs utility piping, places concrete, constructs roads, performs selective demolition, performs underground work, assists skilled tradespersons such as Carpenters, Bricklayers and Cement Finishers in construction activities, helps Heavy Equipment Operators secure special attachments to equipment, guides operators in moving equipment and performs labouring activities at construction sites. They are employed by a wide variety of general contractors, municipalities, and oil and gas companies.