

Skills Ontario supports and applauds Government of Ontario’s “2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario” plan

Ontario (November 4, 2021) – As an organization dedicated to building the future skilled workforce, Skills Ontario applauds the Government of Ontario for the steps outlined in the [2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario plan](#), released today by Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance.

Within this plan, which lays out how the government will build the foundation for Ontario’s recovery and prosperity, Skills Ontario is pleased to see the continued support for and recognition of skilled trade and technology careers as vital to the economy and essential to post-pandemic recovery.

“We are thrilled to continue our strong partnership with the Ontario government, and we support the plan announced today,” says Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. “Working together and inspiring the next generation of skilled trade and technology leaders is crucial to our success as a province, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide learning opportunities to Ontarians. Skilled trades and technologies play an imperative role in our lives and continuing to promote these fields and the professionals working within them benefits us all.”

Skills Ontario supports the government’s commitment to [supporting skilled professionals](#) by providing the training they need, building opportunities, expanding the Second Career program, enhancing the Skills Development Fund, helping immigrant entrepreneurs, and supporting women in the workforce. As stated in [the Government of Ontario’s news release](#), “Ontario is investing an additional \$90.3 million over three years starting in 2021–22 in the Skilled Trades Strategy.” The government is proposing to extend the Ontario Jobs Training Tax Credit to 2022 to provide an estimated \$275 million in support to about 240,000 people, or \$1,150, on average, and investing an additional \$5 million in 2021–22 to expand the Second Career program.

Skills Ontario applauds the government’s continued emphasis on skilled trades, and strongly supports further efforts to reduce the stigma around skilled trades careers. The organization has been delivering programs and events since 1989 and continues to reach youth and aims to inspire them to explore skilled trades and technologies. Skills Ontario has found great success through its programs and initiatives, and continues to deliver programs for many audiences, including young women, Indigenous youth, new Canadians, persons with exceptionalities, and more, in order to connect education, experience, and employment.

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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 skillsontario.com/get-involved.

Media Contacts

Emina Jakupović
Manager of Communications
ejakupovic@skillsontario.com

Ian Howcroft
Chief Executive Officer
ihowcroft@skillsontario.com