

For Immediate Release

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FIVE MORE APPRENTICESHIP ADVISORS HIRED TO BOOST ON-THE-GROUND SUPPORT FOR BC APPRENTICES AND EMPLOYER SPONSORS

Industry Training Authority has hired five additional Apprenticeship Advisors, bringing the total number to 15 in BC

Vancouver, BC – The [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) has hired five more [Apprenticeship Advisors](#) to act as on-the-ground resources for apprentices and employer sponsors, bringing the total number to 15 Advisors located across the province. These new hires are part of ITA's increased efforts to build knowledge and awareness of the BC apprenticeship system, and to provide guidance to both local trades apprentices and local employer sponsors.

The five new Apprenticeship Advisors will be located in the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley, and Prince George. They will officially start in their communities in mid-December after a few weeks of training.

Apprenticeship Advisors serve as an extension of the ITA Customer Support team, with the primary responsibility of providing regional support to apprentices and employer sponsors, creating a positive impact on continuation and completion rates for apprenticeship. Key responsibilities include building a knowledge of the BC apprenticeship system, advising apprentices and employer sponsors, boosting apprentice success and supporting apprentice and sponsor connections.

"With 15 Apprenticeship Advisors on the ground we have delivered on the commitment we made when we launched *B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint* to hire 10 more Advisors this year," said **Minister Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism & Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour**. "We will continue to focus on preparing students with the advice and direction they need to succeed in their apprenticeship program and achieve a fulfilling career path."

"We have moved quickly to build our Apprenticeship Advisor team as we have already seen how crucial they are to supporting both apprentices and employers," says **Gary Herman, Industry Training Authority CEO**. "Now that we have 15 Advisors in place, we look forward to working closely with local industry and apprentices in communities across the province to ensure we have the right skills, in the right place, at the right time."

Aboriginal Peoples Support

Two of the new Apprenticeship Advisors, located in Central North, West and the Fraser Valley will focus on supporting Aboriginal apprentices within local communities in addition to providing support to both local trades apprentices and local employer sponsors. There is now a total of six Aboriginal-focused Apprenticeship Advisors in place throughout the province, including four currently located in Interior, Kamloops; South East; North Shore, Whistler and Sunshine Coast; North West.

Apprenticeship Advisor, Fraser Valley

Andrew George has been working and teaching as a certified Red Seal Chef for over 20 years. He is a board member of the Wenenyiik Resource Development Society, and most recently worked as a contractor with the Aboriginal Centre at Vancouver Community College, and lead instructor with the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation.

Apprenticeship Advisor, Vancouver and Richmond

Christine Klar has extensive experience engaging youth with their career development and 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. She is also the co-founder of Youth Challenge International, an international volunteer organization that helps to establish youth programs in challenging environments.

Apprenticeship Advisor, Central North, West

Donna Anderson is a certified Career Development Practitioner, an experienced case manager and job coach. Previously, she has worked with the Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Agency, Métis Nation BC, and at the Aboriginal Employment Centre at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Apprenticeship Advisor, Burnaby, Annacis Island and North Delta

Donna Henderson is a certified Career Development Practitioner, and is currently a member of the BC Career Development Association. Her previous experience includes high case load management, client and stakeholder relations, career facilitation, and program promotion and administration.

Apprenticeship Advisor, North Fraser

Paul Zelinski is a professional employment counsellor, advisor and facilitator with a specialty in the skilled trades. He most recently worked as the trades program facilitator for Douglas College,



where he was responsible for developing and instructing a skilled trades-focused curriculum.

In addition to the new Apprenticeship Advisors, ITA currently has 10 Apprenticeship Advisors located in the following regions: North Island; South Island; North West; Interior, Kelowna; Interior, Kamloops; North Shore, Whistler and Sunshine Coast; South Fraser; Central North, East; North East; and South East. www.itabc.ca/apprenticeship-advisors

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. It is also in direct response to the recently launched [B.C.'s Skills for Jobs Blueprint](#) as well as recommendations made in the [McDonald Report](#).

About ITA

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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