

For Immediate Release

February 13, 2015

## **KEY SUPPORT FOR TRADES TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE IN THE LOWER MAINLAND**

The Industry Training Authority introduces local Apprenticeship Advisors to act as an on-the-ground resource for apprentices and employers

**Burnaby, BC** – The [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) has introduced the Apprenticeship Advisors who will act as an on-the-ground resource for apprentices and employers in the Lower Mainland. Over 180 local apprentices, employers and industry representatives gathered at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown yesterday, to meet ITA's new Apprenticeship Advisors, along with **Gary Herman, ITA CEO**.

**Christine Klar** brings an extensive knowledge of career development, community engagement and partnership building to her new role as **Vancouver and Richmond's** Apprenticeship Advisor, having most recently worked with the Canadian Youth Business Foundation as the mentor manager for Western Canada, and as a co-op advisor at Capilano University.

With over 10 years of experience coaching and motivating individuals towards employment success, **Donna Henderson** is well-suited as **Burnaby, New Westminster, and North Delta's** new Apprenticeship Advisor. She is a Certified Career Development Practitioner with experience in case management, career facilitation, labour market research, career planning and training.

"It is important to have veterans in the field to offer professional guidance and advice to both apprentices and employers. It is certainly beneficial to Burnaby to have such a valuable opportunity for all stakeholders to meet up, and I am glad to see our government's commitment to supporting apprenticeship in BC," said **Burnaby North MLA Richard T. Lee**.

[Apprenticeship Advisors](#) serve as an extension of the ITA Customer Support team, and provide regional support to apprentices and sponsors in order to create a positive impact on continuation and completion rates for apprenticeship. Key responsibilities include building knowledge of the BC apprenticeship system, advising apprentices and sponsors, boosting apprentice success, and supporting apprentice and sponsor connections.

The introduction of the Apprenticeship Advisor initiative was the result of an in-depth, province-wide consultation into apprenticeship supports that took place in 2013, and included input from multiple stakeholders. The initiative is also in direct response to the recently launched [B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#), and recommendations made in [The McDonald Report](#).

To date, ITA has hosted a total of 11 Apprenticeship Advisor Open House events across the province (Kelowna, Nanaimo, Terrace, Prince George, Dawson Creek, Kamloops, Victoria, Cranbrook, Abbotsford, Surrey and Burnaby). Over 850 apprentices, employers and industry representatives have attended to meet their local Apprenticeship Advisor and to learn more about the support available in their community. Over the next two months, Open Houses will also be taking place in Coquitlam, North Vancouver and Prince George. For more information visit <http://www.itabc.ca/events/apprenticeship-advisor-meet-greet>.



ITA has 15 Apprenticeship Advisors located in the following regions:

**Lower Mainland, Coast & Mountains**

- Vancouver and Richmond
- North Shore, Whistler and Sunshine Coast\*
- Burnaby, New Westminster, and North Delta
- Fraser Valley\*
- South Fraser
- North Fraser

**Thompson Okanagan and Kootenay Rockies**

- Interior, Kamloops\*
- Interior, Kelowna
- South East\*

**Northern BC**

- North West\*
- North East
- Central North, Prince George South\*
- Central North, Prince George North

**Vancouver Island**

- North Island
- South Island

\*In addition to supporting apprentices and sponsors, these six Advisors will also focus on supporting apprentices in local Aboriginal communities.

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For interviews, additional event photos or more information, please contact:

Susan Kirk  
Director of Communications, ITA  
Cell: 604-307-2122  
Email: [skirk@itabc.ca](mailto:skirk@itabc.ca)

Kyla Way  
Edelman Vancouver  
Cell: 604-613-6413  
Email: [kyla.way@edelman.com](mailto:kyla.way@edelman.com)

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