

For Immediate Release

March 8, 2019

New ITA Chief Executive Officer announced

Richmond, B.C. – The Board of Directors of the Industry Training Authority (ITA) is pleased to announce the result of their search for a Chief Executive Officer. The successful candidate is Shelley Gray.

“Shelley brings a unique blend of private and public-sector acumen to the CEO position,” said Roberta Ellis, ITA Board Chair. “The selection of Shelley was a unanimous decision by the board. She impressed the search committee with the breadth of her experience and depth of understanding of trades training and its importance to the B.C. economy.”

The ITA’s renewed mandate focuses on growing apprenticeships and championing trades diversity and its strategic plan aligns with the government priorities of affordability, service and building a strong and sustainable economy that supports jobs throughout the province.

“Our government is committed to a strong economy strengthened by a diverse workforce that represents all of B.C.,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “Shelley Gray is going to lead the ITA to move the dial by ensuring more women, youth and Indigenous people have a critical role to play in the trades. As we celebrate International Women’s Day, we can honour the incredible contributions of women by ensuring our continued success of working together to build the best B.C. Congratulations to Shelley in this new role.”

This is a great time to pursue a career in the skilled trades that build and maintain our communities. 900,000 job openings are projected over the decade, with 71,000 of those in the trades. From building roads and bridges, creating artisan masterpieces, or maintaining machinery there are over 100 trades to choose from.

LNG Canada CEO and ITA board member Andy Calitz: “Patience, respect, and building healthy relationships are fundamental to the success of any project and our new CEO exemplifies these fundamental leadership characteristics. I am very pleased to welcome Shelley to her new role.”

ITA board member and BC Federation of Labour board member Laird Cronk: “A key element of the ITA’s strategic plan is to focus on the demand for highly paid skilled jobs and support and build the supply of apprentices and qualified tradespeople. I am confident that Shelley’s commitment to this fundamental goal will serve trades training well.”

IBEW Local 213 Assistant Business Manager and ITA board member Lisa Langevin: “The appointment of Shelley as CEO builds on the renewed mandate of the ITA to create a strong and diverse workforce. It really is an exciting time to be in the trades.”

Past-president of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC and ITA board member Cindy Oliver: “Shelley brings a strong and steady hand to the CEO position of the ITA. Her many skills combined with her passion for making our B.C. trades training system strong and inclusive are just what our province needs right now. I wish her every success.”

About the Industry Training Authority (ITA)

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) leads and coordinates British Columbia’s skilled trades system. ITA works with apprentices, employers, industry, labour, training providers and government to fund training, issue credentials, support apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades. itabc.ca

Media contact:

Nicole Adams
Director of Communications, ITA
604 364-1039
nadams@itabc.ca