



SKILLS ONTARIO ANNUAL REPORT

September 2021 - August 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

As CEO of Skills Ontario, it is an honour to work with students, educators, parents, volunteers, labour, industry professionals, and employers to help Ontario's future leaders reach their full potential.

Through the new virtual climate brought forth by the pandemic, Skills Ontario made the quick pivot to remote delivery, focusing on creativity, innovation, and agility. We adapted our existing programs and developed new initiatives, as well.

We have returned to in-person events as of summer 2022, but we are continuing to offer virtual programming to complement our initiatives, as these programs were very successful and accessible.

On behalf of Skills Ontario, thank you to the educators, volunteers, students, government representatives, labour groups, and partner organizations who work with us. Through our efforts, we are encouraging youth to make career choices that will provide them with fulfilling and happy lives.

Sincerely, Ian Howcroft



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Skills Ontario continues to serve an essential role in filling the province's labour gap, and it is through our collective leadership, innovation, partnership, and teamwork that we deliver expanded, increasingly relevant, and engaging, transformational programs that continue to build our future skilled workforce.

Our mission is simple: support and inspire Ontarians as they recognize their potential and explore their career paths.

We work to give youth and their influencers the tools to discover and

explore the skilled trades and technologies through experiential learning and mentorship.

Skills Ontario and its Board of Directors recognize skilled professionals, thank our supporters and advocates, and extend well wishes to all. We look forward to continuing the mission of enabling and delivering our ever important work.

Sincerely, Darryl Spector

IMPACT & REACH

For over 30 years, Skills Ontario has been promoting skilled trade and technology careers, and the organization's reach grows every year.

On Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and LinkedIn, Skills Ontario engages thousands of followers daily to promote programs, events, opportunities, and more.



**10
MILLION+**
impressions on
digital media
this year.

22,300+
followers across
social media as of
August 2022.

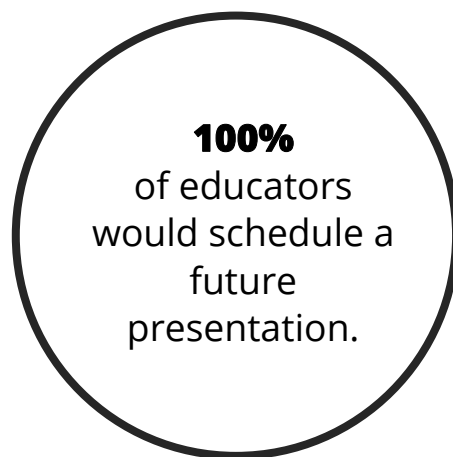
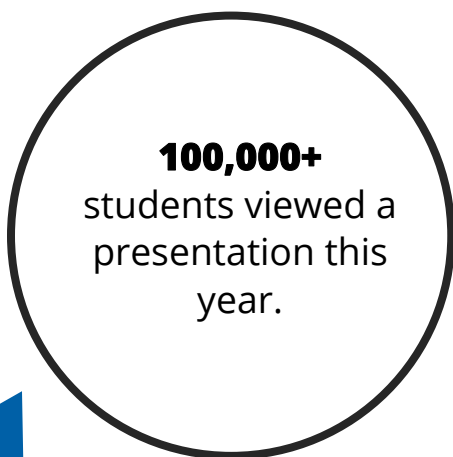
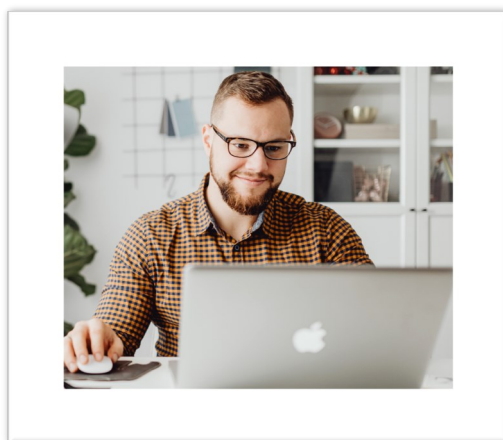
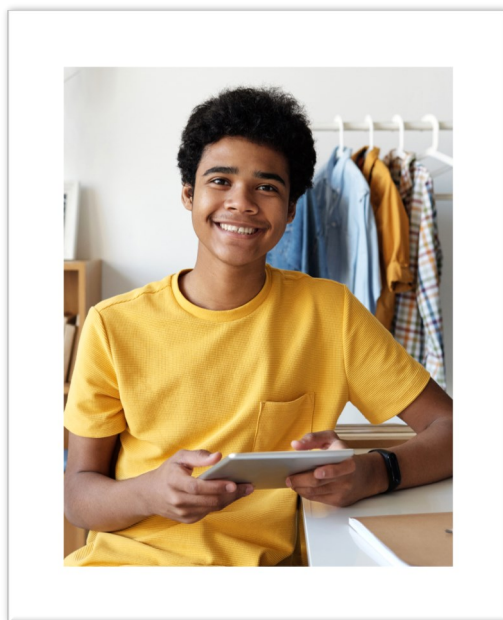
331,900+
views on our
website this year.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Skills Ontario reaches students through In-School Presentations, with Liaison Officers visiting schools throughout the school year.

