



For Immediate Release

Investing in the future of B.C.'s apprentices

April 17 – 2015

While there are misconceptions about working in the construction industry, with one million job openings by 2022 and 44 per cent requiring skilled and technical training, it's become even more important for our sector to get youth interested in becoming construction professionals.

The fact is we all have a role to play to show youth the pathway to a long-term rewarding career in construction. Part of the pathway is to invest in apprentices.

That's why ICBA is committed to helping employees go to the next level in their careers through our apprenticeship program and bursaries. Our apprenticeship program helps coordinate apprentices and provides services like registration, counseling, and financial assistance. The program helps ICBA members employ apprentices with a lighter administrative burden and ensures a smooth and seamless transition for the employee. Apprentices working for ICBA members and registered through the ICBA Apprenticeship Program are also eligible for a bursary toward tuition fees. ICBA-registered apprentices who excel at any level of technical training receive a bonus. In order to be eligible, apprentices must be registered through ICBA's Apprenticeship Program, must work for an ICBA member prior to attending class, and must successfully complete their levels of schooling. They must also return to work full-time for an ICBA member firm after schooling.

ICBA's [Apprentice Program](#) has grown from 365 apprentices in 2004 to nearly 1400 apprentices in 2014. We now support 12 trades. Today, ICBA is the single largest registrar of construction apprentices in B.C. Our apprenticeship completion rates are among the highest because we are able to effectively and efficiently track apprentices through our system. Our unique approach makes us perfectly suited to be the connector between the employer, the apprentice and the apprenticeship bureaucracy.

In a province that is on the cusp of significant economic growth with projects like Site C and a new LNG industry where there's such a demand for workers, ICBA is proud to help those who have decided to dedicate themselves to a career in construction through continued on-the-job training.

The reality is once you pick up a trade, there is a pathway of advancement and a long-term rewarding career. An apprenticeship can lead you to becoming a journeyman, a plumber, an estimator, a business development professional or even an owner of a construction company. As a construction professional, you aren't limit to that trade or even the industry.

To help grow our economy and build prosperity for British Columbians, ICBA will continue to focus our efforts to increase apprenticeship completion rates and help train the next generation of construction professionals.

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