

Speaking Points

Hon. Greg Weadick
Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

Helmets to Hardhats

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
Local 146 Learning Centre
15116-114 Ave
Edmonton, AB

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4 minutes

Introduction

- Thank you, Captain Ferguson and good morning, everyone.
- It's a great pleasure for me to announce Alberta's participation in the Helmets to Hardhats program.

H2H Completes a Circle

- I must confess a particular fondness for this program, because it completes a circle that I feel strongly about.
- The circle begins with a very special kind of Canadian...

...the kind of individual whose vision of a nation reaches beyond his or her personal life and concerns...

...and who chooses to serve the greater good...the peace and the way of life that Canadians hold dear.

- As long as Canada has existed as a nation, we have asked these men and women to leave the safety of their homes and families...

...and they have done so...because they felt it was their duty.

- When their job is completed...

...and our Canadian Forces members return home from missions around the world...

...I believe we have a reciprocal duty that must be fulfilled.

- As they begin the transition from active duty to civilian life...

...it's our duty as Canadians to not only express our appreciation...

...but also to help them essentially “catch up” with their lives...

...which they put on hold for our benefit.

- That's exactly what Helmets to Hardhats does.

H2H Benefits

- There are so many great things about this program.
- It's there for all transitioning military, reservist and disabled veterans who want to pursue a career in the construction trades...

...and not just on the jobsite, but also in administration, engineering, human resources or other skills that are necessary in the construction industry.

- It also benefits the construction industry, which gets the benefit of well-trained personnel...

...because it recognizes the significant value of military training...

...not only actual construction related skills and competencies...

...but also the ability to take orders, complete tasks and work in a team environment.

Alberta's Support for H2H

- That's why the Alberta government is proud to contribute \$150,000 to the national Helmets to Hardhats program.
- It's an important addition to an already outstanding apprenticeship and industry training system in our province.
- I'm proud to note that...

...even before the Helmets to Hardhats program came along...

...our Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board already recognized certificates of military achievement as being equivalent to a trade certificate in 10 Alberta trades related to the construction, transportation, and hospitality sectors.

- That means individuals with recognized military credentials can work in their respective trade and have the opportunity to obtain a Red Seal endorsement.
- And we look forward to continuing to work with the Department of National Defense to promote apprenticeship as a good opportunity for future employment for soldiers who are transitioning from military service to civilian life.

- These are just a few of the reasons why Alberta is home to Canada's leading apprenticeship program.
- Now Helmets to Hardhats will make Alberta's program even better... thanks to the high-quality training that military personnel bring with them to the civilian workplace.
- That's just one of the reasons why I know our industry partners join me in welcoming our new military partners.
- But most of all, we all support the program because it's the right thing to do.

Conclusion

- Given our Forces' service to the nation, it's the least we can do.
- Thank you.

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