



Quarterly ReportNovember 2024

International Day of the Girl Celebration Series Sudbury · Ottawa



The Young Women's Initiatives department kicked off the school year with the annual International Day of the Girl Celebration on October 10, 2024. In-person events were held at Science North in Sudbury and at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, with workshops in both French and English at both locations. Students enjoyed a formal program featuring either a keynote speaker or a panel of secondary school students currently enrolled in skilled trades courses.

Each year, we work to expand the exhibitor area, giving students the opportunity to network with employers and women in skilled trades and technology, learning about diverse careers.

To enhance inclusivity, this year's event also included a virtual component. In partnership with EC-Council, Young Women's Initiatives hosted an interactive cyber safety seminar, and myBlueprint delivered a highly engaging "Design Horizons" workshop and challenge.



300 Students who identify as female attended in person events in celebration of International Day of the Girl.

Over 1300 students participated virtually!









"The girls had an AMAZING day. They couldn't stop using their monitors and cherry pickers when they got back to school! "

Thank you to our IDG Event Sponsor:







Quarterly Report November 2024

Skilled Trade & Tech Days for Young Women Kenora · Dryden · Peterborough · Lindsay







The Young Women's Initiatives department kicked off the year with exciting Skilled Trade & Tech Days in Kenora and Dryden. These events, held in partnership with the First Nation, Métis, and Inuit department, offered students hands-on activities that made learning engaging and fun.

In October, Fleming College hosted Skilled Trade & Tech Days at both of its campuses. College instructors led workshops that gave students practical insights into various fields. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather at the Frost Campus for the "Into the Canopy" workshop, where students experienced the excitement of arborist work first hand.

On Location Industry Events Reliance Home Comfort · Convergint

An exciting area of growth in the Young Women's Initiatives department is our addition of more industry events for students in Grades 11 & 12. These events offer a unique opportunity to learn directly from professionals in their working environment. Each event features hands-on workshops that allow participants to engage with the tools and techniques used in related skilled trades. The feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing newfound interest and enthusiasm for pursuing in these fields. careers In our first quarter we held two events: one at Reliance Home Comfort in Mississauga and the other, a fully French event, was held at Convergint in Ottawa.

320 Students have attended a Skilled Trade and Tech Day this year.

250 attendees identified as female.







Thank you to our Host Locations:











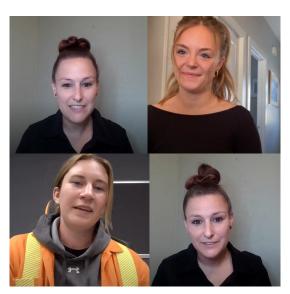


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The Young Women's Initiatives (YWI) department is expanding its reach across Ontario through virtual events. These co-ed sessions often highlight women in skilled trades, sharing information and their chosen careers to inspire all students and normalize seeing both men and women in skilled trade and technology careers.

A "Sit-Down with..." Virtual Series International Day of the Girl Edition

The Young Women's Initiatives "Sit-Down Series" continues to gain popularity. In the first quarter, we released two new episodes featuring HVAC apprentice, Cali-Anna Elliot, and utility arborist apprentice, Nicole Ross. Since their launch on Oct. 6, 2024, these episodes have reached over **400** students. In each episode, guests share how they started their careers, a typical day on the job, and the impact of gender and equality issues on their journey in the trades. These sessions, designed to support co-ed classrooms, extend the valuable conversations from our in-person events to a broader audience.



New episodes will be released in celebration of International Women's Day and to further amplify our Young Women's Conference in May 2025.

300+ students joined in on the virtual build!



learning and designing with our Lego Gear Bots. It's all they could talk about for days! It is so exciting to be fostering a passion for STEM in our future female generation."

Virtual Builds

Once again, the Young Women's Initiatives Department is uniting with Kiewit to bring a 'Virtual Excavator Build' to French speaking classrooms in Ontario. Students will learn about a career as a heavy equipment operator. We will have a female operator joining us to tell students a bit about her career and why she loves it. This presentation will be followed by a hands-on building activity related to this trade.

