

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BRIEFING NOTE

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Don McRae, Minister, for **Information** in preparation for a meeting at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention

SUBJECT: Representatives of the City of Penticton wish to discuss expanding local educational opportunities for those interested in the oil and gas industry and power-line technician pre-apprenticeship programs

KEY POINTS:

- 1) The Ministry of Education is in the early stages of a Skills Training initiative that may benefit Penticton students interested in careers.
- 2) Penticton councillors and personnel may wish to participate in the Ministry of Education's process to review and revise graduation requirements.

BACKGROUND:

Local school district participation in career and skills training programs, 2007/08 to 2011/12:

Career Preparation Program	388	359	184	189	197
Career Technical Program	2	14	41	37	34

The significant reduction since 2008/09 is consistent with results in other districts, as employers scaled back on training and apprenticeship programs due to the economy.

DISCUSSION:

The Ministry of Education is in the early stages of two initiatives that might interest OBAC representatives:

1. Skills Training

- The Ministry of Education is working on a strategy to increase the number of K12 students participating in skills training, in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation, and Technology and the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training.
- The Skills Training strategy has three key elements:
 - i. K12 curriculum and policy changes
 - ii. Improving public perception and student awareness
 - iii. Developing school district capacity
- A key target for the Skills Training initiative is to increase the number of students participating in skills training programs such as ACE IT and Secondary School Apprenticeship by 50%, by 2015.

2. Graduation Requirements Advisory Dialogue (GRAD)

- A team of regional leaders is conducting a series of dialogues between September and November 2012.
- The GRAD representative for the Thompson-Okanagan region is Mr. Myron Dueck (mdueck@summer.com).

LINKS TO OTHER MINISTRIES:

- Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation, and Technology for post-secondary infrastructure and educational programs
- Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training for industry training initiatives

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