

## Skills Ontario congratulates and celebrates medalists moving on to Skills Canada National Competition

Over 65 students from Skills Ontario Competition advance to represent Team Ontario at national level

**WATERLOO, ON (May 23, 2019)** – Medalists from across Ontario will move forward to the upcoming Skills Canada National Competition next week, May 28-29 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, after earning gold medals in select skilled trade and technology contests earlier this month at the 30<sup>th</sup> Skills Ontario Competition. Over 2,400 elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students participated in the provincial event from May 6-8, 2019 at the Toronto Congress Centre, with many vying for the opportunity to compete against the best in the country.

"Skills Ontario is proud of all competitors, including those who are advancing to the Skills Canada National Competition to represent the province," says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. "Thanks to the contribution from many partners, including the Government of Ontario, Skills Ontario is able to inspire the province's youth and celebrate the skills and hard work of competitors. The celebration of the medalists of today sets the stage for the highly-skilled workforce of tomorrow."

Minister Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Education, showed her support and well wishes for Team Ontario at the Skills Canada National Competition <u>through social media</u> by Tweeting: "Best of luck to the [Skills Ontario] team as they travel to [the Skills Canada] National Competition in Halifax... I know they will make our province proud, and show how bright Ontario's youth are."

Skills Ontario strives to build Ontario's skilled trades and technologies workforce, in part by organizing the annual provincial competition and qualifying competitions that lead up to it at several colleges, in addition to several other initiatives that are run throughout the year.

## Skills Ontario – Promoting skilled trades and technologies in Ontario since 1989

Over the last 30 years, Skills Ontario has been growing a portfolio of programs including in-school presentations reaching 125,000 students across Ontario, career exploration summer camps, Young Women's and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Career Exploration Conferences, and hosting Canada's largest skills competition which annually attracts 35,000+ spectators who cheerlead the 2,400+ competitors in 68+ trades and tech categories. To see how you can partner with Skills Ontario and help make a difference in the lives of Ontario's youth, visit <u>skillsontario.com/get-involved</u>.

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