National Skilled Trade & Technology Week

This was the first year celebrating National Skilled Trades and Technology Week and we were joined by students and educators from across the province to take part in a Skills Ontario Presentation followed by LEGO kit build of D.J. Bubbles!







Quarterly Report

November 2024

The Young Women's Initiatives department is eagerly preparing for 2025, with plans to continue delivering Skilled Trade & Tech Days and industry-focused events to students across the province. We are especially excited to expand our virtual event offerings, allowing us to reach even more students and engage boys in the conversation. Our goal is to not only inspire the next generation of skilled tradeswomen but also to cultivate a new generation of allies who champion diversity and inclusion in these fields.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Skills Ontario colleagues for their unwavering support and participation in these initiatives. Your dedication and collaboration make these events possible, and we look forward to continuing this impactful work together.



NEW Sponsors Across the Province!

Cote Gold Mine:

International Day of the Girl, Supporting Event Sponsor [Sudbury]

Greater Toronto Airport Authority [GTAA]: International Women's Day, Lead Sponsor

Pomerleau:

Young Women's Conference, Lead Sponsor

NEW Event Partners Across the Province!

Reliance Home Comfort: Industry Event Convergint: Industry Event [French] EC Council: Workshop Partner

WELCOME BACK

CPKC Rail: Young Women's Conference, Supporting Event Sponsor

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Parent/Guardian Information Event, co-hosted with December 7:

Georgian College

December 10: Virtual Build: Excavator (French)

Skilled Trade & Tech Day, co-hosted with Algonquin February 25:

College

Skilled Trade & Tech Day, co-hosted with Sheridan February 27:

College

Skilled Trade & Tech Day, co-hosted with Durham February 27:

College

Thank you to our Program Sponsors











This Employment Ontario program is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.



Quarterly Report

December 2024 — February 2025





What are Skilled Trade and Tech Days?

Skilled Trade and Tech Days are a vital part of our efforts to introduce young women to the wide range of exciting careers available in skilled trades and technology. These events provide not only handson workshop experiences but also the chance to connect directly with professionals who are passionate about their work. They help students to understand, and get excited about, the pathways into these careers—whether through apprenticeships, college programs, or other training opportunities—empowering students to make informed choices about their futures. As the demand for these events grows, we're thrilled to see more industry partners stepping up to host and support them. With new businesses joining in, our Skilled Trade and Tech Day—Industry Events continue to grow, evolve, and inspire the next generation.

Parent/Guardian Information Event : Georgian College

Skills Ontario returned to Georgian College on December 7, for another incredible Skilled Trade and Tech Day! Parents and guardians joined their daughters for an inspiring event focused on skilled trade careers. The event featured an inspiring keynote from Electrician Stephanie McLean and a dynamic panel discussion with women thriving in the trades.

Participants also had the chance to roll up their sleeves and take part in hands-on workshops generously provided by Georgian College—always a highlight of the day!

With registration consistently at capacity, we're thrilled to be returning for a second time this school year on **May 31, 2025**. We can't wait to welcome another group of curious, motivated young women and their supporters!

Thank you to our host location and partner:







Quarterly Report





Skilled Trade & Tech Days for Young Women Ottawa · Brampton · Whitby · Convergint

The Young Women's Initiatives team wrapped up a quiet December by laying the groundwork for an exciting year ahead. We launched our spring event season with three successful Skilled Trade and Tech Days, hosted at Algonquin College, Durham College, and Sheridan College. Each event offered young women the chance to take part in three to four interactive, hands-on workshops, giving them a glimpse into the dynamic world of skilled trades and technology. At Algonquin and Sheridan, students also had the opportunity to hear directly from inspiring female apprentices and tradeswomen during expert panel discussions—an engaging highlight that brought real-world insight and encouragement. We are always grateful to be welcomed by our college hosts!

