

For Immediate Release

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INDUSTRY TRAINING AUTHORITY INVITES FEEDBACK TO ENHANCE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN TRADES TRAINING

Richmond, B.C. – The Industry Training Authority (ITA) have posted a Call For Response (CFR) for Industry and Trades Training Services for Indigenous People in Trades Training under the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) Skills Training for Employment (STE). This is part of the multi-step procurement strategy ITA has developed to ensure that Indigenous businesses and communities have equal opportunity to bid on all projects.

The Industry and Trades Training Services for Indigenous People in Trades Training program will lift barriers to trades training and careers. The supports that will be provided through the program will enhance the participation of Indigenous people in pre-apprenticeship trades training and skills development, trades employment and trades apprenticeships.

ITA is asking all interested parties to review the CFR and bring forward feedback to the consultation sessions on potential areas for enhancement and barriers to entry. The consultations will help guide how the procurement process proceeds for the WDA Indigenous program, which is scheduled to be delivered in September 2019.

“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. “By opening the doors for Indigenous people, we are creating opportunities for rewarding career in the trades. Indigenous people are the fastest growing population in the country. Indigenous people have a critical role to play in building the best B.C.”

“Inclusivity is a priority for ITA and we're committed to creating equal opportunities in everything we do, including trades training and our procurement process,” says Shelley Gray, Chief Executive Officer, ITA. “We're excited to hear back from our valued stakeholders on how we can all work together to increase Indigenous participation in trades through this WDA program.”

The multi-step procurement strategy is a direct reflection of ITA's commitment to the United Nation Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

For more information about the CFR, contact Natalia Dumitrescu, Manager, Procurement, ITA at ndumitrescu@itabc.ca.

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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