



BRITISH COLUMBIA CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

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MEDIA RELEASE

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BCCA Welcomes New Industry Training Board

Victoria – The Government today announced the appointments to the new Industry Training Board (ITA). The Authority was established in legislation passed last spring and will be responsible for overseeing industry training in British Columbia.

“We are looking forward to a new chapter in training for our province and anticipate working closely with this new Board to ensure a top-notch, industry-led apprenticeship system for construction,” states Michael Geoghegan, President and CEO of the BC Construction Association. “Our industry has been asking for more input into training programs for a long time and we see this as a golden opportunity to get more involved.”

In anticipation of the ITA announcement, The BC Construction Association, together with the Canadian Home Builders Association of BC and the Council of Construction Trades Association recently formed the Construction Industry Training Advisory Committee (CITAC). “With the development of CITAC,” states Geoghegan, “the construction industry will be able to work together on training initiatives and be there to advise the ITA of the issues that are of concern to our industry. Given the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics and the amount of related construction activity, it is more important than ever for the construction industry to get its act together on training.”

“Encouraging more young people to embrace skilled trades as a preferred career option and ensuring that the right training programs are available for them is in the best interest of all British Columbians,” points out Geoghegan, “but in order to attract more people into the industry, we have to make sure the training they receive is as good or better than what is available in the rest of the country. We are pleased to see that the government is committed to maintaining Red Seal standards.”

The BC Construction Association expects to take an active role in developing the new industry-led apprenticeship system and, together with CITAC, it is ready and willing to work with the new Industry Training Board on behalf of the construction industry.

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