Young Women's Initiatives was excited to return to Convergint in Ottawa for another engaging industry Skilled Trade and Tech Day. Students took part in hands-on workshops focused on Access Control Systems, Intrusion Detection Systems, and Video Surveillance—gaining valuable insight into the cutting-edge technology that powers careers in security systems. Convergint, a global service-based systems integrator, partners with manufacturers and clients to design, install, and maintain integrated solutions in security, fire alarm, life safety, audio-visual, and building automation systems. This event offered students a unique opportunity to explore real-world applications and career possibilities in a growing and innovative industry.



Thank you to our Host Locations:

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

convergint[®]



Sheridan

Cultivating Partnerships That Support Young Women in Skilled Trades

Much of the second quarter focused on building new connections and strengthening existing relationships with industry partners, supporters, and potential event hosts. Young Women's Initiatives relies heavily on the generosity of businesses and organizations that are eager to inspire the next generation and showcase the exciting possibilities available in skilled trades and technology careers. These partners play a crucial role in our annual events, including our flagship 'Try A Trade' Career Fair in Sault Ste. Marie and various celebration events throughout the year. Many organizations contribute in-kind support by bringing interactive, hands-on exhibits and providing exciting giveaways that leave a lasting impression on participants. These contributions—whether time, materials, or expertise—are essential to the success of our programs. What often begins as a simple exhibitor table can evolve into a long-term partnership, and in many cases, grow into ongoing collaboration or even financial support for Skills Ontario initiatives.



Quarterly Report

March — May 2025



The third quarter of the school year is always a busy time across Skills Ontario, and the Young Women's Department was no exception. March kicked off with a week-long celebration of International Women's Day, followed by our 'Try-A-Trade' Career Fair in Sault Ste. Marie, and a French Industry Event in partnership with La Cité and T.P.H. Plumbing. April featured several Skilled Trade and Tech Days at college campuses and, for the first time, on-site at Barrick Hemlo Mine in Marathon, Ont. May began with the Young Women's Conference and will finish up strong with the Parent Guardian Event happening at Georgian College in Barrie.

Skilled Trade & Tech Days for Young Women

TPH Plumbing & Heating · Barrick Mine · Peterborough · Sault Ste. Marie

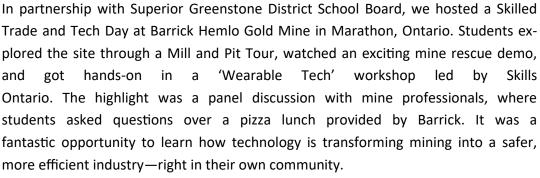


Plumbing Workshop,
TPH Plumbing & Heating

On Location Industry Event: TPH Plumbing & Heating

Skills Ontario, in partnership with both La Cité and TPH Plumbing & Heating, hosted a French Skilled Trade and Tech Day at T.P.H. Plumbing in Ottawa for girls in Grades 11 and 12. Participants explored careers in plumbing through hands-on activities and learned about the daily work of professionals in the field, guided by facilitators from La Cité and TPH.

On Location Industry Event: Barrick Hemlo Mine





Marathon, Ontario

Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Fleming College

Skills Ontario partnered once again with Fleming College for an exciting day of handson workshops and learning about skilled trade and technology careers. Female apprentices who were currently completing their in-school learning at Fleming joined the participants over lunch for an impromptu panel discussion about their apprenticeship journeys.



Panel Discussion, Fleming College

Learning about brake pads at the Try-A-Trade Career Fair

'Try A Trade' Career Fair

Skills Ontario returned to Sault Ste. Marie for our third career fair, proudly sponsored by Algoma Steel, Tenaris, and Sault College. The event featured keynote speaker Michelle Mulder, a roofer and business owner, and a dynamic panel of women in skilled trades and tech. Over 350 students attended, engaging with 19 local businesses, unions, and training facilities through hands-on, interactive exhibits.



Quarterly Report

March — May 2025



Celebration Event: International Women's Day 2025

Young Women's Initiatives celebrated International Women's Day 2025 with a full week of inspiring events designed to empower young women and highlight the possibilities in skilled trades and technology careers.

We kicked off the week with engaging virtual programming open to classrooms across Ontario. Highlights included primary and secondary Skills Ontario presentations, the launch of the *Wearable Tech Challenge*, and *Design Horizons*—a dynamic workshop and design challenge led by educator and longtime Skills Ontario collaborator and his team.

