

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CES Oxford, City of Woodstock, and Town of Ingersoll Collaborate to Host Skills Ontario Trades & Tech Event**

**Ingersoll, ON October 1, 2024** — Community Employment Services Oxford (CES), in partnership with the City of Woodstock and the Town of Ingersoll, is excited to announce the inaugural Skills Ontario Trades & Tech Event, taking place on October 16, 2024, in Woodstock and October 17<sup>th</sup> in Ingersoll. This initiative marks the first step in a broader strategic plan designed to address our region's growing need for skilled tradespeople.

This collaborative event will allow students, job seekers, and community members to explore various trades and tech careers, engage in hands-on learning, and connect with local employers. The partnership between CES, Woodstock, and Ingersoll highlights our collective commitment to building a skilled workforce in response to feedback from employers, who have voiced a clear need for more tradespeople.

The Skills Ontario Trades & Tech Event serves as a pilot project, laying the foundation for future initiatives aimed at addressing the skilled trades shortage. It aligns with the strategic goals of CES, the City of Woodstock, and the Town of Ingersoll, all working together to support economic growth and long-term employment opportunities.

For more information about the event and how to participate, please visit [www.workinoxford.ca](http://www.workinoxford.ca) or contact CES at 519-539-8161

### **Quotes**

"We've heard from our local businesses about the skills gap, and we're taking action. This event is just the beginning of a much larger initiative to strengthen our skilled trades sector. We're excited to see the impact this will have on our community and the opportunities it will create for our workforce."

- Natalie Surridge, Program Director of Workforce and Community Development, CES

### **About CES**

Community Employment Services is a not-for-profit corporation that has been delivering federal, provincial, and municipal employment and training programs to our community since 1994. We are entrenched in collaborative efforts to support a thriving economic climate in Oxford. We invest heavily in skilled worker recruitment and labour force development and strive to address challenges identified within our business community. In addition, through our "Community Development Fund", we actively nurture and support strategies that enrich the holistic well-being of our community

[www.cesoxford.ca](http://www.cesoxford.ca)

## About the City of Woodstock

Known as the Friendly-City, Woodstock is located in the heart of Oxford County and blends big city conveniences with a small-town feel. With a growing population of over 45,000 welcoming citizens, Woodstock residents place high value on our small-town atmosphere, while enjoying urban amenities. The city is a great place to call home with amazing parks and trails, fantastic amenities as well as wonderful arts and cultural facilities. At the crossroads of highways 401 and 403, Woodstock has a thriving manufacturing sector and opportunities in agriculture, education and healthcare and convenient access to communities across Southwestern Ontario. Visitors can enjoy the city's many festivals and delight in the many local shops and restaurants in Downtown Woodstock. Learn more about the Friendly City at [www.cityofwoodstock.ca](http://www.cityofwoodstock.ca)

## About the Town of Ingersoll

Nestled in the heart of southwestern Ontario, the Town of Ingersoll is a vibrant community with a population of over 13,000. As a forward-thinking municipal government, Ingersoll is a strong, diverse, green, and sustainable community that respects our people, honours our past and shapes our future. From cultural venues, such as museums, theatres, and art galleries, to outdoor adventures, such as hiking, cycling, and fishing, you'll find what you are looking for in Ingersoll. Ingersoll's Town Hall, centrally located in the heart of our community, serves as a hub for accessible and responsive municipal services. Stay connected with us online through our official website, [www.ingersoll.ca](http://www.ingersoll.ca), and follow our social media channels at @townofingersoll and @touringersoll. Explore our strategic vision for Ingersoll in our [Strategic Plan](#).

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