

Changing Times, a New Structure: Industry-Wide Appeal for BC's New Cook Apprenticeship Program

Never thought apprenticeship applied to your business? Take a look at the new structure that launched province-wide on September 1. You may be surprised at just how fitting it is for employers of all sizes and types.

With a less than 1/3 completion rate by apprentices and a steady decline in employer interest, it was time for a restructuring of BC's Cook Apprenticeship Program. The previous program offered no formal recognition of time and training for experienced cooks who opted not to pursue their Red Seal. For employers, this meant a hiring pool with skills a-plenty, but no certification to show for it.

All of this changed September 1 with the launch of a revamped Apprenticeship Program, the result of major industry-led modifications to the existing structure through a partnership between go2, BC's tourism human resource association, and the Industry Training Authority (ITA).

NEW LEVELS AND CERTIFICATION

3 levels of training and certification now mark the distinct stages in the journey from Entry Level to Professional Cook:

- Professional Cook 1 (PC1)
- Professional Cook 2 (PC2)
- Professional Cook 3 / Red Seal

The initial levels provide a true entry level set of skills comparable to one year on the job, with fewer areas of competency and more experience as part of the learning process. Each certification must be completed in sequence before an apprentice can move to the next level.

DIFFERENT EMPLOYERS, DIFFERENT OPTIONS

Employers are no longer tied to a 3-year commitment with an individual and have options, opening the door for greater participation.

Red Seal / Professional Cook 3 Certification

- A process remains for a traditional apprenticeship model where employees complete all levels.

- Each new level has its own certificate and a required number of workplace hours. When all are attained and the Interprovincial Exam passed, the Red Seal Certification is awarded.

Professional Cook 1 or 2 Certification Only

- Employers that require PC1 or PC2 skills only can now sponsor employees as apprentices for one or both levels.
- Employers may continue on to the next level with an apprentice if they choose, or keep them employed in the position they are industry certified for. As positions open up employers can sponsor new apprentices, creating value and increasing demand for Apprenticeship.

The new structure better reflects the training and skills that employers need and apprentices achieve as they progress through their apprenticeship. Visit www.go2propel.ca for more details and information.