

Young Women's Initiative's Quarterly Report

September - November

***"CHANGING LIVES AND INSPIRING LEADERS THROUGH
SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGIES!"***

BUILDING CONFIDENCE, SPARKING FUTURES

The first quarter of the 2025-26 school year (September to November) has been a time of incredible momentum and meaningful connections. We have been hard at work recording new episodes of our Sit-Down Series in preparation for upcoming events, ensuring students across the province continue to hear real stories that inspire them. This fall, we proudly celebrated International Day of the Girl in Sudbury and Ottawa, and for the first time expanded to a third location in Bracebridge, Ontario. We also delivered six in-person Skilled Trade and Tech Days along with three dynamic virtual events, extending our reach into even more remote regions across the province. Together, these initiatives reflect what has become this quarter's theme—helping young people discover their spark. ⚡

We know from ongoing conversations with tradeswomen, their supporters, and industry leaders that retention remains a significant challenge. In response, Young Women's Initiatives have made a dedicated commitment to highlighting mentors and supporters of under-represented groups at both our in-person and virtual events. By showcasing real stories and real leadership, we aim to build a culture of belonging from the very beginning of a student's journey.

Skills Ontario's mission—changing lives and inspiring leaders through skilled trades and technologies—guides every decision we make. Our goal is for future tradeswomen to confidently see themselves as an essential part of this commitment and as leaders of the next generation of skilled professionals.

THANK YOU TO OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS

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This program is funded by the Government of Ontario



ApprenticeshipSearch.com
connecting ontario's employers & apprentices



360 students who identify as female
attended the Skills Ontario
International Day of the Girl
Celebration Events in October!

Thank you

to our event sponsor



to our host sponsor



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL - 2025

SUDBURY | OTTAWA | BRACEBRIDGE

This year's International Day of the Girl (IDG) celebrations were bigger and better than ever! Classrooms across the province participated in a virtual Character Animation Challenge, along with new episodes of our Sit-Down Series. While we are seeing strong and growing engagement in our virtual programming, our in-person celebration events continue to be the highlight—and once again reached full capacity.

We were thrilled to return to the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa and Science North in Sudbury, and to introduce our newest celebration location at Georgian College in Bracebridge.

In both Ottawa and Sudbury, we welcomed 150 girls in Grades 7 and 8 from both French and English school boards for a full day of hands-on learning and inspiration. Students rotated through a variety of engaging workshops and "Try-A-Trade" exhibitor stations, and each event featured a bilingual formal program. In Sudbury, students heard from a panel of OYAP students, while in Ottawa they enjoyed an inspiring keynote from Captain Cathy Fraser. Captain Fraser shared insights from her 35-year—and counting—aviation career, during which she has flown a wide range of aircraft and held roles including corporate pilot, charter pilot, cargo pilot, and flight instructor.

Our first year in Bracebridge was a tremendous success. Exhibitors once again answered the call, bringing hands-on activities that kept students engaged at every table. Eighty students took part in the day's festivities. Over lunch, the formal program opened with welcoming remarks from Mayor Maloney. The program also featured an outstanding keynote from Michelle Mulder—roofer, business owner, and international athlete—who shared her journey of discovering "her spark" in the skilled trades. Her spark analogy resonated strongly with all our guests and has become a defining theme of this quarter.



Michelle Mulder, roofer and world ranking athlete, shares her journey in the skilled trades.

Captain Fraser inspires future pilots, and mentors youth, especially girls, to explore aviation, the skilled trades, and technology.



Mayor Maloney took some time to visit the exhibitor booths in Bracebridge, ON.

Thank you
to our host locations



WANT TO HOST A SKILLED TRADE AND TECH DAY - INDUSTRY EVENT?

Show your commitment to supporting young women in skilled trades and technology by hosting an Industry Event at your workplace. It's a simple, meaningful way to inspire future tradeswomen while showcasing your organization's dedication to inclusive career pathways.

Hosts should be able to provide three 40-minute workshops and have space for 15-20 female-identifying students in Grades 11 & 12.

Be part of shaping the next generation—open your doors and spark their interest in the trades.

