

Skills Ontario debunks stereotypes and brings experiential learning opportunities in skilled trade and tech sectors to young women

As part of its Young Women's Initiatives, Skills Ontario is set to host over 15 Career Exploration Events across the province, where female students will learn about the skilled trades and technologies through activities, workshops, and presentations

For immediate release

Ontario – Skills Ontario and its partners are hosting Young Women's Career Exploration Events at locations across Ontario that bring information, mentorship, and opportunity together, ultimately making the connection to successful career opportunities in the skilled trades and technology sectors and debunking existing myths about women in these career fields.

Skills Ontario addresses the underrepresentation of women in the skilled trades and technologies professions by seeking out to change misconceptions about them being unsuitable to female workers. The experiential and mentorship elements of the Career Exploration Events help make it easier for young women to see themselves in rewarding careers. Daytime Career Exploration Events provide participants the opportunity to integrate experiential workshops and networking with mentors. These events are held for secondary students, and will newly be offered in select locations for senior elementary. Evening Career Exploration Events for students and their guardians will allow attendees to have the opportunity to visit a partner college for an evening of workshops, guest speakers, and information booths.

"It's imperative for young women and their guardians to learn about their career options in the skilled trades and technologies and to hear success stories from female tradespeople," says Lindsay Chester, Young Women's Initiatives Program Manager at Skills Ontario. "Professionals in the skilled trades and tech are in high demand, so these experiential events are important for not only strengthening our economy, but also for redefining gender roles and empowering young women to explore their options with no misconceptions or limitations holding them back."

Over 12,500 female students have attended one of the Skills Ontario Career Exploration Events 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 provides significant contributions to Skills Ontario's Young Women's Initiatives throughout the year. Skills Ontario is working toward building an economically vibrant Ontario, while encouraging the next generation of workers to discover empowerment through the skilled trades and technologies.

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: Sault College (Sault Ste. Marie), Local 1669 Carpenters Union (Thunder Bay), Dryden Regional Training & Cultural Center (Dryden), Bruce Power (Tiverton), Linamar (Guelph), Georgian College (Barrie), Loyalist College (Belleville), Algonquin College (Ottawa), Sheridan College (Brampton), Durham College (Whitby), Cambrian College (Sudbury), Niagara College (Niagara), Canadore College (North Bay), and Northern College (Timmins). For more information on these events, visit skillsontario.com/young-womens-initiatives.

About 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 annually hosting Canada's largest skills competition which attracts 37,000+ 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 skillsontario.com/get-involved.

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