

FOR RELEASE JUNE 17th



PMTC & KRTS ANNOUNCE RECIPIENT OF THE PROFESSIONAL CMV DRIVER TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP

The Private Motor Truck Council of Canada, along with sponsor KRTS, announced the recipient of the Professional Commercial Motor Vehicle Driver Training Scholarship at its Annual General Meeting & Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario on June 17th, 2026. This program is an intensive minimum 200-hour course, which when completed, will arm the new Professional Driver with a high level of training, that goes above and beyond Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT).

“The skill and professionalism that is required of today’s professional drivers is increasing with each passing year,” stated PMTC President Mike Millian. “For an entry level driver entering our industry to have the best chance possible to be successful, it is imperative that they receive the best in class training that is available. We are thankful to KRTS for sponsoring this award and making this scholarship possible.”

To be eligible to receive this award, applicants must have no more than 3 points listed against their Motor Vehicle Driving record. They must have no impaired, dangerous, careless, or similar driving convictions in the past 3 years. Must have no criminal code convictions or must have received a pardon or a waiver. The applicants must also have a conditional job offer as a professional driver, or a related field, pending successful completion of the Training Program. The applicant also had to be nominated by his or her employer, had to submit a resume and a 650 to 1000-word essay stating why they thought they were a good candidate for the scholarship and what their personal goals within the Transportation Industry are.

Matt Richardson, VP of KRTS, remarked “It is an honor to be able to sponsor this scholarship annually and see deserving individuals get an opportunity to take their career to the next level. There are many PMTC member companies that trust the training and educational services provided by KRTS on a yearly basis, and this is one way we can give back to an association and its members that support us.”

The 2026 recipient is Thomas Barnett, employed by Giant Tiger Wholesale.

Thomas has been a valued employee of Giant Tiger for almost 16 years, starting as an order picker in September of 2010. In his time at Giant Tiger, he has successfully transitioned into several roles, including team lead, yard commander, dispatcher, and currently in dual roles as the transportation supervisor & shunt service support supervisor. Through his career at Giant Tiger, Thomas has shown a strong interest in learning & understanding as many roles as possible, feeling a better understanding of as

many areas of the company made him more adaptable, to the betterment of both his personal growth, as well as being best able to support Giant Tiger. In his time, he has also witnessed the growth & evolution

of Tiger Trucking, which sparked a strong interest in moving into that direction. Thoams's father worked as a delivery driver across Ontario & western Quebec, & his mother was a school bus driver. Their strong work & dedication in transportation had sparked an interest in transportation for Thomas at early age.

In Thomas's current role, he has an ongoing role of supporting both shunt drivers & on road drivers. Thomas is able to provide support & assistance with shunt operations when help is required, & in his next step he would like to be able to do the same for delivery drivers. To better understand the role, he has already participated in ride alongs with driver trainers. This has been a valuable opportunity to gain insight into the realities of the role, however Thomas and Giant Tiger both believe obtaining his AZ license will allow him to understand even deeper. In addition to the certified entry level training that will be provided by KRTS, Giant Tiger has committed to providing structured, long term mentorship, that will focus on advancing his leadership capabilities, strengthen driver coaching, engagement & deepening his understanding of fleet safety & compliance. In addition, Thomas will be provided with dedicated time to complete finishing training as a professional driver under the guidance of Giant Tigers Safety & Training team. This collaborative approach will provide Thomas with the best tools possible to achieve future success.

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