January 22, 2013

Apprenticeship Support Consultation

Overview

The Industry Training Authority (ITA) is undertaking an extensive consultation to seek input on new supports aimed at improving continuation and completion rates for apprentices in BC.

Participants in the consultation will be asked to identify barriers and gaps in available supports for both the apprentice and the sponsor at every stage in the apprenticeship journey.

An Advisory Group chaired by former Canadian Apprenticeship Forum member, Brian Bickley, is providing guidance on the consultation process. The Advisory Group is also mandated to review the consultation findings and provide input into the initiative for consideration by the ITA Board.

Consultations will take place through to the end of March and the Advisory Group report will be prepared for review by the ITA Board this spring. It is expected that the supports will be implemented shortly thereafter.

While the consultation is focused on identifying supports that would be of direct benefit to those active in apprenticeship, it is expected that additional insights will be collected on challenges related to other aspects of the apprenticeship system. (E.g. attracting entrants to apprenticeship, expanding apprenticeship opportunities, and learning more about the reasons for non-completion)

Public meetings will be held throughout British Columbia in February and March.

Those interested in joining the conversation may also take part in webinars and an on-line survey, and will be encouraged to follow the discussion on social media. Registration for consultation meetings, background information and surveys will be available on ITA's website at www.itabc.ca

February 5	Kelowna
February 13	Cranbrook
February 20	Terrace
February 27	Fort St. John
March 5	Prince George
March 7	Victoria
March 14	Burnaby

Through the variety of input opportunities, apprentices, sponsors and a broad range of other stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input on barriers and gaps in the current system, and to identify potential supports to address those issues.