

For Immediate Release

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LOCAL EMPLOYERS RECOGNIZED IN NANAIMO FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO TRAINING YOUTH APPRENTICES

ITA launches inaugural province-wide Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour to acknowledge employers dedicated to preparing workers to meet future economic demands

Nanaimo, BC – The [Industry Training Authority's](#) (ITA) Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour made its second stop in Nanaimo at the Coast Bastion Hotel. Over 30 employers, apprentices, educators and ITA representatives gathered to celebrate youth apprenticeship and its employer sponsors in Nanaimo, Qualicum, Campbell River and Cowichan for their commitment to preparing and setting students on the path towards a successful career in the skilled trades.

ITA launched the Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour in collaboration with school districts across the province to acknowledge local employers dedicated to training the future of trades in BC. With 80 percent of training taking place on the worksite, employer sponsors provide hands-on experience to apprentices, and constitute an essential component of the apprenticeship journey towards certification.

"The partnership efforts of both employer sponsors and school districts are crucial to the success of the apprenticeship pathway across our province," says **Gary Herman, CEO, ITA**. "Hiring an apprentice is about far more than giving students work experience hours—it is about preparing them for the workforce and passing on their knowledge to strengthen the skilled trades community."

"It's never too early for high school students to think about taking their first trip along a career path. That's what is great about youth apprenticeships—they are opportunities for young people to find out if a particular career is a good match and also to gain that all important on-the-job experience," said **Michelle Stilwell, Parksville-Qualicum MLA**.

"It is critical for employers to invest in our youth," says **Donna Hais, Partner, RW Wall Ltd. Nanaimo**. "In today's day and age, we need to be creative, innovative and proactive in attracting and engaging youth in our industry in order to meet the economic demands of our province."

The Proud Sponsor of Youth Apprentices Tour has already made a stop in Langley, and will also be making stops in Burnaby and Prince George.

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 *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. www.itabc.ca

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