



Board of Education

Media Information

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New Utility Arborist Apprenticeship Signing and Launch on May 26



Students and instructors in the Utility Arborist program with Rick Oliver, Mike Roberts, Curtis Schreiber, Phil Davis, Moyra Baxter, and Wayne Price.



Moyra Baxter and Phil Davis make it official: the Utility Arborist Apprenticeship program is SD23's newest dual-credit Career-Life program.

Kelowna, BC: Today, an agreement was officially signed between School District No. 23 and the Electrical Industry Training Institute to create the first dual-credit Utility Arborist

Apprenticeship program in Canada. This program will allow students to earn their Level One Technical Utility Arborist certificate.

“EITI is the training provider for the province; we look forward to being involved in this new program,” says Phil Davis, Executive Director of the Electrical Industry Training Institute moments before signing. “Although the forestry sector has cooled, the Utility Arborist sector is booming. We anticipate job growth to be 50% in some regions of BC.”

Superintendent of Schools, Mike Roberts attended the signing ceremony and offered his support to those involved in the program. “I’d like to recognize the efforts of our Board of Trustees whose confidence and support has made this program possible. Utility Arborist is pretty far outside of our traditional programs. Thanks to Phil Davis and EITI, Wayne Price, Dale Popp, Clayton Bennett, Rick Oliver and everyone else involved. By thinking outside of the box and trying something different we can offer students a career that will be very rewarding.”

Students who have spent the past three months in Forestry Resources were excited to receive training on the lift truck and chipper on the very first day of the Utility Arborist program.

Brittany Foster: “It’s not that bad being the only girl with a bunch of guys.... It’s been interesting to learn the truck limits, safety and stuff.”

David King: “We learned a bit about how to operate the truck; it can be complicated; safety is important.”

Sheldon Novakuske: “We’ve been in the Forestry class since February. We had a week of classroom time and the rest has been mostly outside.”

Justin Novakuske: “We’ve travelled a lot in the forestry program: Peachland, Silver Lake, Kamloops. We’ve done fire and forestry training, visited tree nurseries, mills. It’s cool.”

For comments, please contact:

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