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MEDIA RELEASE

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Apprenticeship Completions Report Released

VICTORIA - The BC Labour Market Information (BC LMI) Committee today released the results of its comprehensive survey into construction apprenticeship completion rates in British Columbia. The study surveyed employers, current apprentices, apprentices who have completed, and apprentices who had chosen not to complete their program in the carpentry, electrical, and finishing trades. The survey provides an in depth look into why apprentices join the trade, why they do or do not complete their program and the influences that employers bring to the table.

"The report contributes to our understanding of the apprenticeship environment" says George Douglas, CEO of the Construction Industry Training Organization (CITO). "It provides valuable insights into the issues that affect apprentices in the workplace and will help us to develop strategies to support and enhance the training culture in industry."

Mary Kenny, CEO of the Residential Construction Industry Training Organization (RCITO) points out that, "most of the non-completing apprentices surveyed are still working in the construction industry. The report identified a number of areas where we can be helping them complete their certification and we need to be doing that."

"The survey report provides a wealth of information," says Manley McLachlan, President of the BC Construction Association. "It is particularly interesting to note that 40% of the apprentices surveyed indicated that the nature of the work was the primary motivating factor in their decision to enter an apprenticeship. We think this bodes well for our industry as we seek to attract the latest generation of workers in construction careers!"

"This report confirms that the union Joint Board training system works well," says Wayne Peppard, Executive Director of the BC and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council. "Orientation and pre-screening of applicants ensures higher success rates. It is important that the government and the ITOs follow-up by targeting employers who consistently register apprentices who do not complete and to provide advice and support to those sponsors."

The BC LMI Committee is jointly chaired by the BC Construction Association, the Canadian Home Builders Association of BC and the BC and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council. The committee includes representation from the major trades groups, government, Industry Training Organizations, and the Industry Training Authority. Funding for this study was provided by Service Canada.

The Apprenticeship Completion Project report can be reviewed on line at <http://www.bccassn.com/reports.html>

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