



**British  
Columbia  
Construction  
Association**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**BCCA SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERS \$15.725M IN FEDERAL FUNDING TO BC'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY  
Distributes Apprenticeship Services program funds ahead of schedule, exceeding targets**

**March 26, 2024, Victoria BC** – The BC Construction Association (BCCA) announced today that it has completed delivery, ahead of schedule and within budget, on the most far-reaching construction trade apprenticeship drive ever undertaken in British Columbia, surpassing its funding objective by 2.280M. The Apprenticeship Services workforce development program was financed through the Government of Canada's Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy's Apprenticeship Service. Employers who registered up to four first-year apprentices in BCCA's Apprenticeship Services program could qualify to earn up to \$40,000 in cash incentives over two years. Since launching in September 2022, the financial incentives offered through Apprenticeship Services have resulted in the hiring and registering of 2075 apprentices in 37 Red Seal trades, and sent payments to more than 1020 qualified employers. Over \$15.725M has been injected into the BC economy through BCCA's Apprenticeship Services program.

"I'm proud of the team at BCCA who delivered the Apprenticeship Services project ahead of schedule and under budget, far exceeding important targets set by the Federal government. In addition, we were able to transfer \$780,000 from our operational budget into the program as a result of our team's efficiencies, to the direct benefit of BC's construction employers and apprentices," states BCCA President Chris Atchison. "Canadian taxpayers deserve nothing less than the efficient and reliable stewardship exemplified by BCCA's outstanding management of programs like Apprenticeship Services."

Leveraging its strong industry network and a highly successful Builders Life ad campaign, BCCA surpassed important funder targets, including in the amount of financial incentives paid and the diversity of apprentices. In addition, Apprenticeship Services drove program participants to key industry partners such as SkilledTradesBC.

The province-wide initiative was delivered to small- and medium-sized construction employers to help them overcome the financial barriers inherent in hiring and training first-year apprentices. In-demand trades such as electrical and plumbing benefitted from financial incentives.

"At a time when BC's construction industry faces critical workforce shortages, BCCA has stepped up to support employers through workforce development programs like Apprenticeship Services," continues Atchison. "We're doing our part to mitigate the ongoing workforce shortage in construction. The current and foreseeable gap is too large to meet BC's very real housing and infrastructure needs."



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A total of 1338 Apprenticeship Services program employers became signatories of the Builders Code Acceptable Worksite Culture Pledge, as part of a BCCA support and training program designed to improve worksite culture, increase worker attraction and retention, and eliminate harassment, bullying, hazing and discrimination. Continuing to improve and strengthen diversity within BC's construction industry was a key component of funding objectives and remains an ongoing goal of the BCCA.

BCCA's Apprenticeship Services program formally closes on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

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### **About the British Columbia Construction Association**

The British Columbia Construction Association (BCCA) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization 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](http://bccasn.com)

For more information about skilled workforce programs administered by BCCA, including Apprenticeship Services, visit [bccasn.com/skilled-workforce](http://bccasn.com/skilled-workforce)

#### **SOURCE:**

BC Construction Association  
Michelle Sullivan

#### **CONTACT:**

BC Construction Association  
Greg Descantes  
604-417-1379  
[gdescantes@pacegroup.com](mailto:gdescantes@pacegroup.com)