



## **Free virtual event will allow young women to learn about careers in the skilled trades**

May 17, 2021, Vaughan, Ont. – The [Residential Construction Council of Ontario \(RESCON\)](#) is encouraging all young women and female-identified students in Grades 7 through 12 in Ontario to sign up for a free [Create the Future virtual event](#) to learn more about careers in the skilled trades.

The 90-minute event is slated for Wednesday, May 19 at 7 p.m. It is being produced by [Job Talks](#) in partnership with the [Toronto District School Board](#), [Toronto Catholic District School Board](#), RESCON and the [Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program](#). To learn more and sign up, go to [www.i-create.ca](http://www.i-create.ca).

“Ontario is largely dependent on a robust residential construction industry and our economic recovery could be in jeopardy if we don’t quickly get more women into the skilled trades,” says RESCON president Richard Lyall. “This event will allow young women who are thinking about a career path to hear first-hand from those who are already working in various jobs in the construction industry.”

TV host and general contractor [Kayleen McCabe](#) will provide the keynote address at the event. She has been swinging hammers and toting tool belts since she was six years old and is a licensed contractor.

Afterwards, students will break out into smaller sessions with a tradeswoman of their choice to hear about more personal experiences and ask questions. There will be 12 breakout sessions, featuring an automotive service technician, electrician, bulldozer operator, heavy duty equipment technician, concrete former, bricklayer, insulation installer, truck and coach technician, machinist, millwright, tile setter and welder.

"Our speakers in the breakout sessions have kicked the door open for other young women to discover fulfilling careers in the skilled trades," says Jon Callegher, executive director of Job Talks. "They created their future and are helping the next generation of tradeswomen create their own."

According to recent reports, Ontario's construction and maintenance industry will need to hire and train as many as 104,000 additional workers over the next 10 years to meet labour demands due to retirements by Baby Boomers and an anticipated rise in manpower, and to keep pace with growth of the industry. Presently, women make up about seven per cent of skilled trades in Ontario.

"We need a more diverse skilled trades sector in Ontario, and we must encourage girls, women and female-identified students to see themselves in the incredible careers that are offered in construction," says Amina Dibe, manager of government and stakeholder relations at RESCON. "This starts at the elementary and secondary school level by demonstrating the terrific career opportunities available in the trades."

***Background on RESCON:*** *RESCON is the province's leading association of residential builders committed to providing leadership and fostering innovation in the industry.*

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