

Skills Ontario applauds measures to develop apprenticeships and skilled trade & tech careers

April 11, 2019

Skills Ontario media contact

Emina Jakupovic

519 749 9899 ext. 221

ejakupovic@skillsontario.com

QUEEN'S PARK – Skills Ontario welcomes the emphasis on apprenticeships and skilled trade and technology careers that were addressed in the provincial government's budget announcement today. "The commitment to increasing apprenticeships and promoting the skilled trades and technologies to students from kindergarten to grade 12 is very much aligned with Skills Ontario's mission," says Ian Howcroft, Chief Executive Officer at Skills Ontario. "We look forward to working with the government to build these initiatives to achieve our common objectives."

Addressing the skills gap continues to be Ontario's number one economic challenge and the key to Ontario's future prosperity. Skilled trade and technology careers offer dynamic and rewarding careers for millions of Ontarians.

The budget announcement included a number of directionally positive initiatives relating to the promotion of skilled trades and technologies, such as:

- A one window apprenticeship and trades portal;
- Commitment to establish incentives to encourage employers to hire apprentices;
- Promoting apprenticeship and trades as a good career path to younger students; and,
- A review of training supports for employers to increase not-for-profit and private sector involvement.

Skills Ontario looks forward to working with the government to help realize these goals and help develop a strong, prosperous future for Ontarians.

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

Over the past 30 years, Skills Ontario has grown into the most impactful organization for promoting and encouraging youth to consider careers in the skilled trades and technologies. With the help of government and corporate sponsors, Skills Ontario has been growing a portfolio of programs including in-school presentations reaching 125,000 students across Ontario annually, career exploration summer camps, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Career Exploration Conferences and Young Women's Conferences (the largest in the country with 2,000+ participants), and hosting Canada's largest skills competition which annually attracts 35,000+ spectators who cheerlead the 2,400+ competitors in 68+ trades and technology categories. Skills Ontario's programs connect education, experience, and employment changing millions of young minds -- 92% improved perception across 365,000+ youth annually -- about the quality of career offerings in skilled trades and technologies. Skills Ontario's impact is valued by students, business, families, educators, labour, and communities across the province.