

Briefing note: Enhanced IUOE Training Centre

Issue:

IUOE Local 115 has a vision of creating a state-of-the-art training facility at its current Maple Ridge training location. Long term security over the lands on which it operates the training facility is critical to supporting major new investments in training infrastructure and accommodation. This would require an extension of the lease to 99-years, or sale of the land to IUOE Local 115 Training Association.

Background:

IUOE Local 115 Training Association (IUOETA) runs a heavy equipment training campus on 40 acres of crown land in Maple Ridge. The facility saw 4,600 students in the past two years, who were trained on more than 35 pieces of heavy equipment. It is the centre of record for industry and union members for both equipment and safety training.

IUOETA provides training on behalf of the Industry Training Authority and has diverse courses from entry level through to heavy equipment operator apprenticeships. It boasts a 90 percent successful completion rate.

It wants to expand the indoor and outdoor training facilities with both more classroom space as well as increased access to heavy equipment. The IUOETA wants to lead by example, working with the latest technology as the industry moves to autonomous vehicles. It also aims to be an industry leader in reducing its carbon footprint.

A key part of the success of expansion is the construction of on-campus housing. The provision of residences for trainees would allow the IUOETA to attract more students, particularly indigenous trainees.

The training courses at Maple Ridge vary in length, some as short as four weeks while others are up to 16 weeks long; this obviously makes it difficult for students to find affordable accommodation which has proven to be a deterrent to indigenous participation, a concern identified by First Nations leaders. The IUOETA has had positive discussions with indigenous leaders about on-campus housing. A similar IUOE training facility in Ontario has a 70-room dorm and the IUOE's flagship international training centre in Texas, can house 227 students.

The Maple Ridge site is also a source of gravel for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Recognising the importance of this to B.C.'s road construction, any expansion of the training facility would be designed to ensure the integrity of supply for MOTI.

Recommendation:

IUOE Local 115 urges support for its plans for a state-of-the-art facility, particularly in light of the government's commitment to investing in BC's infrastructure as well as its goal of ensuring high quality training is accessible, especially to under-represented and non-traditional groups.

IUOE Local 115 requests either the land it occupies be sold to the Training Association or a long-term (99 year) lease be granted on the property. IUOETA would then work with the ministries of Advanced Education and Transportation and Infrastructure to achieve its goals of building on the success it has had since its inception.





A Next Generation Training Centre for BC's Construction Professionals

IUOE Local 115 Training Association

iuoe 
LOCAL 115



Centre of Excellence for the Construction Industry

We have a legacy opportunity to expand training for construction workers for decades to come.

We know that an estimated 27,000 construction workers will be needed in the next six years.

We intend to build on the already recognized IUOE Training Centre in Maple Ridge by:

- Expanding training in heavy equipment, essential to BC's infrastructure growth;
- Developing careers for workers across the industry;
- Safeguarding opportunities for people who don't usually enter construction especially indigenous people and women.

Building on Experience

The Maple Ridge Training Centre has been operating almost 50 years, training thousands of BC's construction workers.

- More than 25,000 students have passed through the gates of the IUOE training facility;
- despite being closed for three months during Covid, the training facility has seen more than 4,600 students in the last two years;
- training takes place in classroom, on equipment - from excavators to cranes – and on simulators;
- the centre is recognized as the key place for training by employers and appreciated by apprentices.





Training for the Future

Our trainees go on to build and maintain critical infrastructure across the province. Such as:

- building our highways, bridges, tunnels, and skytrain;
- constructing hospitals;
- windfarms;
- pipelines;
- developing multi-family housing.

We know the need for skilled workers is huge now and will just continue to grow as the province adapts to new realities.

By its very nature construction is dangerous – those dangers are minimized with a trained, skilled workforce.