We were thrilled to debut three new interviews in our ongoing *Sit Down Series*, featuring women in skilled trades. These, along with previous interviews, remain available on-demand. Virtual programming wrapped up with *Career Curious*, a live career exploration workshop for secondary students presented by Kings Trust Canada.

In-person events included two hands-on workshops at the Toronto District School Board's *Possibility Fair* for *Girls*, where students built cherry picker models while learning about skilled trades with UBC carpenter Rokhaya Gueye.

On Thursday, we welcomed 100 girls in grades 9–12 to the Linamar Manufacturing Centre in Guelph for an interactive day of learning, followed by an evening event for women in trades, students enrolled in experiential learning programs and their supporter. Both sessions featured a keynote speaker and exhibitor tables.

We wrapped up the week at Pearson Airport, where 20 senior students explored aviation-related skilled trades through panel talks and college exhibits—Skills Ontario's first major collaboration with the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA).

Thank you to our International Women's Day Sponsors:











Quarterly Report

March — May 2025



Event: Young Women's Conference 2025

On May 5 and 6, Skills Ontario hosted the 26th annual Young Women's Conferences, welcoming over 1,000 young women from across the province. Participants included 369 grade 7/8 girls for the elementary conference, 458 young women for the secondary, and 233 francophone students for the French conference.

Each conference featured an inspiring keynote: Dee Durant (309A Construction & Maintenance Electrical Apprentice) spoke to Elementary students on May 5; Brandi Ferenc (Red Seal 313A Refrigeration Mechanic and Gas Fitter 1) spoke to Secondary students on May 6; and Chloé Arsenault (Mining Engineering Technician), returning as a first-time keynote, for the Francophone Conference on May 6. All three also participated in the expanded *A Sit Down with...* virtual series, offering students a deeper look into their career paths.

For the third year, current Experiential Learning students from Sudbury Catholic DSB, Toronto DSB, and Halton DSB joined as panelists, sharing their perspectives and advice. Both the Secondary and French Panels featured four women in the trades, including a Skills Ontario competitor. ASL and Deaf interpretation was provided to ensure accessibility.

In partnership with the FNMI Department, the Young Women's Initiatives team hosted over 70 exhibitors, giving students the chance to explore hands-on activities and connect with professionals from diverse careers, education pathways, and communities.

A Special Thank you to our Young Women's Conference Sponsors:



























Quarterly Report

March — May 2025



We are proud of the growth and impact the Young Women's Initiatives maintained throughout the second and third quarter of the 2024/2025 school year. While we have faced some challenges—particularly around student transportation barriers—this appears to be a broader Issue across Skills Ontario programming. We are optimistic that it will be addressed as we look ahead to the 2025/2026 school year.

As we add more in-person and virtual events across the province we are increasing student engagement particularly with young women. We remain committed to building on this positive momentum and ensuring these opportunities continue to be accessible, inclusive, and inspiring.

We would like to once again extend our heartfelt thanks to our Skills Ontario colleagues for their unwavering support and collaboration. Your dedication makes these initiatives possible, and we look forward to continuing this impactful and meaningful work together.

NEW Sponsors Across the Province!

Algoma Region Partnership: Algoma Steel, Tenaris and Sault College

Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation (AWIC)



Hitting Targets one event at a time!

4625 young women reached

2773 Elementary Students (gr. 4-8) 1852 Secondary Students (gr. 9-12)

33 Events hosted across the province

3 NEW event partnerships:

Kings Trust Canada
Greater Toronto Airport Authority
Barrick Hemlo Mine

We remain committed to growth, while working to identify and remove barriers that limit participation in our programs!



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 31 Parent/Guardian Information Event, co-hosted

with Georgian College

June 3 Girls In Aviation Day, London Airport

June 10 Virtual Build: Excavator (French)



"It made my heart smile to see these initiatives happening here at Fleming. Skills Ontario is instrumental in making the skilled trades an accessible career route for women. Thanks so much for all of the amazing work you do!"

