

## **WESTERN PREMIERS COMMIT TO ENHANCE THE MOBILITY OF APPRENTICES**

**REGINA, March 13, 2014** – Premiers Christy Clark, Alison Redford and Brad Wall announced today that their provinces will work together to remove barriers to the mobility of apprentices in the skilled trades across western Canada.

This announcement comes as a result of today's meeting of Canada's New West Premiers. The New West Partnership is Canada's largest, barrier-free, interprovincial market.

Red Seal qualifications are the same between all three provinces for the majority of trades, however, the levels of training for apprentices may not be. The existing protocols currently in place to remove barriers to mobility are useful but there is an opportunity to expand the protocols through targeted harmonization efforts. Removing mobility barriers will help to increase efficiencies for employers operating in more than one province, make training across multiple provinces easier for apprentices, and allow western provinces to more easily share training resources.

The BC, AB and SK Governments and Apprenticeship Authorities will work together to:

1. Adopt a common policy to:
  - Establish a single point of contact for apprentices in each jurisdiction to address their mobility barriers;
  - Track, monitor, and regularly review differences between the jurisdictions' apprenticeship training levels and processes.
2. Engage with employers who have operations in multiple jurisdictions to understand the issues faced when interacting with multiple systems of apprenticeship.
3. Establish mechanisms (i.e. through web links or central point of contact within the apprenticeship authority) to publish training availability for low volume trades across the three jurisdictions to provide more options for apprentices.