MEDIA RELEASE

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Skills Ontario announces #SkillsCodingChallenge, continues promoting essential skills and career exploration through #SkillsAtHome series

Ontario (August 3, 2020) – Skills Ontario is thrilled to launch the tenth challenge of the #SkillsAtHome series, which provides fun and interactive activities for Ontarians to explore the skilled trades and technologies. The latest challenge, the #SkillsCodingChallenge, asks participants to "program" a friend or family member by relaying a set of instructions to them to drink from a cup while blindfolded and seated at a table.

This challenge encourages the development of skills in planning, design, creativity, and dexterity, and relates to the fields of robotics, automation and control, and coding. Participants must send in submissions for the #SkillsCodingChallenge by August 17th.

"We've seen outstanding submissions come in for the #SkillsAtHome Challenge series," says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. "We're thrilled to provide Ontarians with activities that build skills and open doors to career exploration. In these current circumstances, we're proud to have pivoted quickly and to continue delivering programs that allow Ontarians to explore skilled trade and technology fields through at-home hands-on activities."

To participate in challenges in the #SkillsAtHome series, audiences are asked to share their submissions on Twitter. Winners are awarded prizes provided by Skills Ontario and its partners. Skills Ontario thanks its #SkillsAtHome program sponsors: the Government of Ontario, 3M Canada, Centennial College, Haas, Humber College, IHSA, Linamar, Magna, OPG, RBC, and WSIB, as well as its #SkillsCodingChallenge sponsors: Algonquin College, Bruce Power, Confederation College, Fanshawe College, Georgian College, OACETT, OCAS, Seneca College, Sheridan College, Snap-on, and Vale. All challenge details can be found in both official languages at skillsontario.com/skillsathome.

Along with <u>Twitter</u>, Skills Ontario can also be found on <u>Instagram</u> at @skillsontario, on <u>LinkedIn</u> at "Skills Ontario", and on <u>Facebook</u> at "Skills Canada - Ontario." Skills Ontario looks forward to continuing to provide fun and interactive learning opportunities to build a strong and robust workforce.

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

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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