

For Immediate Release

April 10, 2019

## **Sunshine Coast School District 46 receives award 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 skilled trades.

**Roberts Creek, BC** – The [Industry Training Authority](#) (ITA), along with 40 employers, apprentices, educators, and ITA representatives, gathered yesterday on the traditional territory of the Shishalh people to award Sunshine Coast School District 46 as a first-time recipient of the Youth Work in Trades Performance Award. The award is given to the district with the highest number of Youth Work in Trades program registrants in the region, and includes \$5,000 in additional funding to assist the district to further develop their [Youth Work in Trades](#) program.

Youth Work in Trades is a dual credit program that allows youth to begin a paid work-based training component of a skilled trades apprenticeship while still in secondary school. As 80 per cent of trades training takes place on the work site and 20 per cent takes place in the classroom, it is important that school districts provide students with the opportunity to gain awareness of what a career in trades looks like and get a head start on the crucial hands-on experience required for their trades training.

“By opening the doors of opportunity through the Youth Work in Trades program, I hope young people are inspired by the pathways to a long-lasting, good-paying career in the trades,” says Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “School districts like SD46 and the employers who help connect young people on the Sunshine Coast with the skills they need are adult allies in building up our youth, building the skilled workforce employers need, and building the best BC.”

“Youth are the future of skilled trades in BC,” says Shelley Gray, Chief Executive Officer, ITA. “We’re thankful for the dedicated and committed school districts and educators that connect students to local employers through the ITA Youth Work in Trades program.”

“I have been a teacher with the school district for 30 years. I have always strived to prepare students with skills and experiences that they will use on their career paths,” says Cathy Gordon, District Career Coordinator, School District 46. “In my position as the career coordinator, I work with students and the community to bridge partnerships that will encourage learning in specific areas including a range of trades careers.”

In addition to SD 46, 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. For more information, visit [itabc.ca](http://itabc.ca).

-30-



**Media Contact**

Nicole Adams  
Director of Communications  
Industry Training Authority  
604.364.1039  
[nadams@itabc.ca](mailto:nadams@itabc.ca)