Teri-Anna Libby, 5th-term 309A Electrical Apprentice and Young Women's Initiatives Supporter



Quarterly Report June—August 2025

End-of-Year Wrap-Up: Finishing Strong

We closed out the school year with three exciting and engaging events that marked a strong finish to our season. Traditionally, the Young Women's Conference signals the end of our event calendar, but we were thrilled to have continued to extend our programming into June. In alignment with Skills Ontario's commitment to reaching as many students across the province as possible, this extension allowed us to connect with even more youth—and the results were outstanding. We're proud to see continued growth and impact as we expand our reach.



Nailing It! A Birdhouse Build with the Girl Guides

Young Women's Initiatives was approached by a Girl Guide group to provide a Skills Ontario Presentation and hands-on activity. We were happy to answer the call! Program Facilitator, Azman Branudeen provided a short but informative presentation and the

build was supported by Safia Javed (Skills Ontario), Rokhaya Gueye (UBC Carpenter's Regional Council) and her colleague Shaniqua.





Parent/Guardian Information Event : Georgian College



Skills Ontario returned to Georgian College on May 31 for another inspiring Skilled Trade and Tech Day. Parents and daughters explored career opportunities in the skilled trades through hands-on, interactive activities led by Georgian College faculty, a dynamic panel discussion with women in the field, and a keynote by the always-inspiring Stephanie McLean. With registration at capacity once again, we were thrilled to return for a second time this school year.

Virtual Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Car Build

On June 10, we were excited to deliver a virtual hands-on activity to students from all three Francophone school boards in the Ottawa region. More than 1,000 students participated in a guided propeller car build led by Skills Ontario staff. Participants also had the opportunity to hear from Patrick Fournier of CPKC Rail, who shared insights into his career as a mechanic.





Quarterly Report

June—August 2025

Community Engagement & Event Participation

In addition to organizing and planning our own events and initiatives, the Young Women's Initiatives team actively engages with community partners to amplify awareness and interest in skilled trades and technology pathways. These opportunities allow us to extend our reach, support like-minded organizations, and connect with new audiences through hands-on activities and outreach. By sharing resources, supporting aligned initiatives, and fostering ongoing dialogue, we help ensure consistent messaging and greater reach. Our commitment extends beyond programming—it's about building a supportive network that empowers young women year-round.

Girls in Aviation Day - June 2025 | London, Ontario

Skills Ontario was thrilled to be invited to participate in *Girls in Aviation Day* in London, Ontario, this past June. Our team was on site to support the Skilled Trades and Tech Trailer, bringing handson exploration and excitement to the event. With curious minds, enthusiastic questions, and lots of interactive fun, the day was a fantastic opportunity to introduce young women to the world of skilled trades and technology. We were proud to be part of an inspiring celebration that encouraged girls to dream big and reach for the skies!



Jill Of All Trades Centennial College · Conestoga College · St. Clair College



Young Women's Initiatives was proud to participate in this quarter's Jill of All Trades (JOAT) events at Centennial, Conestoga, and St. Clair Colleges. At Centennial, Skills Ontario co-sponsored a carpentry workshop with the Carpenters Union, guiding students through a Cherry Picker kit build. At Conestoga and St. Clair, Skills Ontario hosted an interactive exhibitor table where students explored skilled trades and tech career pathways, spun a prize wheel, tested their knowledge, and created slime to take home. We're grateful to the JOAT team for organizing these inspiring events and for the chance to engage with so many enthusiastic future tradespeople.





Quarterly Report June—August 2025

Looking ahead to Fall

Planning is well underway for our 2025–2026 Skilled Trade and Tech Days! We're excited to return to familiar college hosts, expand into new regions, and launch a second location for our Try-A-Trade Career Fair in North Bay. We're also partnering with new organizations and bringing back some of our most popular events to offer even more engaging experiences for students.





International Day of the Girl Bracebridge · Ottawa · Sudbury

Building on this momentum, we're also gearing up for the 2025 International Day of the Girl celebrations and are excited to expand this dynamic initiative. This fall, we're proud to return to two of our long-standing partners: Science North in Sudbury; and the Canada Science and Technology Museum in Ottawa, while also launching a **brand-new** in-person event at Georgian College in Bracebridge.

