

For Immediate Release

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SCHOOL DISTRICT 79 RECOGNIZED IN COWICHAN VALLEY 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

Cowichan Valley, BC – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA) visited Cowichan yesterday where 38 employers, apprentices, educators and ITA representatives gathered to award Cowichan Valley School District (SD 79) 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.

“Our young people are tomorrow’s leaders, builders and innovators of a strong, sustainable and innovative 21st century economy,” says **Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training**. “A career in the trades is rewarding and supports a diverse range of sectors. Giving young people in the Cowichan Valley the skills to thrive and succeed will lift up all of our society and help build the best B.C.”

“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 are very proud of our school district’s success in the Youth Work in Trades program, and we congratulate every student who has successfully completed the program,” says **Candace Spilsbury, Chair of the Board of Education for SD 79**. “Strong partnerships with our community members are at the heart of the many learning opportunities our students enjoy here in the Cowichan Valley, and this is certainly true for the Youth Work in Trades program. Thanks to this program, we have many young adults building a career and learning valuable life skills before they even graduate—that is an incredible opportunity that wouldn’t exist without the employers and post-secondary institutions who are supporting them.”



In addition to SD 79, 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

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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