



MEDIA RELEASE

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CHBA South Okanagan invests in the future

The Canadian Home Builders' Association of the South Okanagan understands the importance of investing in the future.

That's why the group recently announced a \$10,000 donation to Okanagan College's Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation along with an annual \$3,000 contribution to fund awards for students enrolled in Residential Construction programs at the Penticton campus.

"Our board and members view this contribution to Okanagan College and its Centre of Excellence as an important investment in the future of our youth and of this region," said Doug Carnegie, Treasurer of the CHBA South Okanagan and Commercial Account Manager for Valley First. "Investing in students and in the construction of the Centre of Excellence will deliver a large payback to our local economy."

"We will all benefit from this large expansion of Okanagan College. The Penticton campus will be able to offer a wide range of courses in Arts & Sciences, Health, Business and specialized trades. In addition to making education more affordable there will be more employment opportunities."

With a strong focus on environmental sustainability and innovation in construction, the Centre of Excellence project aligns well with the value and goals of the CHBA South Okanagan, said Carnegie. The CHBA's Built Green program is also aimed at reducing the building trades' environmental impact. Carnegie points to new innovative trades training programs, such as the College's new geothermal technician, as another way the College is addressing industry change and progress.

"We recognize the value of the support and strong partnership we have built with the Canadian Home Builders' Association of the South Okanagan," explained Kathy Butler, Executive Director of the Okanagan College Foundation. "Their recent contributions will have an impact on the success of the Centre of Excellence and will be felt on a very personal level by the students who will receive the new CHBA South Okanagan Bursary."

Students who are residents of the South Okanagan and Similkameen and are enrolled on a full-time basis at the Penticton campus in either the Residential Construction or Carpentry Level One apprenticeship programs will be eligible to apply for the bursary. The recipient will be determined based on a combination of academic achievement and financial need and the bursary may be split to assist more than one student per year.

“Our members are always looking for well-trained employees and we are aware that not every student is able to meet the financial challenges that come along with post-secondary training,” explained Carnegie. “It is our hope that the CHBA South Okanagan Bursary will assist students in achieving their goals and will further develop the strength of our work force and skilled tradespeople.”

The Centre of Excellence is being built with the investment of \$22.5-million from both federal and provincial governments, along with a further \$5-million from the Okanagan College Foundation and donors such as CHBA South Okanagan.

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