

# CAREERS & TRADES

## FEBRUARY 2021



### IN THIS MONTHS EDITION

- Student Spotlight- Olivier
- The ITA: Indigenous People in Trades Training Initiative
- Indigenous Student Success Stories
- ACCESS BC - Supports for Indigenous Students
- Indigenous Peoples in Trades Info Session: February 26th, 2021
- Women in Trades Virtual Conference- March 6, 2021

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**OLIVIER**

SD43 and BCIT Millwright Program

# *February is...*

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN TRADES MONTH

The Coquitlam School District is working to provide greater opportunities and access to Trades Training for Indigenous Youth. Trades Training is a great career path for students.

### WHY TRADES?

- Trades Training gives students practical skills that they can use in the workforce and in life.
- Students who pursue Trades often incur much less student debt.
- Trades are always in demand. In most cases students who pursue Trades Training are able to secure work in the field.
- Trades offers a hands-on learning experience. Students will work and learn at the same time.
- A Red Seal certification is acknowledged around the world. Students who earn their Red Seal have the opportunity to travel and work anywhere.

### THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN TRADES INITIATIVE

The ITA Indigenous People in Trades Training initiative is part of a long-term strategy to match Indigenous People's skills to the needs of BC's workplace. ITA's Indigenous People in Trades Training is funded through the Canada-British Columbia Workforce Development Agreement.

ITA sponsors a number of community service providers, training providers, and Indigenous communities across BC to deliver trades training and employment programs focused on meeting the needs of vulnerable and under-represented groups in trades occupations, including women, Indigenous people, and other Equity Seeking groups through funds from the Government of Canada and British Columbia. The programs provide a range of individualized and group services and supports, hands-on trades exploration training, entry level (pre-apprenticeship) technical training, industry certification training, mentorship, job coaching and employment placement services.





# OLIVIER

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## ***Olivier Kingsley- Millwright***

### ***Metis First Nations***

Olivier is a grade 12 student at Centennial Secondary School. He is currently taking the Millwright program at BCIT and hopes to graduate with his Level 1 certification. As a Millwright, Olivier is responsible for installing, dismantling and fixing machines. This work requires knowledge in rigging, fabrication and a rich understanding of how machines work. Olivier loves working with his hands, problem-solving and using tools. This program has allowed him to pursue his passions and has changed his perception of schooling. Since being in the program, Olivier has found it to be both ***"engaging and rewarding."***

Olivier did not find this program by accident. Rather, his brother took the Metal Fabrication Program when he was in grade 12 and encouraged Olivier to follow in his footsteps. In the next 5 years Olivier hopes to attain his Red Seal and PLC training. His plan is to start his own contracting business that specializes in fixing equipment. He hopes to support the Indigenous Community by encouraging youth to pursue Trades and by providing mentorship through future employment and apprenticeship.



A large, stylized Indigenous artwork in the top right corner, featuring bold black, white, and red patterns, including what appears to be a large eye or face motif.

