

New Industry Training Authority Now in Full Operation

To meet industry demands for skilled workers, the BC government created the Industry Training Authority (ITA) - a new provincial government agency mandated to govern, expand and improve BC's industry training system. It became operative earlier this year. The ITA works to create greater flexibility and accountability within the industry training system, better align training outcomes with industry requirements, and meet BC's skilled training needs.

The ITA is industry driven, and employer and learner satisfaction levels will be among its key benchmarks. It has already implemented various measures designed to encourage more employer engagement and expanded training opportunities. Employers are being given more flexibility in terms of how they integrate work-based training opportunities into their operations.

"Significant change is already underway," says ITA CEO Brian Clewes. "But at the same time, it's important for employers and others to realize that we are continuing to fully support existing apprenticeship programs and trades. We want to see as many current apprenticeships as possible completed, and want to significantly increase the number of new apprenticeships registered."

The ITA has also begun to work with industry groups on the review of proposals for new training programs, and recently approved BC's first new industry-led training program. The Residential Construction Framing Technician program was developed by the Canadian Home Builders' Association – BC, and is expected to be broadly rolled out this fall.

The ITA contracts with Service BC to provide industry training services at its locations throughout BC. These services include employer and trainee registrations, assessment of applications for equivalency exams, administration of examinations and issuing of certifications.

The ITA expects to maintain a fast pace of developments in the months ahead. Go to www.itabc.ca and sign up for an ITA e-newsletter that provides updates on new developments. Further information on how to access industry training information and services is also provided below.

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