

MEDIA STATEMENT

Build a Dream Welcomes Government Investment in Indigenous Apprentices

WINDSOR, ON - January 30th, 2025 – Build a Dream welcomes the Government of Canada's announcement to invest nearly \$5 million in the Trade Winds to Success Training Society. This funding will train more than 290 Indigenous Red Seal apprentices and play a crucial role in the development of the skilled workforce needed to support Canada's National Housing Strategy.

Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Steven MacKinnon revealed that this investment, funded under the Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy, will help equip Indigenous apprentices with the skills necessary to succeed in the trades while supporting the transition to a clean economy. The Towards Net Zero Residential Construction project is designed to foster the next generation of skilled workers. These workers will not only help build the homes needed to meet Canada's ambitious goal of unlocking 3.87 million new homes by 2031 but also reduce environmental impacts through sustainable practices.

"We are excited to see this commitment from the Government of Canada to support Indigenous communities and help increase participation in the skilled trades. At Build a Dream, we're committed to fostering inclusive and diverse pathways into trades for all Canadians, including Indigenous youth. This investment aligns perfectly with our mission to create a more gender-balanced workforce and support the next generation of skilled workers," said Nour Hachem, Founder and President of Build a Dream.

Build a Dream is proud to be part of this growing movement.

Through the You're Hired! Roadshow and Dream and Build conference, Build a Dream provides crucial opportunities for underrepresented groups to explore careers in skilled trades, emergency services, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). "As the demand for skilled tradespeople continues to rise, it's vital that we support initiatives that offer direct pathways to careers that are both rewarding and sustainable. This June, our You're Hired! Roadshow, alongside our Dream and Build conference in Edmonton, will continue the development of a skilled workforce that reflects the diversity of Canada's communities," added Nour Hachem.

This funding announcement marks another important step in building a stronger, more inclusive workforce.

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