



Apprentices Weigh In: A Statement from Canada's Youth Apprenticeship Council

As apprentices, we see firsthand both the opportunities and the challenges of building a career in the skilled trades. That's why it's encouraging to see the federal government recognizing the importance of apprenticeship and investing in Canada's skilled trades workforce through the Spring Economic Statement.

These investments are a positive step forward for current and future apprentices, as well as the employers who support them. What matters now is how this support reaches apprentices on the ground, and how quickly it can make a difference in real lives.

Across Canada, apprentices continue to face financial pressures, especially during in-school training, along with challenges navigating available supports. New financial measures have the potential to help, and we are looking forward to learning more about how and when these supports will be implemented.

As conversations continue around accelerating training pathways, it's important that this does not come at the cost of quality. Apprentices want strong, complete training that fully prepares us for the trade. That means maintaining in-school learning and required hours, while improving how quickly systems work around us, including faster processing times and reducing waitlists that can delay progress.

The Youth Apprenticeship Council brings together apprentices from across the country to share what is really happening on the ground and ensure those experiences are reflected in conversations about the future of apprenticeship. Too often, decisions about apprentices are made without apprentices at the table. This Council is here to change that.

We are hopeful to see continued progress in strengthening pathways into the skilled trades, including training that supports hands-on learning and helps more apprentices not only start, but complete their programs.

The Youth Apprenticeship Council is ready to be part of these ongoing conversations. As a newly formed group, we look forward to engaging with decision makers in the months ahead and contributing to future discussions, including the next federal budget cycle.

There is real momentum right now. If we continue to listen to apprentices, we can build a stronger and more inclusive skilled trades system for Canada.

Learn more at caf-fca.org