SKILLED TRADE AND TECH DAYS INDUSTRY EVENTS

RELIANCE HOME COMFORT | APR WELDING ACADEMY

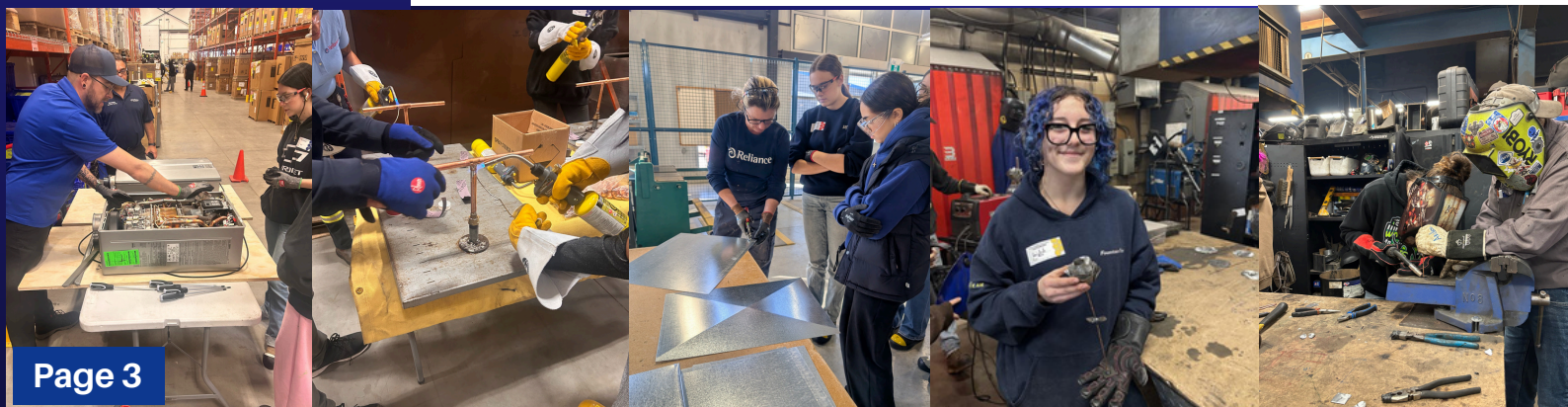
This quarter, we were thrilled to partner once again with **Reliance Home Comfort** to host two fantastic fall Industry Events at their Oshawa and London locations. At each site, 15 girls in Grades 11 and 12 dove into hands-on workshops and explored the wide range of careers connected to the company. Students rotated through five interactive stations, 30 minutes in each, learned about real pathways into the industry, and even got to meet junior techs currently progressing through their training.

We're grateful for Reliance Home Comfort's ongoing enthusiasm and support for Skilled Trade and Tech Days—they continue to help spark curiosity, confidence, and career inspiration in the next generation.

APR Welding Academy and Young Women's Initiatives teamed up for their first-ever Industry Event—and it was a memorable one! Students from the Algoma District School Board in Sault Ste. Marie rolled up their sleeves for two hands-on welding workshops and proudly took home a welded 'Forever Rose' they created themselves.

Participants also discovered what a trades school can offer as a post-secondary pathway, opening their eyes to new opportunities in the skilled trades.

A big thank-you to APR Welding Academy for their ongoing support in the Algoma region. Their commitment to encouraging and empowering young women in the trades continues to make a real difference.



Thank you
to our host locations

ALGOMA
— STEEL INC. —

 **Tenaris**



SKILLED TRADE AND TECH DAYS

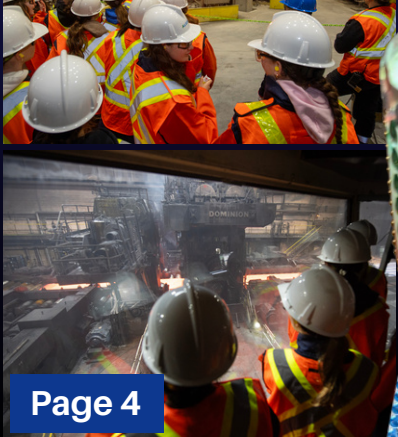
DRYDEN | TENARIS & ALGOMA STEEL

The annual Skilled Trade and Tech Day for Young Women in Dryden was a fantastic success once again. Skills Ontario Program Facilitator, Alex, kicked things off with a lively and informative Skills Ontario presentation—complete with a bit of friendly competition during the trivia session. After the prizes were claimed, students split into three groups to take part in hands-on workshops.

Enbridge returned this year with another great workshop, and we were excited to introduce a new tech-focused session led by the Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC). Rounding out the day, Skills Ontario guided students through building their very own lamps to take home—a highlight for many. It was an inspiring day filled with curiosity, creativity, and new possibilities in skilled trades and technology.

Once again, **Algoma Steel** and **Tenaris** in Sault Ste. Marie showed their support for Skills Ontario's initiatives. This time opening their doors to students in Grades 7 & 8 from both Algoma region school boards for two unforgettable Skilled Trade and Tech Days. Over two days—November 25 and 26—200 female students explored one of the two locations, taking part in guided industry tours and getting an inside look at the manufacturing magic happening right in their own community. Each group also enjoyed a hands-on workshop delivered by Skills Ontario, adding even more fun and discovery to the experience.

A huge thank-you to our incredible hosts for welcoming students and helping spark curiosity in the skilled trades!



Alex, from Skills Ontario, presenting to students in Dryden.
We appreciate our colleagues who step in to support
Young Women's Initiatives Events.

