

Speaking Points

Hon. Greg Weadick

Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

2011 Registered Apprenticeship Program Scholarship (RAP) Celebration

Delta Edmonton South Hotel and Conference Centre

4404 Gateway Blvd

Edmonton, Alberta

November 3, 2011

5 minutes

Ceremony 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

## **Introduction & Congratulations**

- Thank you, Bridget [*Bridget Ryan, Emcee/CityTV Host*].
- Good evening everyone and welcome to all of our scholarship recipients...distinguished guests...and ladies and gentleman.
- I'm pleased to be here tonight as we honour some of the best and brightest Albertans...our 2011 RAP Scholarship apprentices.
- Congratulations to each of you receiving a scholarship this evening.
- This year, 246 exceptional apprentices from across the province are receiving a RAP scholarship.
- I'm especially thrilled that many of you are here with us in the audience tonight.

## **Being an Apprentice**

- As apprentices taking part in Alberta's Registered Apprenticeship Program and as recipients of this prestigious scholarship...  
  
...you've demonstrated a work ethic that is second-to-none...a high level of achievement...and the drive and commitment required to succeed in the trades and reach your dreams.
- I know it wasn't easy to balance learning a trade while completing high school...but you did it...and you did it more than well...you excelled.

- You're proof that through hard work and initiative, no obstacle is too big to overcome...no dream too far to reach.
- By learning new skills and getting hands-on training from some of the world's best trained journeypersons...you already have a great head start on your apprenticeship.
- Having these new skills in your back pocket is as important as the tools in your tool belt...as they'll help you progress in your trade and in your life overall.
- Whether you want to become a certified journeyperson or build another career from that trade certificate...

...this experience will help you expand your horizons...challenge your mind and body...and help you grow as a person, so that you're well-equipped to make a difference in your trade, your community and our society.

### **Registered Apprenticeship Program**

- The key to a successful career in the trades starts with the right mentoring and training...and your apprenticeship training through RAP is the right step toward your future success in the trades.
- I can say this with confidence, because Alberta is known around Canada and the world for its high quality apprenticeship training.

- A great part of that outstanding reputation comes from the RAP program and our employers who participate in it and provide our youth with apprenticeship training opportunities.
- Alberta's employers are like no other...they eagerly provide apprentices with a jumpstart on gaining real-world, on-the-job training in a friendly and supportive workplace.
- These employers work hard to ensure that your on-the-job training is up to date and meaningful...and they work alongside you to help you achieve excellence.
- The commitment to see you achieve excellence is also shared by many of our world-class post-secondary institutions...who work hard to ensure that you receive high quality classroom instruction to bolster your knowledge of your trade.
- This combination of on-the-job experience and classroom learning gives you the tools to reach your very best...and helps fuel our province's engine of innovation – our skilled workforce.

### **Alberta's Leadership in Apprenticeship Training**

- Skilled tradespeople and technologists will shape our future in countless ways.
- You will play an important role in keeping Alberta strong...as innovators, entrepreneurs, employees and employers...and as our future leaders.

- That's why, our government continues to work with organizations like CAREERS: The Next Generation, industry and post-secondary institutions to encourage young people to pursue a trade.
- For the past 20 years, CAREERS has done an amazing job of connecting students with employers... and helping young Albertans explore career options.

### **Conclusion**

- As we build our highly skilled and educated workforce, let's take this moment to thank the employers and educators who play a key role in training, guiding and mentoring our apprentices and students.
- Thanks to your tireless efforts, Alberta's apprentices are ready to tackle whatever challenges lie ahead and contribute their knowledge and skills toward our province's future.
- I'd also like to thank CAREERS: The Next Generation for your efforts to promote careers in the trades...and for helping to organize tonight's wonderful celebration.
- Once again, congratulations to each scholarship recipient.
- I wish you continued success in all of your endeavours.
- Thank you.

- END -