

For Immediate Release

June 7, 2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT 73 RECOGNIZED IN KAMLOOPS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO TRAINING YOUTH APPRENTICES

The Youth Work in Trades Performance Award celebrates school districts for setting students on the path to a successful career in the trades

KAMLOOPS, BC – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA) visited Kamloops yesterday where 80 employers, apprentices, educators and ITA representatives gathered to award Kamloops School District (SD 73) with the Youth Work in Trades Performance Award for having the highest program registration in their region. The award includes \$5,000 in additional funding to assist the district with the development of their [Youth Work in Trades](#) program.

The Youth Work in Trades program is a dual credit program that allows youth to begin a paid work-based training component of an apprenticeship while still in secondary school. Generally, as 80 per cent of training takes place on the work site and 20 per cent takes place in the classroom, it is important that school districts expose the skilled trades to students early in their education to build awareness about the opportunities available, and to help them get the hands-on experience that is a crucial component of their trades training journey.

“It is so inspiring that Kamloops businesses continue to make positive impacts in our youth’s futures by offering apprenticeships,” says **Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**. “With more than 900,000 job openings coming available in the next 10 years, it’s important that we are equipping tomorrow’s workforce with the skills, education and experience they need to thrive and succeed. Our government is working hard to ensure affordable education and training opportunities, including apprenticeships are accessible to everyone.”

“To make trades training work for young people, it is important for schools to partner with employers to give more students work experience,” says **Gary Herman, Chief Executive Officer, ITA**. “ITA’s Youth Work in Trades program gives students an opportunity to ‘earn while they learn’ a trade in a workplace.”

“We’re extremely proud to receive this award. We’ve worked hard through the years to create a Youth Work in Trades program that serves the needs of our students,” says **Meghan Wade, Chair of the Board of Education for Kamloops/Thompson**. “The trades offer such tremendous opportunity for young people today and these kinds of programs are an important part of the educational service we can provide. We are also grateful to have a good working partnership with the ITA. The support and encouragement the ITA provides help to ensure programs like this are relevant and provide students with useful skills and a clear path forward towards a strong future.”

In addition to SD 73, seven other school districts received a Youth Work in Trades Performance Award. Each school district presented with the award is considered a top-performer supporting trades work experience within their region.

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

-30-

For interviews or more information, please contact:

Susan Kirk
Director of Communications, ITA
Cell: 604-315-9959
Email: skirk@itabc.ca

Danielle Bronson
Edelman Vancouver
Cell: 604-616-4425
Email: danielle.bronson@edelman.com