Advancing Reconciliation

- The training courses at the BC facility are 4-16 weeks long. Students learn skills they can take back and use in their communities.
- But a major barrier to attracting indigenous students is the lack of short term, affordable accommodation.
- We've heard clearly from indigenous partners that on-site accommodation is a must for full indigenous participation.
- Key to an expansion of the Maple Ridge training centre is the provision of on-campus housing.
- Our plan adds dorm-style housing for students with a communal kitchen.



iuoe⁺
LOCAL 115

Best Practice

- The expansion will be modeled on the IUOE'S world leading training centre in Texas:
- There the 265-acre campus has conference facilities, classrooms, a mechanics shop and a vast array of heavy equipment and simulator labs for operating and stationary engineers;
- It has accommodation for 227, provides meals and a gym for trainees and staff.
- Several thousand U.S. apprentices went through the Texas facility last year.
- It will also build on lessons learned from Canadian training centres:
- IUOE Local 793 has a training unit (Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario) with a focus on heavy equipment and crane operations;
- It has dorm space for 70.





The View From the Ground



Student Testimonials

"One of the most effective courses I've taken before starting a job"

"The course has allowed me to become very excited and eager to step into the industry. Giving me a great idea of what to expect with a toolbox full of valuable techniques and skills to get started"

"This course was a great introduction in becoming a full time machine operator. It gets you ready for the field"



Employer Testimonial

"We applaud the instructors for their knowledge, positive reinforcement and ability to adapt teaching methods that so successfully met the students' needs."



Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association

PGNAETA's commitment to collaborate with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 115 Training Association has been a fruitful experience to date. The experience led PGNAETA and IUOE to partner on ensuring Industry standards were taught, in turn building a qualified pool to satisfy Industry needs in personnel... We are witness to a variety of successes for individuals, their families and now communities. This momentum will continue in this valued partnership with the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 115 Training Association.

A Vision for the Next 100 Years

- The Maple Ridge Training Centre has almost half a century behind it.
- It can lead BC's construction training for another century with commitment that we have – and anticipate other stakeholders also have.
- Some of the province's needs will change, some will remain the same but skilled construction workers will always be in demand to address all the challenges.
- The commitment to encourage non-traditional workers into construction – whether indigenous people, women or others – positions us to continue as leaders in training.
- We will lead industry by example in training with the latest technology as we move towards autonomous equipment.
- We will make use of environmentally friendly equipment as we continue to take steps to lower our carbon foot print.



iuoe⁺
LOCAL 115

The Role for Government

- We applaud the Provincial Government's commitment to training and to ensuring a diverse workforce.
- The IUOE want to assist in all ways possible.
- To grow at the Maple Ridge location, we need long-term security for the site.
- We have less than four years left on our License of Occupation with MoTI and 24 years left on our lease.
- We would ideally like a land transfer or a 99-year lease.
- We acknowledge the importance of the gravel at the site for MoTI and in any expansion of the training facility will ensure that supply is uninterrupted.





Questions?

File: 265-20/FTA
Reference: 272511

November 2, 2022

VIA EMAIL

To: All District Staff

From: Doug Kelly, Director, Forest Tenures Branch

Re: New Forest Tenures Applications and Resources Site to Support Staff Training

Following a survey of forest district staff across the province conducted earlier this year, training opportunities were identified for the newly launched suite of web-based Forest Tenure Administration Applications, including the Natural Resource Online Services (NROS) Portal, Resource Road System (RRS), Status and Clearance Service Component (SNCSC) and Forest Tenures Administration (FTA) 5.0.

As a result, the Integrated Forestry Project team has developed the [Forest Tenures Applications Training and Resources](#) site, hosted on Confluence, to provide operations support. This online resource collects and updates the many necessary training documents, videos, and online modules related to these applications and processes in a single location with an intuitive design to help staff more easily find the training materials they need. We believe this site will not only help ease the transition for existing staff as forest tenures administration processes evolve and are refined, but also improve the onboarding process for new staff.

The new site also [provides updates](#) on tenure administration processes, system remediations, approved workarounds, and application issues status. It replaces the existing Forest Tenures Training and Manuals SharePoint site and is now the updated source for training material related to these applications. If you have the Forest Tenures Training and Manuals SharePoint site bookmarked, please replace it with the [Forest Tenures Applications Training and Resources](#) site.

Please feel free to forward this email to any colleague you feel might be interested in this information. If you have any questions, please contact Forest Tenures Branch at ForestTenuresBranch@gov.bc.ca.



Doug Kelly