

Skills Ontario strengthens leadership from the private sector

New board members add expertise with special focus on construction

Ontario (June 29, 2020) – Skills Ontario is pleased to announce the appointment of seven new members to its board of directors. This is a significant next step to expand Skills Ontario's leadership in skilled trades and technologies in communities across Ontario.

"Skills Ontario has three decades of history, and we are focused on the future," said Karen Creditor, Chair of Skills Ontario. "Our board of directors includes exceptional people who value education and employment in skilled trades and technology sectors. Our new directors make Skills Ontario even stronger and position us to help young people realize their full potential."

The new directors include women and men with diverse expertise and experience, and proven track-records. They will ensure that Skills Ontario benefits from perspectives across different sectors and regions. The new directors are:

Name	Organization
Andrew Pariser	Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON)
Alex Hocevar	The Hocevar Group
Bryan Arnold	Eastern Construction Co. Ltd
Clarice Ward	Melloul-Blamey Construction Inc.
Jody Lundrigan	Centre for PTSD and Related Mental Health Conditions
Mary Fuke	Skilled Trades Six Nations Polytechnic Inc.
Michael Sherrard	Sherrard Kuzz LLP

"Skills Ontario is focused on delivering exciting new initiatives for young people by teaming up with business leaders, parents, educators and alumni members." said David Morley, Skills Ontario board member. "We are all dedicated to creating the next generation of talent in construction, advanced manufacturing, robotics and more."

As Skills Ontario enters its fourth decade of delivering interactive, educational, and inspiring programs and initiatives, the Skills Ontario board of directors is setting its sights on the next stage of success. This will build on recent activities during the pandemic including the Women in Skilled Trades and Tech Conference, First Nations, Métis and Indigenous Conference, #SkillsAtHome Challenge Series, and Virtual Skills Contest and Awards.

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 <u>skillsontario.com/get-involved</u>.

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