



For Immediate Release
Monday, September 15, 2014

Kal Tire Wraps Second Successful Year for Skilled Trades Program

Skilled4Success allows Canadian youth to explore the skilled trades sector

Vernon, BC – Kal Tire and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) continue to introduce more and more Canadian youth to the opportunities available in the skilled trades sector. This year's Skilled4Success program saw almost double the amount of participants from 17 clubs across Canada undertake workshop training at BGCC clubs and job shadow opportunities at local Kal Tire locations.

"We had almost 300 teens carry out hands on learning opportunities under the guidance of trained Kal Tire technicians," said Ed Lauer, director of stores, Western Canada, Kal Tire. "They learned about the importance of safety on the job, were awarded networking opportunities, and undertook some on-the-job-training in the trades sector."

Due to the success of last year's program, this year saw some new and exciting additions to the Skilled4Success program, notably the addition of Kal Tire bursaries. These ten, \$1,000 bursaries were open to any member of the BGCC applying for post-secondary education opportunities in the trades or technical training areas. Recipients were awarded the bursaries to assist them in developing successful careers in these sectors.

"Hands-on work experience, information about high demand fields and the Kal Tire bursary program go a long way to help youth achieve their post-secondary goals," stated BGCC president and CEO Pam Jolliffe. "Skilled4Success is part of the solution to youth unemployment and this program is one more way our Clubs encourage personal growth, learning and community involvement.

In addition to the bursaries, a story contest was also created for all participants in the Skilled4Success program. The prize was a trip to a Kal Tire location of their choice in Canada. Participants were asked to submit a story regarding their experiences in Skilled4Success and what they took away from the program. A judging panel reviewed all of the entries and a young winner from Scarborough was chosen. At the end of this year this youth will be flying with a chaperone to the Kal Tire corporate office in Vernon, BC, where he will not only have the opportunity to meet with management; he will visit a Kal Tire retread facility in Kamloops, BC.

"We are delighted with the successful partnership between Kal Tire and Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. This collaboration gives our young people a chance to explore career options in the skilled trades and enhance their ability to search for and secure a job," says Jolliffe.

The Skilled4Success job shadows were held at the following Kal Tire locations in 2014:

- Kelowna, BC
- West Kelowna, BC
- Richmond, BC
- Victoria, BC
- Westaskiwin, AB
- Edmonton, AB
- Lethbridge, AB
- Hamilton, ON
- West Scarborough, ON
- London, ON
- Ottawa, ON
- Hawkesbury, ON
- Kingston, ON
- Whitehorse, YK

"Kal Tire team members are thrilled to support Canada's youth through this program," says Lauer. "It's important they are given these types of opportunities so they better understand all their career options when considering their futures."

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About Kal Tire

Kal Tire is Canada's largest independent tire dealer and North America's largest commercial tire dealer. Kal Tire Mining Tire Group is a global leader in mining tire service and supply, operating on more than 150 mine sites in 17 countries across five continents. The company has warehouse facilities strategically located across Canada servicing over 250 Kal Tire retail and commercial stores. As the largest truck tire retreader in Canada, Kal Tire owns and operates 10 truck tire retread facilities plus an additional four earthmover retreading facilities are located in Canada, the United Kingdom and Ghana, West Africa. The company employs more than 5,400 team members. To learn more, visit www.kaltire.com and follow at www.twitter.com/KalTire and www.facebook.com/KalTire.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is dedicated to supporting and encouraging children and youth as they grow and develop. We are a national charity serving 200,000 young people in 650 locations across Canada. We listen to their opinions and ideas, applaud their accomplishments, lend support during their struggles and provide ways to explore their interests and talents. With this encouragement, young people develop the confidence and sense of belonging that helps them succeed in school, form positive relationships and mature into responsible, caring adults. For over 110 years, we have welcomed children, youth and their families into clubs that reflect the diversity of Canada in small and large cities, rural communities and First Nations reserves. Visit www.bgccan.com and follow us at www.facebook.com/bgccan and www.twitter.com/bgccan.

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