

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, November 26, 2024**

**1. Supporting Newcomers Through Trades Training**

The Government of British Columbia has proclaimed this week, November 25 to 29, as Careers Week. The week showcases the commitment in the province to work with educators and education partners to support career education and expand students' knowledge of diverse career pathways.

As part of the focus this week, the Burnaby School District is shining a spotlight on its Youth Employment and Skills Strategy Program, also known as the YESS Program. With federal funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the program is delivered supportively by staff in the District's Career Education Department and Settlement Workers in Schools or SWIS Program. Newcomer youth are mentored and learn about things such as resume writing, interview training, potential career paths, and practical skills through counselling, workshops, courses, field trips, and group activities.

YESS is a program designed to support students who are newcomers to Canada – including refugees, permanent residents and naturalized citizens – who would like to find employment, learn new skills and connect with the community. The program offers flexible meeting times and locations and is designed to support both long and short-term employment goals.

This evening, Nick Christofides, Director of Instruction, will introduce Vili Der, YESS Program teacher and advocate, as well as Haben Gebremedhin and Alex Deres, two students who have been supported through the YESS program and are continuing in the trades.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive the information.