## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## Skills Ontario invites youth to celebrate Halloween through #SkillsAtHome Spooktacular, provides free virtual activities

**Ontario** (**October 26, 2020**) – Skills Ontario has launched the #SkillsAtHome Spooktacular, a series of free virtual activities for youth to celebrate Halloween while staying safe at home. Through three contests and a live pastry arts workshop, young Ontarians can explore the skilled trades and technologies while having fun and developing skills.

With contests challenging participants to craft costumes, carve and paint pumpkins, and build rollercoaster candy dispensers, as well as a live workshop on how to design cupcakes with a Halloween theme, Skills Ontario is engaging youth and encouraging them to develop their skills and confidence through experiential learning.

"Skills Ontario is proud to have made the quick pivot to virtual learning during these extraordinary times," says lan Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. "Through this #SkillsAtHome Spooktacular initiative, we can continue to reach thousands of young people across the province, not only to provide them with fun learning activities, but also to inspire them to explore the skilled trades and technologies, and ultimately build our future skilled workforce."

Funded by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, the #SkillsAtHome Spooktacular challenges are separated into age groups, as well as categories, such as "best skilled trade/technology related submission" and "most creative submission," and each category winner will be awarded a \$25 Amazon e-Gift Card. Challengers are asked to post their submission through Twitter, as there is also a Grand Prize to the submission with the most interactions on their Tweet. Submissions are due on October 31st at midnight. All the details can be found on skillsontario.com/spooktacular.

Through its #SkillsAtHome initiatives, Skills Ontario also provides <u>a challenge series</u>, with challenges being launched every two weeks, as well as <u>a live series</u>, which delivers virtual workshops in several skilled trade and technology fields. Along with <u>Twitter</u>, Skills Ontario can also be found on Instagram at <u>@skillsontario</u>, on LinkedIn at <u>"Skills Ontario"</u>, on Facebook at <u>"Skills Canada - Ontario"</u> and on YouTube at <u>Skills Ontario</u>. Skills Ontario looks forward to continuing to provide fun and interactive learning opportunities to build a strong and robust 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 <a href="mailto:skillsontario.com/get-involved">skillsontario.com/get-involved</a>.

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