

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# **Skills Ontario partners with collaborating organizations, KickAss Careers, Women in Renewable Energy, and Women of Powerline Technicians, to encourage young women to pursue skilled trade and tech careers**

**Ontario (February 6, 2020)** – Skills Ontario is thrilled to be working with KickAss Careers, Women In Renewable Energy (WiRE), and Women of Powerline Technicians (PLT) to further positively impact young women and promote exciting career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies.

Through skill development, mentorship, networking, and experiential learning opportunities, Skills Ontario and its collaborating organizations will provide educational and engaging workshops, such as the Young Women’s Career Exploration Events, which run throughout the school year, and the Young Women’s Conference, which is hosted in conjunction with the annual Skills Ontario Competition, to encourage exciting career paths.

Along with KickAss Careers, WiRE, and Women of PLT, Skills Ontario is thrilled to welcome more groups as they join to collaborate and encourage young women to pursue skilled trade and technology careers.

“We are delighted to be partnering with women in skilled trade and technology organizations,” says Jennifer Green, Director of Competitions and Young Women’s Initiatives at Skills Ontario. “These collaborations are important, because they reach young women across the province with an important message: that the skilled trades and tech offer rewarding, lucrative, and fulfilling career opportunities. By standing together with the same mission, we are able to amplify that message and connect Ontario’s young women to mentors, and we thank KickAss Careers, WiRE, Women of PLT, and others for their partnership.”

“On behalf of the KickAss Careers Team and myself we are excited about this opportunity to partner with likeminded organizations who share the same motivation and passion to engage, educate and offer ongoing encouragement to young women and their parents considering careers in skilled trades and technology sectors,” says Jamie McMillan, KickAss Careers Founder. “Through collaboration in partnership with Skills Ontario, WiRE, Women of PLT and many others, we are able to provide students, parents and educators with authentic representation from those of us who not only talk the talk but walk the walk.”

“WiRE is thrilled to be partnering with Skills Ontario,” says Joanna Osawe, President and CEO of WiRE. “WiRE’s mission is to advance the role and recognition of women in the energy sector and with our newest partner Skills Ontario we will solidify the mission and vision moving forward and pave the way for girls and women entering the sector.”

“Women of Powerline Technicians is excited to be joining Skills Ontario as a collaborating organization, and we look forward to working alongside KickAss Careers and Women in Renewable Energy to champion the development of world-class skills in Ontario youth,” says Lana Norton, Executive Director and Founder of Women of Powerline Technicians.

## **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](https://skillsontario.com/get-involved).



### **About KickAss Careers**

At KickAss Careers our mission is to engage, educate and encourage youth to consider career pathways in skilled trades and technology. At KickAss Careers our target audience is your future workforce. “Teach the young hands of today to build the world of tomorrow.” - Jamie McMillan

### **About Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE)**

Joanna Osawe is the Chair, President and CEO of Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE), a group which encourages and supports women to enter this dynamic field. WiRE is inclusive and educates on all renewable and emerging energy technologies with chapters in St. John's, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, Windsor, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan and Vancouver and Kamloops. WiRE has expanded with its 1st International Launch in Istanbul, Turkey with the Canadian Embassy and as of 2019 WiRE has expanded to Tbilisi Georgia, Baku Azerbaijan and Amman Jordan. WiRE is expanding in the MENA regions currently. WiRE regularly organizes educational field trips (open to All), monthly networking meetings, an awards recognition program, student mentoring and bursaries, communications and engagement initiatives. Joanna also works at DMC Power as the Global Business Development Manager – Major Projects at DMC Power Inc.

### **About Women of Powerline Technicians**

Women of Powerline Technicians officially launched in September of 2016. Women of Powerline Technicians is the national not-for-profit organization committed to increasing women in trade and technical roles in Canada's electricity sector and beyond. Our vision is to see men and women represented on every distribution operations crew. For more information on Women of PLT please visit <http://womenofplt.com>.

### **Media Contact:**

#### **Emina Jakupović**

Manager of Communications

519 749 9899 x 221

[ejakupovic@skillsontario.com](mailto:ejakupovic@skillsontario.com)