

Skills Ontario to host Persons with Exceptionalities Conference, champions inclusivity within skilled trades and technologies

Ontario (February 25, 2021) – As an organization dedicated to empowering youth to explore careers in the skilled trades and technologies, Skills Ontario works to ensure that all Ontarians feel welcomed and included in these fields. One of the ways Skills Ontario is doing that is through the Persons with Exceptionalities Conference, set to be held virtually on March 30th at 6:30 pm (EST).

This complimentary event will be an opportunity for youth living with exceptionalities to access resources, inspiration, and information about careers in the skilled trades and technologies. With mentors from Performance Plus Rehabilitative Care Inc., the Job Centre, Infrastructure Health and Safety, and the Ontario Disability Support Program, participants will hear from experts about pursuing these fields.

"Diversity and inclusion are top priorities for Skills Ontario," says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. "Through our programs and initiatives, we emphasize that the skilled trades and technologies are suitable for all. The rewarding opportunities in these fields are not limited to a select group of people – these careers welcome all."

"As an organization, we aspire for all young Ontarians to feel the sense of belonging that they deserve to feel," says Ashley Pszeniczny, Skills Ontario's Diversity and Inclusion Manager. "It's key for us to positively engage those with exceptionalities and continuously put our efforts into making sure they feel included, heard, and appreciated."

Funded by the Government of Ontario, Skills Ontario's Persons with Exceptionalities Conference invites youth and their parents/guardians to learn about skilled trade and technology careers, including the pathways into these opportunities and the supports in place. Registration can be found at <u>skillsontario.com/pwe-2021</u>.

Skills Ontario recognizes the importance of inspiring budding skilled professionals, and looks forward to continuing to provide learning opportunities and build a strong and robust skilled workforce.

About Skills Ontario

Skills Ontario has been growing a portfolio of programs to inspire and engage youth since 1989, including presentations, career exploration events, competitions, summer camps, and Young Women's and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit workshops and conferences. To see how you can partner with Skills Ontario and help make a difference in the lives of Ontario youth, visit <u>skillsontario.com/get-involved</u>.

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