



**FUTURE
BUILT 2026**

NATIONAL
APPRENTICESHIP
CONFERENCE

CONFÉRENCE
NATIONALE
D'APPRENTISSAGE

Program at a Glance

Future Built: Apprenticeship for a Changing Canada

October 4–6, 2026
Whistler Conference Centre
Whistler, BC

Conference Highlights

- Pre-Conference Forum: Partner Perspectives on Apprentice Success
- Builders of the Future Banquet – sponsored by CIBC
- CAF-FCA Member Reception
- Give Back Breakfast
- Closing - What's Next: A Conversation with Canada's Youth Apprenticeship Council

Sunday, October 4

Time	Activity
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Registration & Exhibitor Move-In
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Pre-Conference Forum Partner Perspectives on Apprentice Success
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Opening Reception - sponsored by LiUNA
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Builders of the Future Dinner

Monday, October 5

Time	Activity
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Opening Session
9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Exhibit Expo & Refreshment Break
9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Concurrent Block A – Building the Pipeline (View sessions below)
10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Expo & Refreshment Break
11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Building the Workforce for What's Next: BC in Action - presented by SkilledTradesBC
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch

Time	Activity
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Block B – Partnerships That Work (View sessions below)
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Expo & Refreshment Break
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Concurrent Block C – Modern Apprenticeship Systems (View sessions below)
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.	Exhibit Expo & Refreshment Break
4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Rebuilding Systems: Indigenous Leadership and the Future of Apprenticeship
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	CAF-FCA Member Reception

Tuesday, October 6

Time	Activity
7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Give Back Breakfast
8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Morning Keynote - Amanda Lindhout
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Exhibit Expo & Refreshment Break
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Concurrent Block D – Inclusive Pathways (View sessions below)
10:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Transition
10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Concurrent Block E – Future-Built Workplaces (View sessions below)
11:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Refreshment Break
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Closing Conversation with the Youth Apprenticeship Council
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	CAF-FCA Closing Remarks

Concurrent Block A – Building the Pipeline

Time: 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | Monday, October 5

Session Title	Speaker	Description
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT TALENT		
Future Built from the Start: Engaging Youth to Secure Canada's Skilled Trades Workforce	SAIT	Discover how SAIT's Youth Initiatives team is building Canada's future skilled trades workforce by engaging youth early through hands-on learning, industry partnerships, and career exploration, while sharing practical, scalable approaches to strengthen talent pipelines and long-term workforce sustainability.
STREAM: MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS		
High School to Hard Hat: Youth Apprenticeship in British Columbia	Vancouver School Board Career Programs	Learn how Youth Apprenticeship in British Columbia is opening doors for young people to step beyond the classroom and into meaningful, in-demand careers through partnerships among educators, employers, and industry. This session explores successful collaboration, supportive policies, and practical strategies for creating sustainable school-to-work pathways that meet workforce needs.
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT WORKPLACES		
Future-Built Pathways: Integrating Social Enterprise Models into Apprenticeship Talent and Systems	OAWA	Explore how the Built Collective is using a social enterprise model to strengthen apprenticeship pathways for individuals facing systemic barriers. Learn how structured employment, wraparound supports, and cross-sector partnerships are improving apprentice retention while helping employers build a more resilient skilled trades workforce.
STREAM: LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION		
Indigenous Success in Apprenticeship	ACCESS	Learn how ACCESS's Indigenous apprenticeship model combines Skills for Success training, wraparound supports, and strong employer and education partnerships to help Indigenous apprentices succeed. Discover proven approaches that increase completion, Red Seal certification, and long-term careers across diverse skilled trades.

Concurrent Block B – Partnerships That Work

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. | Monday, October 5

Session Title	Speaker	Description
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT TALENT		
What Actually Builds Talent Pipelines? Lessons from Multi-Year, Cross-Sector Partnerships	CWB Foundation	Explore how a multi-year, cross-sector strategy creates stronger skilled trades talent pipelines through sustained collaboration among industry, education, labour, government, and community organizations. Gain practical frameworks, partnership strategies, and tools to support apprenticeship pathways and long-term workforce development.
STREAM: MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS		
Learning by Going: Building Future-Ready Apprenticeship Systems Through International Collaboration	BCIT, SAIT, DOUGLAS COLLEGE & GBSSG	Discover how the Canada–Switzerland Learning by Going initiative is strengthening apprenticeship education through international collaboration and shared learning. Featuring perspectives from Canadian post-secondary partners, this session will explore how global partnerships are inspiring curriculum innovation, faculty development, industry engagement, and workforce development. Presenters will share lessons learned from adapting proven practices across jurisdictions, fostering sustainable innovation, and building stronger apprenticeship systems that prepare learners and employers for the future.
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT WORKPLACES		
Beyond Recruitment: Building Apprenticeship Systems Where People Stay and Succeed	FORGE	Learn practical strategies for improving apprenticeship retention by creating inclusive, supportive learning and workplace environments. This interactive session highlights mentorship, psychological safety, and low-cost supports that help apprentices succeed, complete their training, and strengthen long-term workforce sustainability.
STREAM: LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION		
Raising the Bar: How Unions Build Trades Opportunities in BC	BC Federation of Labour	Unions play a leading role in creating safer, more inclusive skilled trades workplaces. This session explores how union-led training, advocacy, and workforce initiatives are expanding opportunities for apprentices while strengthening workplace culture and safety. Panelists will share lessons learned, emerging workforce trends, and practical strategies to support equitable career pathways and psychologically safe workplaces.