When the pandemic changed our circumstances, Skills Ontario adapted its In-School Presentation program to be delivered virtually. Our presentation educates students on the hundreds of career opportunities available in the construction, motive power, service, industrial, and technology sectors, focusing on apprenticeships, training programs, and more. This presentation is updated annually and is available in both English and French, as well as in a workshop format geared toward First Nations, Métis, and Inuit audiences.

Along with this student-focused presentation, Skills Ontario also developed a presentation for parents/guardians to learn more about careers in the skilled trades and technologies and the pathways into these fields.



YOUNG WOMEN'S INITIATIVES

Skills Ontario's Young Women's Initiatives saw another successful year alongside its Collaborating Organizations, hosting Skilled Trade & Tech Days for Young Women, the International Day of The Girl virtual activity series, the International Women's Day Conference, and the Young Women's Conference, which we also hosted entirely in French as part of our commitment to delivering programming to the Francophone community.

New in 2022, Skills Ontario hosted Parent/Guardian Information Nights to further engage this demographic and give parents/guardians an opportunity to learn together with their children. Sessions focused on skilled sectors and included interesting demonstrations and virtual tours.

12,700+

young women
participated in our
Young Women's
Initiatives programming
this year.

96%

of attendees would
participate in a
Young Women's
event again.



FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT INITIATIVES

Skills Ontario delivers programming to Indigenous youth through its First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Initiatives. With Trades & Tech Days, Indigenous College Recruiter Information Sessions, and the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Student Conference, these programs are for Indigenous youth to learn about the skilled trades and technologies and to hear from community members who work in these fields.

Through a continued commitment to acknowledge and respect Indigenous peoples and their history, all of Skills Ontario's events begin with a land acknowledgement and recognition of Indigenous peoples and their connection to this land.

Skills Ontario has also produced a series of videos for the new Indigenous Role Model Campaign.

3,400+
Indigenous students
reached through
presentations this
year.

700
hands-on kits
were delivered to
Indigenous
on-reserve
students.

90%
of students are
more interested in
pursuing a skilled
career after
participating.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Skills Ontario is committed to creating equal opportunities for all youth by removing barriers and providing career exploration programs. Through events such as the Skilled Trades & Tech Inclusivity Series, the Rise Series for new Canadians, the Persons with Exceptionalities Conference, the Umoja Series for Black youth, the Urban Tech Workshop, and the Tools for Success Workshops, Skills Ontario continues to work towards building a diverse, robust workforce.



11,200+
viewers have
attended an
Umoja series
event.



29,000+
participants in
underrepresented
groups reached
this year.



2022 VIRTUAL SKILLS ONTARIO COMPETITION



The 2022 Virtual Skills Ontario Competition was a great success with over 1,000 competitors in skilled trade and technology virtual contests – double the amount compared to the previous virtual year!

Youth competed between April 11th to 29th, with the Career Exploration Showcase on May 3rd and the provincial Closing Ceremony on May 4th.

Skills Ontario is thrilled to celebrate all competitors, including those who represented Team Ontario at the 2022 Skills Canada National Competition, which hosted participants from across the country in Vancouver to compete.



At Skills Canada's Closing Ceremony, Team Ontario achieved 51 medals: 22 gold medals, 19 silver medals, and 10 bronze medals. Seven Team Ontario competitors advanced to Team Canada.

15,000+

attendees in total at the Virtual Skills Ontario Competition, held in 2020 and 2021.

95%

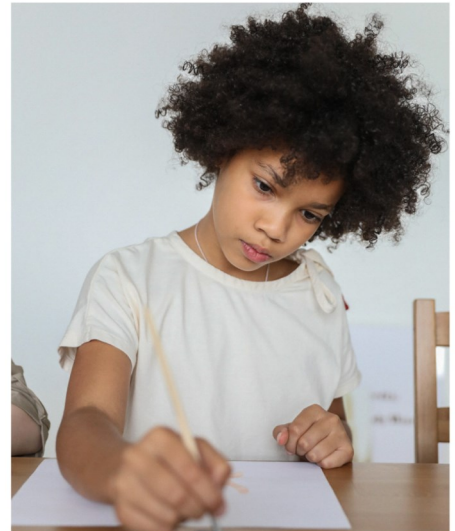
of students are likely to recommend attending or participating.

JUNK DRAWER RACES

In fall 2021, Skills Ontario launched the Junk Drawer Races, a new competition program where students from grades 2 to 12 can compete in curriculum-based, skill-developing contests.

With a Gravity Powered Robot Walker Race (for grades 2-3), a Cardboard Car Race (for grades 4-5), a Paper Glider Competition (for grades 6-7), a Hydraulic Crane Challenge (for grade 8), and a Cardboard Hovercraft Race (for grades 9-12), youth are given the opportunity to try a hands-on approach in their exploration of skilled trades and technologies.

