



Parksville, BC May 28, 2018 – Policy Improving Apprenticeship Completion Rates

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A policy on improving Apprenticeship Completion Rates put forward by the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce passes at BC Chamber the BC Chamber of Commerce annual General Meeting and Conference held in Kamloops.

Skilled tradespeople are vital to supporting industries that drive Canada's economy. Strong economic growth in areas such as construction and natural resources, combined with an aging workforce, have contributed to increased demand for skilled tradespeople in Canada. Registration in apprenticeship programs has been increasing steadily over the last few years, but the growth in the number of completions has not kept pace.

Kim Burden, Executive Director for the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce says 'The unanimous acceptance of this policy by the Chambers from across the province demonstrates the need for skill development in our workforce. We are optimistic the provincial government will recognize the need to improve the completion rates of apprentices to Red Seal Tradespeople to ensure a smooth succession from retiring tradespeople.'

The policy was passed unanimously and is now an official BC Chamber policy and will be advocated by the BC Chamber to appropriate levels of government over 2018-19.

The Chamber recommends the provincial government:

1. Should discontinue modularized training and certification.
2. Should reinstate compulsory certification, in alignment with the rest of Canada, accompanied using a clear framework for the review of trades with an effective compliance and enforcement policy, based on evidence-based analysis and input from industry.

"The Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce is proud to see this policy pass and receive support from our peers across the province," said Kim Burden, Executive Director "Our Chamber is committed to creating a more business-friendly region and a more business-friendly BC."

The BC Chamber AGM and Conference is held in a different BC community each year. The event is the largest annual business policy forum in the province. Every year, member Chambers of the BC Chamber develop and submit policies for the consideration of their peers. This year, 52 policies were up for debate at the BC Chamber of Commerce AGM.

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