



## **N e w s   R e l e a s e**

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### **Home reno expert Shell Busey leads new Surrey School District “Home Improvement Retail Training Program”**

A unique educational program has been launched in the Surrey School District with the support of Shell Busey’s HouseSmart Referral Network, RONA and Envision Financial.

The initiative, called the “Home Improvement Retail Training Program” is a pilot project aimed at encouraging youth to enter the building supply industry. The six-week program introduces secondary students to the home improvement and renovation industry, focusing on providing employable skills in retail building supply and customer ‘how-to’ service.

“This program is a great example of our district’s innovation in providing—and preparing our students for—trades-related employment opportunities,” says Surrey Board of Education chair Reni Masi. “It speaks to the quality of the program that the home renovation guru himself, Mr. Shell Busey is instructing our students, and the board is very grateful to RONA and Envision Financial for sharing our vision and supporting this innovative education program.”

Through classroom instruction, Mr. Busey will share with students his more than 45 years of home improvement experience. Once the students have completed the three-week classroom portion of the program, they receive three weeks of in-store work experience at local RONA Building Centres.

“This program benefits students by giving them access to hands-on training, customer service and communication skills, and the basic ‘how-to’ tools of the building industry,” says Shell Busey, host of the Home Discovery Show and founder of The HouseSmart Home Services Referral Network. “With this knowledge, students have a head start in the building supply industry and the industry will benefit as well.”

In order to build this innovative program, Envision Financial has donated \$2,500 and the RONA Foundation has donated \$3,000 to cover the bulk of instruction and supply costs.

“The Surrey School District’s Home Improvement Retail Training Program is an excellent example of a project that reaches out to kids in need and gives them an avenue to succeed, to build confidence and to gain practical skills on which they can build a future,” says RONA Foundation Director Daniel Richard.

The classes are held at the HouseSmart Learning Centre in Surrey. A pancake breakfast was held this morning to mark the first class of 14 students.

- 30 -

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