

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **BC Chamber welcomes action under Skills for Jobs Blueprint**

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Vancouver, July 28, 2014** – The BC Chamber of Commerce welcomes critical new trades-training capacity delivered under B.C.’s Skills for Jobs Blueprint.

The B.C. government today announced that it will fund 272 new trades training seats at BC Institute of Technology starting this fall.

“As B.C. gears up for major northern development and the unprecedented LNG opportunity, there’s no time to lose in training British Columbians,” said John Winter, BC Chamber president and CEO. “We’re very pleased to see government taking needed action on funding trades-training capacity and hope to see further similar announcements at other vocational schools around B.C.”

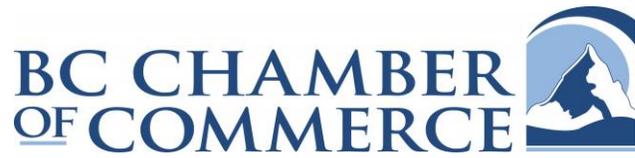
Winter commended government for taking swift action under its Skills for Jobs Blueprint.

“The Blueprint presents a lot of great ideas for more closely tailoring training opportunities to B.C.’s job market, but its success depends on the action it delivers,” Winter said. “We’re encouraged to see the government taking swift action to deliver on those ideas.”

As government steps up investment in trades training, Winter encouraged B.C.’s business community to throw its weight behind needed apprenticeship programs.

“B.C. employers are a critical part of the solution to meeting B.C.’s skills gap,” Winter said. “We encourage B.C. employers to invest today in B.C. youth by helping grow apprenticeship opportunities.”

*The BC Chamber is the largest and most broadly-based business organization in the province. Representing more than 125 Chambers of Commerce and 36,000 businesses of every size, sector and region of the province, the BC Chamber of Commerce is “The Voice of Business in BC.”*



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