



Helmets to Hardhats Launches Skilled Pathway Program to Support Alberta Veterans

[Edmonton, AB] – Helmets to Hardhats (H2H), in partnership with the Government of Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education, Rajan Sawhney, proudly announce the launch of the Skilled Pathway Program, an initiative aimed at equipping Alberta's Veterans, Reservists and their immediate family members with the preparation and skills needed for fulfilling careers in Alberta's unionized construction industry.

The first-of-its-kind program in Alberta is based on the success of a similar initiative in Ontario, where H2H has empowered hundreds of Veterans and military families to secure meaningful, long-term employment in the unionized construction sector. By providing Veterans and Reservists with the necessary certifications and training, the Skilled Pathway Program aims to bridge the gap between military service and the growing demand for skilled labour in Alberta.

With a focus on reducing barriers to entry and expediting the pathway into one of Canada's 14 Building Trades Unions, the program aims to support 40 Veterans into apprenticeship systems, providing them with the necessary support to transition into civilian employment while supporting Alberta's economic growth.

The program will focus on enhanced engagement, with outreach to Alberta's military communities to ensure awareness and access to our resources. It will offer participants foundational safety certifications, including Working at Heights and First Aid, to prepare them for Alberta construction sites. The Skilled Pathway Program will also offer leadership training to equip participants with essential skills for safety management.

Additionally, each participant will receive access to personal safety equipment, ensuring they are fully prepared for employment in the construction industry.

"This program exemplifies the Alberta government's commitment to supporting our Veterans. It addresses critical workforce needs while providing military families with opportunities for meaningful, long-term careers in the unionized construction industry," said James Hogarth, Executive Director at Helmets to Hardhats. "This initiative is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together to create pathways for those who have served."

"Having recently commemorated Remembrance Day, I want to emphasize the importance of supporting our veterans and service members through the entire year. I am excited to partner with Helmets to Hardhats to open new doors for Alberta's service members and am confident that their hard work and dedication will translate seamlessly to post-service careers in the trades."

Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Advanced Education



"We are thrilled to see this initiative come to life, supporting Veterans as they transition into civilian careers. This program will add immense value to our unionized construction sector by bringing in highly disciplined and skilled individuals. This partnership will strengthen both our workforce and our communities."

Terry Parker, Executive Director, Building Trades of Alberta