

For Immediate Release

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SCHOOL DISTRICT 81 RECOGNIZED IN FORT NELSON 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

Fort Nelson, BC – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA) visited Fort Nelson yesterday where 27 employers, apprentices, educators and ITA representatives gathered to award Fort Nelson School District (SD 81) 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 youth can achieve their dreams when they have the support of their families, communities, and government,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “The Fort Nelson businesses that offer apprenticeships are equipping B.C.’s youth with the tools they need to build a successful career.. Our government is working hard to make sure that British Columbia’s youth have access to affordable education and training opportunities, including apprenticeships.”

“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.”

"Apprentice experiences are a wonderful opportunity for our students to gain employable skills and begin on their chosen careers," says **Diana Samchuck, Superintendent SD 81**. "A big "thank you" to the employers who have provided our students with opportunity to learn a skilled trade."

In addition to SD 81, 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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