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PMTC Announces Recipients of the 2022 Young Leaders Education Bursary

The Private Motor Truck Council of Canada, along with the PMTC Young Leaders Group, was pleased to present 2 deserving individuals with the 2022 “PMTC Young Leaders Group Education Bursary” at its Annual General Meeting & Conference in Niagara Falls, Ontario. This year marked a slight change in who the awards were presented to as well. In the past, 2 bursaries were available to employees of PMTC Member companies or their family, who fit in the YLG’s age group of under 40. This year 1 bursary was available to this group, while the other bursary was made available to students in Mohawk College’s Supply Chain Management Program.

Through a new partnership developed this year, up to 5 students in the Mohawk program are provided a 1-year free YLG PMTC Membership. Each one of these students is assigned a mentor from PMTC’s Young Leaders Group and are taken to industry events to be introduced to the industry, make connections, and make for an easier transition into the field. 4 students are with us here today.

Both awards were presented by PMTC’s YLG Chairman, Matt Richardson.

“These awards present emerging young leaders with the funds to take 2 of the 4 courses required to complete the PMTC Logistics Management Graduate Program,” stated PMTC President Mike Millian. “These courses are offered through CITT, a leader in Transportation Logistics training. When completed, this will arm these individuals with the skills and confidence necessary to climb the ranks in their organisation and help them become a successful Leader. We also believe this award will help promote investment in the training needs of our future leaders.”

The 2022 recipients are Valeri Aguirre from Mohawk College and Michael Zelek from Wellington Group of Companies

Valeri Aguirre, Mohawk College

Valeri is an international student from Mexico who has an impressive background already in the Transportation and logistics industry. Her education began in 2011 at the Centro University in Ixtlahuaca Mexico, where she attended Logistics & International Business until 2015, receiving a bachelor’s degree. While there she received an academic performance award and finished 3rd in her class. Valeri continued her studies at the University of Celaya in Mexico from 2015-2018 and received her Master’s in Logistics & International Business. Valeri began attending Mohawk in May of 2021 and received an honours graduate. She began The Supply Chain Management Program in January of this year and received a 91% in the first semester. In addition to her education, Valeri has experience in the logistics industry also. She worked at Rafypak as an International Commerce and shipping specialist from 2013 until 2015. While there she managed international shipments, mainly to Canada and the USA. She then became the International Traffic Manager for Arcosa Industries in Mexico from 2015 until 2020. While there she coordinated all imports & exports of pressure vessels, utility structures, wind towers & cryogenic tanks from 7 plants in Mexico to over 20 countries, by ground, marine and air. In addition to this, from 2018 to 2019, Valeri worked as a professor and helped with Quality and economic courses for Financial administrative students. Valeri is currently one of four students from the Mohawk College Supply Chain management program that is part of the PMTC Young Leaders group through PMTC’s partnership with the school. While with Valeri’s impressive background, it would be easy to rest on her achievements, she has a drive to



continuously learn more. Valeri wants to learn more about the ground transportation of logistics and continue her education in specialized areas, and one day, help other students achieve their goals. Valeri is very excited for the opportunity to continue her education and work in the transportation and logistics industry going forward and is certainly a deserving recipient of the PMTC YLG Education Bursary!

Michael Zelek, Wellington Motor Group

Like many, Mike's career did not begin in the transportation industry. In fact, like many younger people, until he entered it, it had never even crossed his mind as a career path. Mike graduated from Brock University with a degree in Communication studies in 2007 and began his career as an account executive in the health field. His first introduction to the transportation industry was in 2012 as a solutions provider that helped find the best solutions for a shipment to be transported. In 2013 Mike went to work for a Transportation company. In his 9 years, the last 4 with Wellington Motor Freight, Mike has served in many roles, from logistics coordinator to driver manager, recruiting and retention manager, Director of operations, with his current role being Director of Human Resources. Since Mike has joined the industry, he has developed a real passion for the field, and has an incredible thirst for knowledge. To increase his understanding of the industry, and what drivers go through, Mike does ride alongs with drivers. Mike also reaches out and talks with drivers on a regular basis. He does the same with the operations department to ensure he understands what dispatchers, load brokers and planners do. Mike attends many industry events to learn, network and share information. He is very active on social media, not only to recruit drivers for Wellington, but he will also help drivers find jobs at other fleets if he understands what Wellington has to offer is not a fit for them. In 2019 Wellington put Mike through a Human Resources Management Program. While Mike was still working full time, he also managed to complete the course and graduate with honours. Perhaps the best indication of what Mike is about is this quote from the President of Wellington in his letter of support stating, "Mike is continually looking to find ways to not only better himself, but to better the transportation industry as a whole".

Although Mike has gained a lot of experience and knowledge in the industry over the last decade, he still wishes to gain more, and he believes the formal training that these courses from CITT will provide will help him expand further in the industry as he continues on his transportation career journey, which he believes will benefit him as well as those around him.

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