



MÉTIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEWS RELEASE

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MOU increases trades education and employment opportunities for Métis people in B.C.

Surrey, B.C.— As part of its commitment to support success in trades education and apprenticeship for Indigenous communities, and actively working towards reconciliation, the Industry Training Authority (ITA), in partnership with Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The MOU enables MNBC to strengthen employment opportunities for their communities, create an appropriate cultural approach to an apprenticeship pathway and experience, and support community members in obtaining certification in their trades.

“ITA has been a strong supporter of Métis people in B.C., and the signing of this MOU ensures that Métis apprentices will always have access to a sponsor as they move through their trades training towards their Red Seal,” said Clara Morin Dal Col, President of Métis Nation British Columbia. “Completing trades training will have a major impact on not only the individual, but it also sets an example for future generations. This MOU demonstrates ITA’s commitment to Indigenous apprentices and is yet another way that MNBC can support its most valuable resource—its people.”

“I believe there are immense benefits in government working together with Indigenous communities. This memorandum is a powerful example of reconciliation in action and will lead to new pathways for Métis people to achieve good-paying family-supporting trades careers,” said Melanie Mark, Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training. “I’m so proud that we are empowering Indigenous people to access the training opportunities they need to help us build the best B.C. while providing local employers the skilled workforce necessary to succeed and thrive in today’s economy.”

The MOU expands on MNBC’s priorities for creating rewarding employment opportunities and reflects its values in fostering partnerships and relationships. Providing apprentices with access to quality training and supports through to certification helps them obtain good-paying jobs and improves their standard of living.

“Our partnership with Métis Nation British Columbia will foster Indigenous, employer, business, and industry collaboration that will strongly support increased apprenticeships and trades success for Métis people throughout the province,” said Michael Cameron, Director of Indigenous Initiatives at ITA. “Increasing community- and regional-based training and employment raises the profile of trades professions as a high-opportunity career, not only for Indigenous people but also for all British Columbians.”

“I am pleased to know we are offering one more level of support to our Métis apprentices,” said Susie Hooper, Regional Director and Minister of Employment and Training for MNBC. “Removing barriers means greater success for our people which leads to stronger families and communities.”

About Métis Nation British Columbia

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) represents nearly 90,000 self-identified Métis people in B.C. To date, over 20,000 Métis Citizens are provincially registered with MNBC. The Métis National Council and the Provincial Government of British Columbia, as well as the Federal Government of Canada, recognize Métis Nation British Columbia as the Governing Nation for Métis in B.C. MNBC develops and enhances opportunities for our Métis Chartered Communities and Métis people in British Columbia by providing culturally relevant social and economic programs and services. For more information, visit mNBC.ca.

About the Industry Training Authority (ITA)

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) leads and coordinates British Columbia's skilled trades system. ITA works with apprentices, employers, industry, labour, training providers and government to fund training, issue credentials, support apprenticeships, set program standards and increase opportunities in the trades. For more information, visit itabc.ca.

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Media Contact

Lubna Ekramoddoullah
Communications Specialist
Industry Training Authority
lekramoddoullah@itabc.ca
778-327-5896