

BCCA'S APPRENTICESHIP SERVICES PROJECT HITS \$10M MILESTONE
Over 700 employers and 1300 first year apprentices benefit
at a critical time for BC's construction industry

September 27, 2023, Victoria BC – The British Columbia Construction Association (BCCA) announced today that it has now issued \$10M in financial incentives to small and medium-sized construction industry employers through its Apprenticeship Services project, with \$4M more still available to applicants. The project provides employer participants with cash incentives to hire and register first-year apprentices in up to 39 Red Seal trades. This project is funded by the Government of Canada's [Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy's Apprenticeship Service](#) initiative. It has become the most far-reaching construction trade apprenticeship drive ever undertaken in British Columbia. Since launching in September 2022, the Apprenticeship Services project has issued financial incentives to employers for the hiring and registering of 1329 apprentices and sent payments to more than 700 qualified employers.

[The BCCA Apprenticeship Services project](#) pays employers \$5,000 for each first-year apprentice they register in any of up to 39 construction Red Seal trades. Continuing to improve diversity within BC's construction industry remains a critical goal of this project. An additional \$5,000 is issued if the apprentice self identifies as part of an equity deserving group, as part of an effort to redress underrepresentation in the trades. Employers can register up to two first-year apprentices before March 31, 2024 to earn up to \$20,000 in cash incentives. Apprentices hail from across BC, and to date 51% of project apprentices have declared themselves to be a member of an equity deserving group.

"Canada needs more skilled trades workers. We need more women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous people, racialized Canadians and individuals from the 2SLGBTQI+ community to join the skilled trades. That's why the Government of Canada's support for employers to hire first-year apprentices is so critical. It's helping more and more Canadians seize these exciting careers in the trades, and it's making sure businesses have the skilled workers they need to thrive as we build an economy that works for everyone."

- Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages, Randy Boissonnault

"The Apprenticeship Services project has become one of the most successful workforce development programs the BCCA has ever launched," says Chris Atchison, BCCA President. "The timing of this initiative couldn't be better. Our industry is hungry for skilled workers. We're doing our part by providing outreach and support to employers and inspiring job seekers to pursue rewarding careers in the construction industry."

While the project has registered apprentices in 35 different Red Seal trades, almost \$6M in funding has gone to BC employers registering first year carpenters, construction electricians and plumbers.

All participating employers must adhere to [BCCA's Builders Code](#), which sets a standard code of conduct for workers on construction sites. To date, 1059 employers have signed the Builder's Code pledge through the BCCA Apprenticeship Services project. This culture shifting commitment is helping to build a construction workforce where all employees are ensured safe and productive worksites free of hazing, bullying and harassment, thereby giving all workers the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

About the British Columbia Construction Association

[The British Columbia Construction Association \(BCCA\)](#) is a non-partisan and non-profit, working with four Regional Construction Associations (NRCA, SICA, VICA and VRCA) to serve more than 10,000 employers in the province's industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential multi-unit (ICIR) construction industry regardless of labour affiliation. BCCA advocates on behalf of all employers to ensure British Columbia's construction sector remains productive and resilient.

For more information about BCCA, please visit: bccasn.com

BC construction employer and potential candidates interested in the Apprenticeship Services initiative can visit: bccasn.com/apprenticeship-services

SOURCE:

BC Construction Association
Michelle Sullivan

CONTACT:

BC Construction Association
Greg Descantes
604-417-1379
gdescantes@pacegroup.com