

## Skills Ontario builds education, support, and skill in trades and tech for young women

Skills Ontario Career Exploration Events connect education, hands-on experience, and mentorship for female students in grades 7 to 12

### For immediate release

Ontario – Skills Ontario and its partners will host [Young Women’s Career Exploration Events](#) at locations across Ontario that bring education, hands-on experience, and mentorship together, ultimately making the connection to successful career opportunities in the skilled trades and technology sectors.

The underrepresentation of women in skilled trade and technology professions continues, with under 14% of registered apprentices being female, according to a 2015 Statistics Canada survey. Skills Ontario seeks to change misconceptions about the skilled trades being dirty, low-paying, and generally unsuitable to female workers. The education and mentorship piece of the Career Exploration Events helps make it easier for young women to see themselves in similarly rewarding career.

Over 12,500 female students have attended a Skills Ontario Career Exploration Event in the last decade, and 93% of students say they are more likely to investigate a career in the skilled trades and technologies after attending.

Skills Ontario Career Exploration Events engage industry and college partners, small businesses, school boards, and students to connect education, experience, and employment. Magna International and Hydro One provide significant contributions to Skills Ontario Young Women’s Initiatives throughout the year.

Regional sponsors also support the events with financial and in-kind support. Skills Ontario thanks the following Leading Sponsors for their support of their local Career Exploration Event: Northern College (Timmins); Niagara College (Welland); Local 1669 Carpenters Union (Thunder Bay); Rendezvous Hotel (Fort Frances); Holiday Inn Barrie (Barrie); Unifor (Port Elgin); Linamar (Guelph); Loyalist College (Belleville); Algonquin College (Ottawa); Durham College (Whitby); Cambrian College (Sudbury); and Canadore College (North Bay).

### About Skills Ontario

Skills Ontario is building Ontario’s skilled trades and technologies workforce. We enable and empower all youth, including women and Aboriginal youth, to consider a career in the skilled trades and technologies. Engagement with students, teachers, parents, volunteers, employers and mentors ensure our programs connect education, experience, and employment. We deliver in-school presentations across Ontario, host Canada’s largest skills competition, run summer camps for skills development and connect students to employers. We are focused on growth sectors such as construction and infrastructure, technology innovation, and hospitality services.

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### Associated Links

[VIDEO: Skills Ontario Young Women’s Initiatives](#)  
[Skills Ontario Online Media Kit](#)  
[Skills Ontario Recent Media Highlights](#)

### Media contact

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