



BC GOVERNMENT CAUCUS

NEWS RELEASE

E-Annex, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V 1X4 TEL: (250) 356-6171 FAX: (250) 356-6176

For Immediate Release
March 14, 2008

MLAS ANNOUNCE SUPPORT FOR TRADES STUDENTS

KELOWNA – Okanagan College is receiving \$565,966 for new equipment that will update and enhance trades training programs at its Kelowna campus, MLAs Al Horning and Rick Thorpe announced today.

“Okanagan College students directly benefit from this investment by learning on the equipment they will be using in the workforce,” said Horning, MLA Kelowna-Lake Country. “In a world of rapidly changing technology, I am glad we can help post-secondary institutions maintain the high quality of their programs.”

The facility will receive new equipment for the heavy-duty mechanics, electrical, welding, and plumbing programs to support the trades.

“This is an exciting time for trades students in the Okanagan and across British Columbia,” said Thorpe, MLA Okanagan-Westside. “We have record low unemployment and a construction boom. By supporting the trades programs we are working to meet the demand for skilled labour in our thriving economy.”

The provincial government has made a total contribution of almost \$119 million since 2001 in trades training equipment. This includes \$5 million for new equipment in 2006 to the Trades Training Consortium of B.C.

“This investment by the Province is more than welcome,” said Jim Hamilton, Okanagan College President and head of the Trades Training Consortium. “We have expanded our trades training capacity significantly over the past two years. Ensuring that students have the right equipment to work with and work on is very important to the quality of their training.”

Fifteen of B.C.’s public post-secondary institutions offer trades training. This year they provided more than 25,000 trades training spaces, up from about 16,500 in 2001. Government funding of trades training spaces at private institutions has also increased, from just over 1,300 spaces to almost 4,500 spaces during the same period.

Visit Al's website at www.alhorningmla.bc.ca

Media contact: Alesha Hayes, BC Government Caucus Communications: 250-356-1539