

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution



Skills Ontario hosts virtual “First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Conference” for Indigenous youth

Ontario (May 8, 2020) – Skills Ontario is pleased to host the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Conference for Indigenous youth on May 12th. The purpose of the virtual conference is to give Indigenous youth the opportunity to learn about the career paths in the skilled trades and technologies, while celebrating a shared cultural heritage and the success of Indigenous youth across Ontario.

As Indigenous youth represent a growing demographic of the Canadian population, and could form a significant part of the future skilled trades and tech force, Skills Ontario is seeking to preserve Indigenous culture and keep youth connected to who they are through the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Conference.

The conference will include speakers and mentors representing Charger Foods, UA Canada, OPG, Hydro One, Enbridge, CBRE, and the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board of Ontario (AABO). This conference is also supported by the Government of Ontario and the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI). Among the agenda of events, Elder Barbara Nolan will be leading traditional opening and closing remarks.

“Skills Ontario has worked to ensure that we are continuing to bring skilled trade and tech career exploration opportunities to students in these current challenging circumstances,” says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. “Through our #SkillsAtHome initiatives, we deliver virtual resources to our audiences, including the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Conference. This conference, originally scheduled to be held in-person during the 2020 Skills Ontario Competition, is now virtual and accessible to Indigenous youth while staying safe at home. We’re looking forward to sharing the message that the skilled trades and technologies offer fulfilling opportunities!”

The conference will start at 10:00 AM (EDT) and will be held on WebEx. The link to register for the Skills Ontario: First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Conference can be found at skillsontario.com/fnmi. Skills Ontario looks forward to continuing to provide informative and engaging learning opportunities to build a strong and diverse workforce.

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

For over 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 skilled trades and technologies 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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