

Pre-Apprenticeship in Canada Panelists

Peter Bishop, Supervisor, Apprenticeship Programs, Hydro Ottawa Limited

Peter Bishop started his career as a Lineman with Bell Canada in 1989. In 1991, he joined Hydro Ottawa and became a Powerline Maintainer, a position he held until 2014. In January of that year, Peter took over as Supervisor, Distribution Operations and shortly after was appointed as Supervisor, Apprenticeship Programs at the utility company which delivers electricity to more than 332,000 homes and businesses in Ottawa and Casselman. For 100 years, Hydro Ottawa has reliably supplied its customers with power, building and investing in the local electric grid. Proudly municipally owned, Hydro Ottawa contributes to the well-being of the community it serves. Its innovative services help customers manage their account and energy use.

Tonya Bruin, CEO, To Do-Done Renovations and Handyman Services

Tonya Bruin has a degree in Biology and Environmental Policy and is an accredited project management professional. She had sixteen years of experience working in the public sector for four different federal departments. In 2015, she chose growth over comfort and started a renovations company. She has built her business into an exceptional company that provides clients with amazing renovations and gives hard-working individuals great jobs that they can be proud of. On weekends, you can usually find her in nature mountain biking, camping, white water paddling, hiking, backcountry skiing, travelling off-the-beaten track and exploring her own backyard.

Ian Reekie, Apprentice Coordinator, EPCOR Electricity Operations

Ian Reekie is responsible for apprentice development in Electricity Services at EPCOR. He oversees apprentices from the time of their initial hiring to their attainment of journeyperson status. Currently, Ian supports 27 apprentices made up of apprentice Power Line Technicians, Power Systems Electricians, and Electricians. He has extensive field experience and training in the electric utility industry, including ten years of experience with EPCOR as a Field Technical Trainer and Presenter. Ian is a certified Electrician and is a Power Systems Electrician. He has his Certified Engineering Technologist (CET) designation and is also a graduate of the University of Alberta, Occupational Health and Safety Program and a Safety Codes Officer (Electrical Utility Systems).

Christina Taylor, Executive Director, Career Link Atlantic, NB Teen Apprentice Program, Irving Oil

Christina Taylor is the Executive Director of Career Link Atlantic and is Senior Manager of Workforce Development for Irving Oil. She is a graduate of McGill University and the University of New Brunswick and has over 15 years experience in industrial relations and administrative law. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of Buildforce Canada, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Skills Canada New Brunswick and is an employer representative on the New Brunswick Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification Board. She is currently leading development of the New Brunswick Teen Apprentice Program (NBTAP), a project that enables her to bring together the many stakeholders who believe in fostering positive, collaborative, labour market information driven solutions to the skilled trades labour gap in New Brunswick.