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Prince George Chamber of Commerce - Did You Know

November 2016 Issue

Did you know…Industry Training Authority has a robust lineup of youth trades training programs to get kids to start thinking about trades as early as Grade 5?

On September 22, the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and the B.C. government unveiled the updated Youth Trades Training program at Terry Fox Secondary School in Port Coquitlam. The Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training and Minister Responsible for Labour, and Gary Herman, CEO, ITA, and Coquitlam School District officials spoke to the value of early exposure to trades and encouraged students to think of trades training as their next step in post-secondary education.

The refreshed program names show a clear path from early learnings to apprenticeship and certification—Discover, Explore, Train and Work. The updates come as a result of extensive research that surveyed students, parents, educators and industry, which indicated a need for a streamlined path and earlier access to trades.

Announced in the 2016 provincial budget, ITA received an additional $7.8 million from the B.C. government, which will help implement the programs and increase the number students enrolling in trades programs as well as get them thinking about trades careers throughout their school years. This aligns with the goals set out in BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint to get more students involved in trades training.

Visit www.itabc.ca/youth for more details about the expanded programs.





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