
ONTARIO YOUTH REAP THE BENEFITS OF A UNION GAS \$450,000 COMMITMENT TO THE SKILLED TRADES IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

(SUDBURY, ON – January 27, 2006) – Skills Canada – Ontario believes the investment keeps adding up after Union Gas announced its \$450,000 contribution to help promote careers in skilled trades and technologies to the youth of Northern Ontario.

Skills Canada - Ontario is a provincial not-for-profit organization that promotes skills trades and technologies as first choice career options to Ontario youth.

Skills Canada - Ontario's Executive Director, Gail Smyth, noted that this is an excellent example of what can happen when business, the not-for-profit sector and our educational institutions come together, "Union Gas is truly a company with vision. Their investment in Skills Canada – Ontario will directly impact the career choices of youth in northern Ontario. Skills Canada – Ontario has implemented a number of programs for youth in these communities to explore their career options in fun and informative ways".

Doug French, District Operations Manager for Union Gas said "Union Gas is proud to support Skills Canada in expanding its programming to Northern Ontario. As a business which has operated in Northern Ontario for almost 50 years, we know it's important to nurture and develop home grown talent to serve the needs of business and industry. We hope this serves as a catalyst to encourage young people to explore their opportunities for careers in the skilled trades, and to pursue their career aspirations here at home in the North. "

Formal recognition of the Union Gas investment will take place on February 9th, at a fundraising dinner and silent auction that will help raise funds for the Skills Canada – Ontario Bursary.

This event, being held at the Radisson Hotel in Sudbury, will assist students from Northern Ontario to advance from Ontario to the Canadian Skills Competition taking place in Halifax in May 2006. Starting at 6:00 p.m., guests are invited to browse the silent auction items, enjoy a terrific dinner and hear from a local student who has participated in a program sponsored by Skills Canada – Ontario.

Mayor David Courtemanche, said "Greater Sudbury is pleased to be the home to a Skills Canada - Ontario regional office. The investment from Union Gas, and the initiatives of Skills Canada - Ontario, will assist youth in our community to pursue skilled trades and technologies as first choice career options. Providing meaningful opportunities for our young people in the skilled trades and technologies will ensure continued prosperity in Northern Ontario."

About Skills Canada – Ontario

Skills Canada – Ontario is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting skilled trades and technologies as viable, first choice career options to Ontario youth. Through its partnerships in education, industry, labour and government, it is helping young people brighten their futures and industry to strengthen theirs. Through programs and initiatives, such as qualifying and provincial skills competitions, Skills Canada – Ontario supports the development of youth and the prosperity of industry in Ontario.

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