

Recipient Paving the Way for Positive Change: 'National Apprenticeship Award - Diversity & Inclusion Champion' for 2023 Announced

VANCOUVER, September 14, 2023 – Canadian skilled trades employers are facing unprecedented labour shortages. By diversifying their workforces and ensuring inclusive hiring practices, industry will make strides toward meeting the requirements of our country's trades labour force, now and into the future. Yesterday, at the 2023 UA Canadian Conference, Alanna Marklund, RSE Welder and National Manager of Youth, Diversity and Indigenous Relations with UA Canada was recognized for her outstanding advocacy for the inclusion of under-represented and equity-priority individuals in apprenticeship.

"Alanna's work has impacted the lives of thousands of apprentice candidates, registered apprentices, journeypersons and their families and communities.", says France Daviault, CEO of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. "Her involvement with innumerable committees, events and initiatives both within UA and the broader skilled trades community, helps to ensure opportunities to work which are unrestricted by race, colour, gender, sexual orientation or any other quality making an individual unique."

After reviewing nominations from across the country, this choice was affirmed by the CAF-FCA Board of Directors, a dedicated group of volunteers drawn from all corners of Canada's apprenticeship community.

Alanna's achievements, event participation and advisory roles include:

- First female international competitor in the UA International Apprenticeship Competition
- First Canadian apprentice to win the prestigious Allyn Parmenter and George Bliss Award, recognizing an apprentice who demonstrates leadership and exemplifies the values of the UA's standard of excellence
- Skills/Compétences Canada, Skills Canada Alberta, Skills Canada Ontario
- Build Together – Building Trades of Alberta
- CAREERS, the Next Generation
- YWITT – Young Women in Trades and Tech
- MAWIW Council, Walpole Island First Nation, Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board
- Modern Niagara, Aecon, Canadian Welding Bureau, Ontario Power Generation
- NAIT, Camosun College
- Women Building Futures
- And many more

As the 2023 recipient, Alanna receives a complimentary delegate pass to the 2025 Supporting Equity in Trades Conference taking place May 24 -26, 2024 in Toronto, ON.

Nominations for the 2024 National Apprenticeship Awards will open early next year.

About CAF-FCA

CAF-FCA is a Canadian non-profit organization that collaborates with employers, unions, equity-seeking groups, education institutions, and the jurisdictions to develop a highly skilled and inclusive workforce through innovative apprenticeship systems and policies. As the only Canadian organization that brings multi-sector apprenticeship stakeholders from around the country, CAF serves as a national voice for the apprenticeship community, influencing the industry through research, discussion, and collaboration. CAF also aims to eliminate the educational and employment gap, especially between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, and to ensure equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities within the skilled trades in the country.

About UA

The UA represents approximately 370,000 skilled tradespeople in North America and Australia. More than 50,000 of its members are Canadian. UA tradespeople include plumbers, pipe fitters, sprinkler fitters and service technicians. They install, remodel, or maintain systems that carry water, steam, air and other liquids or gases necessary for sanitation, industrial production, and heating and air conditioning. The trades that are represented by this union include: Gasfitter, Instrumentation Technician, Non-Destructive Testing Technicians, Pipeliner, Plasterer, Plumber, Production Shop Employees, QCC Technician, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic, Sprinkler System Installers, Steamfitter / Pipefitter, Welder.