Both the Sudbury and Ottawa events will once again be fully bilingual, offering formal programming and workshop sessions in both English and French. As in previous years, students will take part in two of five engaging workshops and hear from women currently working in skilled trades and technology careers as they share an inspiring keynote message. At the Sudbury event, we're also proud to feature students currently enrolled in experiential learning programs as panel speakers, offering a unique and relatable perspective.

This event continues to receive enthusiastic feedback, and we're thrilled to see it grow. To help extend our reach across the province, we'll also be offering a virtual component. Stay tuned for more details coming in September on this exciting weeklong celebration!

Thank you to our host locations:









UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER TO DECEMBER



OCTOBER 2025

October 6, 2025

- "A Sit Down with..." Series Release
- Virtual Workshop & Challenge

October 7, 2025:

• Industry Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Reliance Home Comfort - Oshawa (Durham Region)

October 9, 2025:

- International Day of the Girl Sudbury
- International Day of the Girl Ottawa

October 10, 2025:

International Day of the Girl - Bracebridge *NEW*

October 21, 2025:

• Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Dryden

October 22, 2025:

• Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Fleming College [Peterborough]

October 23, 2025:

• Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Fleming College [Lindsay]

October 29, 2025:

• Industry Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Reliance Home Comfort - London

NOVEMBER 2025

November 3, 2025

• "A Sit Down With..." Women Beyond the Tools Series Release *NEW*

November 4, 2025

National Skilled Trades Week: Virtual Builds with the Young Women's Initiatives Dept.
 Solar Powered Car - cost

November 5, 2025

Virtual Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Car Build *Superior-Greenstone DSB - Specific Event*

November 26, 2025

• Industry Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Tenaris & Algoma Steel

DECEMBER 2025

December 2025

Virtual Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Excavator Build *French Event*

December 15, 2025

Skilled Trade & Tech Day: Fleming College
 *Snow Date: December 16, 2025

Get Involved: Support Young Women's Initiatives

Passionate about helping the next generation of skilled tradespeople and tech leaders? Great news, there are plenty of ways to get involved and support the important work we do through our Young Women's Initiatives!

Whether you're interested in becoming an exhibitor, workshop leader, speaker, or sponsor, your involvement can make a meaningful difference. Here's how you can be part of the movement:



Exhibitor Opportunties

Bring your trade or technology to life! At many of our events, we offer "Try-A-Trade" exhibitor spaces where organizations can showcase their industry in an engaging, hands-on way. We ask exhibitors to include an interactive component — something that lets students see, touch, or try a tool or task to get a feel for your day-to-day work.

Speaking Opportunities

Inspire the next generation by sharing your story. Our events often feature keynote speakers or panels of women working in — or alongside — skilled trades and technology. These sessions give participants insight into real career paths, personal journeys, and the challenges and successes women have experienced in male-dominated fields.



npétences intario

Industry Event - Host

Help students explore careers up close by hosting an Industry Event. These on-site experiences are geared toward students in grades 11 and 12 and provide a unique opportunity to see skilled trade and technology careers in action within their own communities. Hosting one of these events can help build awareness, spark interest, and even open doors to future opportunities.

Get Involved: Sponsor Young Women's Initiatives



\$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

Thank you to our 2024/25 Program Sponsors







Canada



Ontario 📆

This program is funded by the Government of Ontario

A heartfelt thank you to all Skills Ontario staff who took the time to support and participate in events this past quarter—your dedication and energy continue to drive our mission forward. We're also incredibly grateful to our partners and supporters whose ongoing commitment helps bring these opportunities to life. This past school year has been filled with meaningful moments and measurable success, and we're excited to build on that momentum. We look forward to all that the 2025–2026 school year has in store!





March 5, 2026:

International Women's Day Celebration Events [In-person & virtual]

March 25, 2026

• Try-A-Trade Career Fair: Sault Ste. Marie

May 4 & 5, 2026

Young Women's Conference

May 20, 2026

Try-A-Trade Career Fair: North Bay *NEW*