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MEDIA ADVISORY
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FORT ST JOHN SCHOOLS RECEIVE \$80,000 FOR NEW SHOP CLASS EQUIPMENT

Fort St. John – BC’s construction employers have provided \$80,000 in grant funding to support skilled trades training in the Peace River North School District through the Project Shop Class initiative. The funds were presented today at the opening of the “Find Your Fit” Fit’ sessions at the Regional LNG Energy Seminars in Fort St. John and will go towards the purchase of much need equipment for their shop classes.

“These grants are made possible through the generous donations of industry employers and Northern Development Initiative Trust. They are confirmation of our collective commitment to invest in the future of our youth,” remarked Rosalind Thorn, President of the BC Construction Association - North. “This is the type of collaborative initiative we need in Northern BC in order to open up access to new opportunities for our local students”.

Carson Newby of Shell Canada, a major contributor to the initiative, was on hand to speak to a crowd of individuals from local schools, local government, industry and businesses. “We are very pleased to be part of this worthy initiative. With the shortage of skilled workers that BC is facing we must encourage our youth to consider a career in the trades and having up to date equipment in shop classes results in a stronger introduction to the trades.”

Peace River North MLA Pat Pimm stated “Our government is working to equip people with the skills they need to participate in our growing economy, particularly our natural gas industry. As the Peace is the heartland of natural resource development in B.C., it’s critical that our students have access to skills training to meet the demands of industry. The purchase of necessary equipment will help students acquire those skills.”

Currently, just 1 in 85 new high school graduates in British Columbia enter the construction trades within one year of graduation. For BC to address predicted skilled trades shortages of at least 26,000 workers by 2023, that number must be closer to 1 in 5.

Project Shop Class is an initiative of the Construction Foundation of BC and aims to encourage young British Columbians to develop practical skills and pursue careers in the skilled trades.

The Construction Foundation of BC is the charitable arm of the Construction Associations of BC: BC Construction Association, BCCA North, Southern Interior Construction Association, Vancouver Island Construction Association and the Vancouver Regional Construction Association.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.projectshopclass.com or www.constructionfoundationbc.ca.



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