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Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market
Development
Industry Canada

\$976K BUILDS TRADES TRAINING FACILITY IN POWELL RIVER

POWELL RIVER – The federal and provincial governments are investing \$976,000 to replace Vancouver Island University’s trades training facility at its Powell River campus. The project is expected to create about eight jobs.

John Weston, MP for West Vancouver–Sunshine Coast–Sea to Sky Country and Moira Stilwell, British Columbia’s Minister of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development made the announcement today.

“The project at VIU's Powell River campus is a great example of how our partnership with the provincial government is allowing us to take immediate action to help regional economies get back on track,” said Weston. “My staff and I have been working specifically on this project for eight months because of the benefit it will bring to VIU, its students and the Powell River area.”

“Partnering with the federal government allows us to invest in campuses all over B.C. to give students the best possible learning experience,” said Stilwell. “By renovating and renewing buildings and campuses, we’re creating jobs that will boost the region’s economy now, and for the future.”

This investment is part of the federal government’s two-year, \$2-billion plan to repair and expand research and educational facilities at Canadian post-secondary institutions. The Knowledge Infrastructure Program is helping to provide economic stimulus and promote employment by creating jobs for engineers, architects, tradespeople and technicians. In B.C. the federal government is providing up to 50 per cent of the cost of selected projects on a cost-share basis with the Province.

The \$976,000 investment will replace the current out-of-date and aging trades building with a new facility that will greatly enhance the learning environment. The new building will be located on the Powell River campus, allowing students in the carpentry and automotive trades to have access to everything VIU’s campus has to offer.

This is one of 11 projects at public, post-secondary institutions across the province that will break ground quickly, thanks to a joint federal-provincial investment of \$64.3 million. This project is also part of an overall \$14-billion capital infrastructure program supported by the Province to create jobs and vital public infrastructure in every region of B.C.

“This funding announcement is a tremendous step forward for the Powell River campus and community, which is working toward a neighbourhood of learning concept in partnership with School District 47 to bring post-secondary programs into one location,” said Ralph Nilson, president of Vancouver Island University. “VIU is committed to providing regional access to higher learning. This project demonstrates that commitment, contributing significantly to the quality of education, the experience of students studying in our programs and to economic development in the region. The economy of the Powell River region is in transition, from a resource-based economy to a more diversified services-oriented economy. The trades programs are an essential component of economic sustainability in the region, as VIU generates opportunities for training and employment with First Nations communities and industry.”

Work on the Powell River campus is scheduled to begin by September and is expected to generate up to eight jobs.

Canada’s Economic Action Plan sets out to stimulate the Canadian economy over the next two years and to improve our long-term competitiveness through \$12 billion in new infrastructure investment, which includes the \$2-billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

For more information on the provincial government’s three-year job creation plan, visit www.gov.bc.ca/infrastructure. For more information about the Knowledge Infrastructure Program visit www.ic.gc.ca/knowledge-infrastructure.

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