Concurrent Block C – Modern Apprenticeship Systems

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Monday, October 5

Session Title	Speaker	Description
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT TALENT		
Building Inclusive Talent Pipelines for Canada's Workforce	Build a Dream	This session draws on Build a Dream's national report, Building inclusive Workforce Systems in High-Demand Industries, to explore how inclusive workforce strategies can strengthen recruitment, retention, and advancement across the Skill Trades sector. It highlights barriers facing underrepresented groups and shares scalable solutions, employer engagement practices, and wraparound supports.
STREAM: MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS		
Engaging Employers in Apprenticeship Programmes: Reflections from England, Australia & Canada	Apprenticeships Norfolk (UK)	Drawing on insights from an international apprenticeship fellowship, this session explores innovative approaches to employer engagement, apprenticeship delivery, and system design, with practical lessons that can inform and strengthen apprenticeship in Canada.
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT WORKPLACES		
Building Healthy Trades: A Practical Model for Wellness and Workforce Stability	North Island College	Explore North Island College's Healthy Trades initiative, which offers a practical model that embeds mental health, wellness, and relationship-building into trades training. It strengthens retention through early intervention, stigma reduction, and structured supports at key transition points, improving equity outcomes and workforce stability.
STREAM: LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION		
Bridging the Gap: Accelerating Access to Skilled Trades Through Inclusive Pre-Apprenticeship and Pre-Employment Programs	YMCA of the National Capital Region	This session highlights how two YMCA programs create inclusive, scalable pathways into the skilled trades through hands-on training, job readiness supports, and employer partnerships, demonstrating effective strategies to reduce barriers and improve employment outcomes for equity-priority groups.

Concurrent Block D – Inclusive Pathways

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Tuesday, October 6

Session Title	Speaker	Description
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT TALENT		
From Career Awareness to Apprenticeship: Building the Talent Pipeline Earlier	ApprenticeSearch	Discover how early career exposure and meaningful industry engagement can strengthen skilled trades apprenticeship pipelines. Drawing from HIEC's work through Ontario Career Lab, ApprenticeSearch.com, and Skilled Trades Regional Networks, this session will share practical strategies for engaging students through career conversations, mentorship, experiential learning, and employer partnerships.
STREAM: MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS		
Strengthening Apprenticeship Pathways: A Systems-Level Approach	EHRC	Explore a systems-level apprenticeship model combining AI tools, mentorship training, DEI-focused supports, online matching platforms, and financial assistance. The session shows how coordinated, human-centred and digital strategies work together to improve retention, inclusion, and completion rates.
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT WORKPLACES		
Tools for the Trades: Practical Strategies to Build Inclusive, Apprentice-Ready Learning and Work Environments	NAIT	This solutions-focused session equips trades educators, supervisors, and system leaders with concrete tools to support belonging, progression, and retention. Participants will explore strategies for setting inclusive norms, translating equity, diversity, and inclusion into clear, practical language that resonates across trades environments, and embedding equity-informed practices into everyday teaching and supervision.
STREAM: LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION		
Building Belonging into Training Design	Yukon WITT	This session addresses the retention side of workforce shortages. A discussion-based session that draws on a peer-led program developed with a diverse set of tradespeople to explore what changes when training is designed with the workforce rather than for them.

Concurrent Block E – Future-Built Workplaces

Time: 10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. | Tuesday, October 6

Session Title	Speaker	Description
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT TALENT		
Supporting Apprentices to Journey person Status Through Online Learning and Tutoring	Saskatchewan Polytechnic	Explore how structured trade-specific online learning resources and tutoring can support apprentices from early training to Red Seal certification. Participants will understand how they support apprentice learning across levels, identify practical ways to integrate these tools into apprenticeship programs, and recognize the value of flexible, interactive learning supports in improving engagement and exam readiness.
STREAM: MODERN APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEMS		
From Stories to Action: Building Safer, More Inclusive Skilled Trades Workplaces.	CAF-FCA This session will run 10:30am - noon.	Join an interactive dialogue exploring practical strategies to prevent hate and build safer, more inclusive skilled trades workplaces. Through the lived experiences of tradespeople and collaborative discussion, participants will share promising practices, shape a national Anti-Hate Guide, and strengthen workplace belonging across Canada.
STREAM: FUTURE-BUILT WORKPLACES		
Gender-Based Violence Prevention at Work	University of Windsor	Explore evidence-based approaches to preventing gender-based violence in skilled trades workplaces. Drawing on the findings of a WAGE-funded project, this session shares practical programming, industry experiences, and resources to help organizations create safer, more respectful, and more supportive work environments.
STREAM: LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION		
The Apprenticeship Lifecycle: Attraction, Progression, Completion, Retention	BC Construction Association	Discover a lifecycle approach to apprenticeship that spans early career awareness, apprenticeship, mentorship, and succession planning. This session shares strategies to improve recruitment, completion, retention, and long-term workforce development.