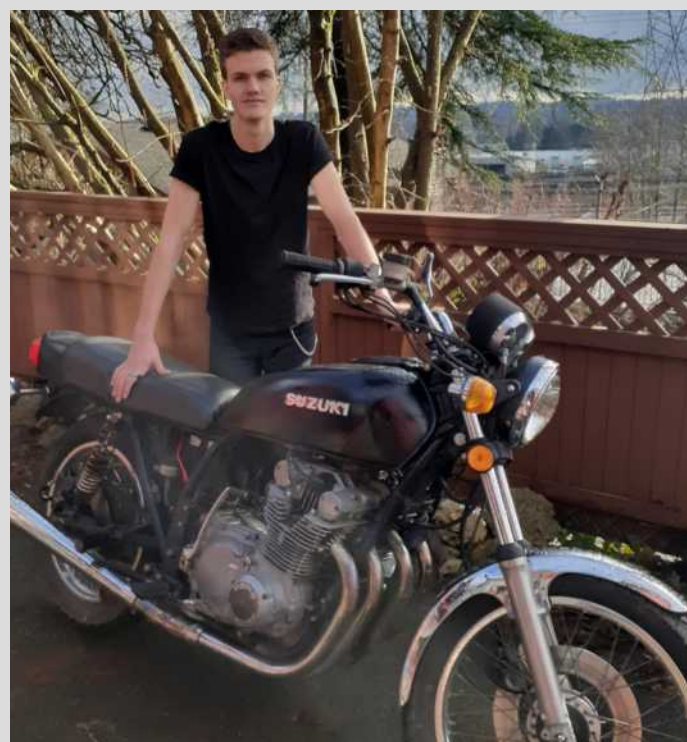
# AYDEN

## **Ayden Mikita- Auto Service Technician**

### **Mohawk First Nations**

Ayden graduated in 2020 with his Level 1 certification as an Auto Service Technician. Ayden discovered the program largely on his own, but had support from his friends, family and teachers. Aiden says that the program was a fantastic experience; ***"I met a lot of like-minded and devoted people, learned a lot of valuable technical, as well as practical skills, and the program gave me an edge on going into the workforce."*** Ayden recommends this program for any student that is up for the challenge. He wants other students to know that the program is a lot of hard work but in the end is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Ayden is not currently working in the Trades, but he hopes to secure an apprenticeship and plans to continue his education so that he can earn his Red Seal. Ayden wants to be a mentor for Indigenous Youth who are interested in pursuing a career in Trades and will be working with SD43 Indigenous Students in Trades Program.





# THOMAS

## Thomas Ungaro

### Metis First Nations

Thomas Ungaro is part of the Metis Nation and graduated from the SD43 Electricians Program in 2020. He is currently working as a Level 1 Apprentice with Western Pacific Enterprises, mastering his craft as an Industrial Electrician. Thomas is grateful for the skills that he learned while in the Electricians Program at Charles Best Secondary School. He encourages all students who are interested to not hesitate and to take the program. Thomas says that ***"the program prepared me for the real world and gave me the skills I needed to get started in the workforce"***. Moreover, since Thomas has started full-time work he has gained a sense of financial security and independence. Thomas says that this has been "life-changing". Since graduating he has been able to buy a second vehicle and was able to pay the insurance in full. Thomas wants young students to know that there is great money to be made in the Trades: **"If you like working with your hands and want financial security, join the trades!"**.

Outside of work Thomas plays semi-professional level in Lacrosse and is a member of the Provincial Team. Thomas is currently a member of the U19 Indigenous BC Lacrosse Team and is hoping to be able to play in the next North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

**If you like  
working with  
your hands and  
want financial  
security,  
join the Trades!**

# ACCESS BC



*The Blade Runners Program helps Indigenous Youth between the ages of 19 - 30 years gain basic skills and certification so that they can enter the workforce. Watch this video to learn about some of their success stories!*

**ACCESS provides education and training services to Indigenous people living in Greater Vancouver. Their goal is to equip Indigenous peoples with skills and experience, while also providing them with opportunities to connect with industry and community.**

**ACCESS BC offers a number of programs for Indigenous Youth and Adults. Programs include;**

- Employment Services
- Blade Runners Program
- Essential Skills for Aboriginal Futures
- Programs
- Trades Training and Apprenticeship

**SD43 has partnered with ACCESS BC to offer opportunities for Indigenous Youth to start their apprenticeship while in High School. Students can earn their Level 1 certification while also earning High School credits towards graduation.**

**[LEARN MORE](#)**

## KNOW A STUDENT WHO WOULD WOULD BENEFIT ?

*The Coquitlam School District helps Indigenous students who are interested in pursuing a career path in Trades, Please contact our team so that we can help you connect with our partners and start your career path today! To get in touch with our team please contact Ashley Impellezzere or attend our virtual information session.*

**ASHLEY IMPELLEZZERE**

☎ 778-318-9354  
✉ [AIMPELLEZZERE@SD43.BC.CA](mailto:AIMPELLEZZERE@SD43.BC.CA)

### WHATS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACCESS TRADES AND THE SD43 TRADES PROGRAMS?

Both programs offer Level 1 Apprenticeship training. The difference is which organization you are doing the Trades Program through. By taking a Trades Program through SD43 you can start your apprenticeship in grade 11 or 12 and can also earn High School credits towards graduation. Often, we have students who take the SD43 Trades Program, but rely on ACCESS BC for financial support and mentorship.

### I DONT MEET THE PRE-REQUISITS TO TAKE A TRADES PROGRAM? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Students who do not meet the pre-requisites for the program have the opportunity to upgrade through ACCESS BC and take the program after High School. Another option might be the BladeRunners program. This is a trades certification program for at risk youth.

### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING THIS PROGRAM IN HIGHSCHOOL?

Students who take this program while in High School have an opportunity to get a head start. Students will be able to complete their certification earlier, start their apprenticeship earlier and ultimately earn their Red Seal earlier. Students and families also save a significant amount in tuition fees by taking the program through SD43.





# INFO SESSION

Coquitlam School District

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN TRADES**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2021**

**10:00-11:00AM - VIRTUAL MEETING**



**REGISTER TODAY!**

Teachers, students, parents and Youth Workers who would like to learn more about Trades Programs for Indigenous Youth are invited to join us for a virtual information session. Use the QR code to register and receive an access link for the meeting.





# WOMEN IN TRADES CONFERENCE

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**REGISTER  
TODAY!**







# TRADE UP TO A GREAT

# CAREER

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS

