

UNIFOR WOMEN IN SKILLED TRADES



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UNIFOR WOMEN SKILLED TRADES & TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS PROGRAM

PURPOSE

- To increase women's awareness about Skilled Trades.
- To help determine if a career in Skilled Trades is appropriate for them.
- To provide practical advice on how to overcome perceived barriers.
- To introduce program participants to women who have successfully made Skilled Trades their careers.



PROGRAM

- Currently, women from the Stellantis, General Motors and Ford Canada manufacturing sector are invited to participate in this 40-hour program held at our Unifor Family Education Centre in Port Elgin, Ontario.
- Women facilitators provide information on the apprenticeship process, classifications and academic requirements.
- It provides aptitude testing in numerical ability, spatial relations and mechanical comprehension.
- To date, several hundred women have accessed the 40-hour Women's Skilled Trades and Technology Awareness program.



PROGRAM WORKSHOPS


- Participants explore technical skills through hands-on workshops.
- The Electrical workshop introduces a basic residential wiring circuit.
- The Robotics workshop uses Lego Mindstorm Robots to introduce basic mechanical construction following schematics and to introduce basic automation controls using block computer programming of their robot.
- The Hand and Power Tools workshop introduces skills such as soldering, power saw operation and drilling as the women build their own wind chime creation.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

- Through our volunteer work with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, Katrina Relief, Assembly of First Nations, Skills Ontario, Flight Forum and Build a Dream.
- By participating in taskforces, roundtables, and expert panels to increase awareness and opportunities for women in Skilled Trades and technology.
- By developing educational tools for the classroom that are aimed at increasing Skilled Trades awareness (i.e. “Wrenches and Roadblocks” game).
- By providing expert testimony to the Federal Government’s Standing Committee on the Status of Women, regarding the needs of women in under-represented occupations.





Unifor is based on social democratic principles of equality and solidarity.

Equality is a hallmark of our collective agreements and bargaining process.

Unifor Skilled Trades and Technology Women are dedicated to changing the perception of “women’s work” through mentoring innovation and examples.

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