

For Immediate Release

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## **BC'S YOUTH RECEIVE FUNDING BOOST FOR HIGH SCHOOL TRADES PROGRAM**

ITA provides \$770,000 in funding and re-aligns training investment to help youth seize opportunities in the skilled trades

**Vancouver, BC** - The [Industry Training Authority \(ITA\)](#) announced today that 26 School Districts across BC will receive \$770,000 in funding for the 2014/15 school year to continue the [Secondary School Apprenticeship \(SSA\) Program](#).

SSA is a dual-credit program that allows students to begin the work-based training component of an apprenticeship program while in high school. Students “earn while they learn” receiving credit toward both a high school diploma and an apprenticeship. In 2013/14, there were 952 new students registered in SSA programs across BC, representing a 7.5 per cent increase from the previous school year. As of October 31, 2014, there are a total of 1,732 youth apprentices registered in SSA programs in the province.

“The Secondary School Apprenticeship Program is a great way for youth to get a head-start in hands-on trades training,” says **Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour**. “Through *B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint* we are committed to expanding choices and supports because we know the better prepared our secondary students are, the more successful they will be in finding meaningful jobs and careers.”

“Building a skilled workforce for the future depends on the youth of today,” says **Erin Johnston, Director, Training Investment**. “Our goal is to support the *B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint* objective and increase youth participation for continuing into apprenticeship and a skilled trades career by making sure we are providing the best support to youth along the apprenticeship pathway.”

“SSA gives our students a pipeline to a successful career,” says **Russell Evans, Tupper Tech Teacher, Vancouver School District**. “The program gives high school students the chance to get a head start in the trade of their choice. To have the funding to offer committed students these opportunities is invaluable.”

“SSA has enabled me to do what I love,” says **Samantha Smith, former Tupper Tech SSA student**.

“I got to start my career early, I got to use my hands, and I still got to complete high school which was important to me. I’m now working as an apprentice and am loving every minute of it.”

Each School District will receive \$20,000 to \$40,000 in funding, which will help districts cover staffing costs to support and guide youth in securing the jobs and employer sponsorship required to enter the apprenticeship system. It will also help youth transition from technical training to work-based training, and build further awareness of opportunities in the skilled trades among youth, parents, educators and employers in their communities. Details on the regional funding can be found in the backgrounder below.

**ITA Youth Programs:** [www.itabc.ca/youth](http://www.itabc.ca/youth)

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) partners with the Ministry of Education to deliver three youth programs focused on awareness building, practical work experience, and apprenticeship technical training:

- **ACE IT** (Accelerated Credit Enrolment in Industry Training; grades 11-12): Provides students with both graduation credits and credit for the first level of apprenticeship technical training.
- **SSA** (Secondary School Apprenticeship; grades 10-12): Through SSA, students work in their trade as a paid apprentice, while earning credits toward high school graduation. Students may also be eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
- **YES 2 IT** (Youth Exploring Skills to Industry Training; grades 5-10): Provides meaningful, hands-on opportunities for students to explore career options in the trades in a fun and interactive event.

## BACKGROUNDER

### Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) funding per School District:

SD 20 – Kootenay-Columbia	\$20,000
SD 27 – Cariboo-Chilcotin	\$20,000
SD 33 – Chilliwack	\$30,000
SD 34 – Abbotsford	\$40,000
SD 35 – Langley	\$40,000
SD 37 – Delta	\$40,000
SD 38 – Richmond	\$40,000



SD 39 – Vancouver	\$40,000
SD 40 – New Westminster	\$30,000
SD 41 – Burnaby	\$40,000
SD 42 – Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	\$40,000
SD 43 – Coquitlam	\$40,000
SD 48 – Sea to Sky	\$20,000
SD 53 – Okanagan Similkameen	\$20,000
SD 54 – Bulkley Valley	\$20,000
SD 57 – Prince George	\$30,000
SD 59 – Peace River South	\$20,000
SD 60 – Peace River North	\$20,000
SD 62 – Sooke	\$30,000
SD 63 – Saanich	\$30,000
SD 64 – Gulf Islands	\$20,000
SD 68 – Nanaimo-Ladysmith	\$40,000
SD 69 – Qualicum	\$20,000
SD 73 – Kamloops/Thompson	\$30,000
SD 82 – Coast Mountains	\$20,000
SD 83 – North Okanagan/Shuswap	\$30,000

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