Over 985 students engaged with Skills Ontario through a Young Women's virtual event this quarter!

Thank you
to all participating schools that attended a virtual event!



This fall we released 12 new episodes of our virtual series "A Sit Down with". Including 3 in French.

VIRTUAL SKILLED TRADE AND TECH DAYS

Young Women's Initiatives continues to strengthen our commitment to promoting skilled trade and technology careers to students across the province. Although our focus is on those who identify as female, this year, we are excited to expand our 'Sit-Down Series' and continue with virtual events. These events allow whole classrooms to join the conversation and engage directly with women working in these fields.

While our in-person events are designed specifically for young women, our co-ed virtual events play an equally meaningful role. The boys and young men who attend will one day be future coworkers and allies, and these sessions give us the opportunity to normalize the presence of women on job sites while students learn about the exciting and rewarding careers available for everyone in the skilled trades and technologies.

"This was absolutely wonderful! We definitely grew in our respect for the skilled trades! It was so hard but yet sooooo much fun! THANK YOU!"

Attending Teacher

SKILLS ONTARIO CELEBRATES NATIONAL SKILLED TRADES WEEK

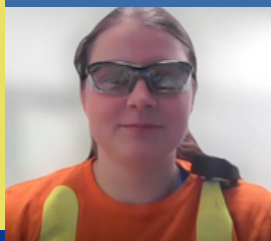
More than 800 students in Grades 4-6 from French and English school boards participated in an engaging Skills Ontario virtual presentation focused on skilled trades and technology careers.

Following the presentation, students rolled up their sleeves and took part in a hands-on activity constructing their own 'Slick' wind-powered cars.



Superior Greenstone District School Board OYAP CAR BUILD

We were thrilled to partner with Superior Greenstone DSB and OYAP for a virtual Skilled Trades and Tech event for Grades 4-6. We kicked things off with a warm welcome and an introduction to the many exciting career pathways in skilled trades and technology. Students were then treated to an inspiring presentation from Industrial Millwright Mackenzy Whitfeld, who shared how she discovered her love for hands-on work, the steps she took to get there, and why she's passionate about her career. The lively Q&A that followed showed just how engaged and curious the students were. To cap things off, everyone jumped into a fun, guided build of an OYAP Propeller Car—bringing creativity and problem-solving to life.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Girls Take Flight

In addition to the many programs and events we deliver throughout the year, Skills Ontario remains committed to supporting external organizations in raising awareness of skilled trades careers. Our participation at Billy Bishop Airport's annual event, Girls Take Flight, allowed us to engage with families through our popular clothespin-airplane activity and provide early exposure to hands-on learning. The day offered a meaningful connection point with the community and furthered our outreach efforts.



GET INVOLVED: SPONSOR YOUNG WOMEN'S INITIATIVES



PROGRAM SPONSOR
\$35,000

REGIONAL SPONSOR

Event Sponsor: \$3,000
Supporting Sponsor: \$1,500

PREMIUM CONFERENCES SPONSOR

International Day of the Girl | International Women's Day
Young Women's Conference

Lead Sponsor: \$20,000

Supporting Sponsor: \$10,000

Contributing Sponsor: \$5,000

Meal Sponsor: \$5,000



A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO OUR WONDERFUL COLLEAGUES WHO STEP IN TO SUPPORT YWI EVENTS



Register Today!

Calling All Exhibitors!

Toronto | Sault Ste. Marie | North Bay
Guelph [Daytime | Evening]



Try-A-Trade



Guelph - Daytime



Guelph - Evening

Showcase your organization and help inspire future skilled trades and tech talent by joining us as an exhibitor at one of our upcoming Skills Ontario events in Guelph, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, or Toronto.

We encourage exhibitors to bring interactive, hands-on Try-A-Trade® activities to engage students and highlight real-world skills in action.

Exhibitors receive:

- A complimentary exhibitor table (Guelph daytime event has a nominal fee)
- One table and two chairs
- Lunch provided

These events offer a high-energy, hands-on environment where you can connect directly with students, educators, and families. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with your community, highlight career pathways, and make a lasting impact. We'd love to have you join us!

For more information please contact lchester@skillsontario.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
WWW.SKILLSONTARIO.COM/IWD

**COME CELEBRATE WITH
SKILLS ONTARIO!**

THURSDAY **5** MARCH
2026

5:30PM to 8:30PM

Frank Hasenfratz Centre For Excellence In Manufacturing
700 Woodlawn Road, W, Guelph

FOOD, NETWORKING & EMPOWERMENT

Are you passionate about advocating for women in skilled trade careers? Or perhaps you're seeking the opportunity to connect with other skilled trades professionals?

If so, we'd love for you to join us to Celebrate International Women's Day together!

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://skillsontario.jotform.com/253142741893864>



Thank you to our host sponsor