With emphases on topics tied to curriculum such as flight technology, design, systems in action, and more, youth can participate in teams to build and race their structure in an attempt to advance from the regional level to the province-wide championship level. The contests encourage the use of common items found around the home and/or classroom, as well as recyclables, in order to promote sustainability and for there to be little to no cost for youth to build their projects.



200+

submissions from
schools across
Ontario.

1,300+

views of Regional
and Championship
Ceremony videos.

SUMMER CAMPS & VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

Skills Ontario holds week-long day-camps across Ontario in the summer. In 2020 and 2021, Skills Ontario continued the initiative virtually and throughout the year, leading participants through fun, skilled trade and technology-related activities and virtual tours. Through the virtual workshops, youth create their own agenda, signing up for any workshops based on their interests and availability. Over seven weeks, students entering grades 7-9 participated in workshops that helped develop their skills and encouraged them to learn about their career paths.

In 2022, Skills Ontario returned to in-person camps across the province, while also offering virtual workshops, given the success and accessibility of the program.

25+
locations
hosted camps
across Ontario
this summer.

400+
young people
registered for
camps and
workshops this
summer.



TRADES & TECH TRUCK

The Trades & Tech Truck is a new mobile unit of fun experiential learning! Visitors can explore skilled trades and technologies in a unique and hands-on way. Some of the many modules offered include:

- Virtual Paint
- Electrical Wall
- Pneumatics
- Tires and Breaks
- Heavy Machinery Simulator
- Welding
- Tool Exploration
- Try on a Trade
- Fire Alarm Systems



2,800+
have toured the
truck since its
launch in April
2022.

PODCAST & APP

Skills Ontario launched the Trades & Tech Talk Podcast in April 2020 and continues to produce episodes. In the Trades & Tech Talk podcast, host Dan Cardinal discusses careers in the skilled trades and technologies and how important, in demand and rewarding these careers are. Various guests include professionals who work in the skilled trades and tech, apprenticeship representatives, college reps, educators, Skills Ontario staff, and more.

In January 2022, Skills Ontario developed a new app. The “Skills Ontario” app provides users with an aptitude career quiz, links to opportunities, and more. The app is fully bilingual and available on the Apple and Android app stores for free.

3,000+
listeners have
tuned into our
podcast.

5,500+
users have
downloaded our
app.



DISCOVERY DAYS & OUTREACH EVENTS

Skills Ontario introduced the new Discovery Day event series in 2021, a program which creates a virtual career exploration experience for attendees. Participants can attend conferences, visit exhibitor booths, and collect virtual items to fill their digital swag bag.

4,300+
participants
attended a
Discovery Day this
past year.

Skills Ontario has held Discovery Days for New Canadians, as well as region-focused events for residents in Cornwall, Prescott-Russell, Far Northwestern Ontario, and more.

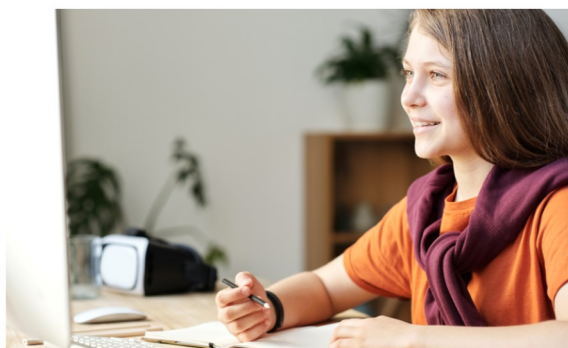


LEARNING TOOLS & RESOURCES

Skills Ontario revamped its print resources in 2021 to assist educators and students looking for information on careers in the skilled trades and technologies. Four publications in total, including a brochure, a colouring book, a career guide, and a booklet on women in skilled careers, were offered to students across the province.



Skills Ontario also produced new videos to act as inspiring and informative resources for students, including tours of skilled trade and tech workplaces, words of advice from skilled professionals, and more. View the new videos at skillsontario.com/videos.



100,000+

publications were
sent out to
schools across the
province.

60+

new videos
produced and
available for free.

PARTNERSHIPS & THANK YOU

Skills Ontario appreciates our corporate and government partners and suppliers who provide better opportunities for everyone in Ontario. It is through their generosity, vision, and commitment that we are able to touch the lives of so many Ontario youth each and every year. **Thank you to our partners for the 2021-2022 year.**

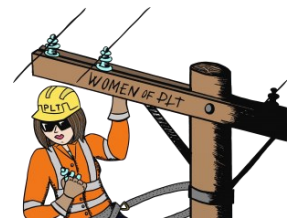


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Agscape
 Anglo Franco Communications
 Canadian Geography Workshop Series
 Canadian Institute of Steel Construction
 Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group)
 Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario
 Creation Camp
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 Elite Welding Solutions Inc.
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 Tata Consultancy Services
 Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)
 Unearth Education

PARTNERSHIPS & THANK YOU

Skills Ontario is proud to **inspire, encourage, and empower Ontarians** to explore the career opportunities in the skilled trades and technologies.

Thank you to our partners, advocates, and participants for their support of Skills Ontario. We look forward to developing our existing programs and delivering new initiatives in 2023.



Visit skillsontario.com and follow us on social media!



skillsontario.com