



# CONNECT YOUR STUDENTS TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Learn more about  
trades opportunities



Homebuilders  
Initiative



CANADIAN  
HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# WHY?

Work Experience and work study programs are beneficial to students, employers and the school community. For the employer, in a trend of declining interest in the trades, it provides leads to students who are passionate to learn more about the industry. It also can help shape the future of the company. For the student, it provides exciting hands-on experience working with a growing and positive company. The students work at different sites, with different team members at different levels of experience, which can guide the student into what avenue of employment they would like to pursue after finishing their education. This is a great opportunity to provide an opportunity for mentorship and supporting the next generation of tradespeople!

For the school, you are the conduit to supporting students finding well paid and meaningful work in the trades! You are helping to build the community and strengthen ties with industry.

As employers, many of us are looking to find excellent people and recognizing the growing shortage of skilled trades workers – we are motivated to support our local schools and programs, but we may not be aware of the opportunities to connect. This guide is to support school outreach to industry and provide some helpful tips.

The goal is to get youth excited about the trades, and for them to consider the construction industry as a viable career path, preferably staying with your company. The time you spend planning and then executing will pay off tenfold.

# HOW?

If you are not sure where to start, take a look at our Employer Guide for hiring Spring & Summer students! This guide has been developed in partnership with Twin Lions Contracting who have an excellent track record in hiring and supporting high school students starting their career in trades!

The guide is there to support employers to hire young workers and you are welcome to share this guide with your current industry contacts.

It's important to be aware of the [SkilledTradesBC Youth Work in Trades Program Guide](#) for details on registering your students for their apprenticeships.

## Here are some options to reach out to industry!

- Reach out to your [CHBA local](#)! CHBA locals are around the Province and we have a group of dedicated and motivated volunteers.
- Ask for a builder to come in and speak to your class – it could be any classroom:
  - Math class – how do you budget for home construction?
  - Trades class – why do you love being in trades
  - Career class – why is entrepreneurship a great option?
- See if they have any members with sites available for field trips. One great idea is taking your class to see one of our CHBA BC Certified Energy Advisors in action doing a blower door test!
- Connect with your regional SkilledTradesBC Apprenticeship Advisor if you have not already, they often have great relationships with employers in your area – email [youth@skilledtradesbc.ca](mailto:youth@skilledtradesbc.ca) to connect with your regional SkilledTrades BC contact
- Reach out to STEP-BC – Skilled Trades Employment Placement for your students who will be graduating
  - Once your students have graduated or looking to graduate, [STEP-BC](#) can potentially support your graduates with resume help, steel toed footwear and connect them with jobs, they are also a great group to invite to a Job or Opportunity Fair!
- Skills Canada BC & Regional competitions – look at what regional competitions are out there for your trades students – this will offer them the opportunity to compete at a regional and potentially Provincial and Federal level!
  - [Regional](#)



- Consider taking your students to the annual [Skills Canada BC competition](#) held in Abbotsford every April – your students will see a wide range of skilled trades competitions and there are some bussing subsidies available
- [Skills Ready](#) – connect with Skills Ready to help plan your next Opportunity Fair or Try A Trade as well as other opportunities. Skills Ready are part of Construction Foundation of BC.
- Connect with your local hardware store – they often have materials or other supports that may be helpful – they are also great to talk to about what companies are hiring or more – consider reaching out to their Commercial or Business Salesperson
  - Consider asking to set up an account – you may get some great discounts on bulk purchases
  - Talk to them about off cuts or materials they typically discard in case any of them may be of use
  - Do you have a welding class? Talk to your local metal fabricator to get their left overs
  - Do you have a plumbing class? Talk to Noble or Andrew Sheret about potential left overs or returns

**Connect with other regional associations – many of these groups have dedicated staff people for high school outreach:**

- [ICBA](#)
- [BCCA](#) – regional offices around BC
- Union Training Halls
- [Electrical Joint Training Committee](#)
- [Iron Workers Local 97](#)

**Consider hosting an Opportunity Fair – some great people to ask:**

- Local trades trainer – such as your university or polytechnic
- Local utilities
- Provincial utilities
- CHBA members
- Other association members
- STEP-BC
- SkilledTradesBC
- Local union trades offices
- Construction Foundation

#### **Support your apprentices with resources:**

- SkilledTradesBC – videos and resources – check out their excellent [YouTube channel](#) and their website is full of excellent guides and resources
- [SkillPlan](#) – videos and resources – free to sign up – (Please note this site will connect to union specific employment resources.)
- BC Construction Safety Alliance BCCSA offers free training to high school students with [SiteReadyBC](#) – this is an online course that is required for many large sites like the LNG project – reach out to [onlinetraining@bccsa.ca](mailto:onlinetraining@bccsa.ca) – this course is a great resume builder! Think of it as FoodSafe for construction.
- BCCSA may also be an option for a speaker! They could touch on safety and the opportunities in the safety field like Construction Safety Officer (CSO).
- [Construction Foundation of BC](#) – lots of great positive stories and more

#### **Some questions to start building connections to industry:**

- Do you have any sites coming up this year that would be good for a field trip?
- Do you have ongoing training that we could include some students in?
- Are there association events coming up where students may be welcome?
- Do you have any materials or tools that you are looking to donate? (You would be surprised how much ‘stuff’ companies have on hand.)



# NEXT STEPS

## Are you looking for opportunities to connect with industry?

1. Provide your current industry network with the CHBA Spring/Summer Student Guide
2. Encourage employers to sign up as sponsors with SkilledTradesBC to hire apprentices from your students:
  - a. [SkilledTradesBC](#) – sign up to be a sponsor if they are not already.
  - b. [MyCRA](#) for business for access to sign up for accessing the Grants and Contributions Online Services.
  - c. Create [BCeID account](#) in order to access BC Employer Training Grant.
3. Be aware of the timelines for grants and subsidies to support industry hiring from your students:
  - a. The most significant funding source for supporting a summer student is the [Canada Summer jobs wage subsidy](#) – this typically opens in November and closes in mid-January. This form goes to local MP office for approval, you can see what your local priorities are [here](#).
  - b. Let your network know about the [BC Employer Training Grant](#) this grant will support employers in receiving grants for apprenticeship and other training including safety, business management and more.
  - c. Employers can access [tax credits](#) for registering apprentices and completion of schooling levels – [Apprenticeship job creation tax credit](#). They can ask their accountant know about this tax credit and download the report requirements from the SkilledTradesBC online portal.
  - d. Connect with your local [WorkBC](#) office for more information on local grants and wage subsidy programs and they will have other information for graduates or other job seekers.



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[careerintrades.org](https://careerintrades.org)



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