

## Fair connects to careers in skilled trades

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A huge information fair held in Malton yesterday gave people looking for careers in the skilled trades a chance to get a glimpse of new potential futures.

The fourth annual Apprenticeship Career Connections Fair, sponsored by the Peel Halton Workforce Development Group, was set up to allow participants to explore new careers in skilled trades and network with key employers and educators.

Seventy booths were on display at The International Centre by Ontario colleges and training centres, unions and skilled trade employers to showcase the kind of training available through apprenticeships.

"Having all of the key representatives under one roof allows our attendees to thoroughly investigate career opportunities within the skilled trades," Shalini da Cunha, the Peel-Halton group's executive director.

PHWDG is a non-profit organization working to improve the Peel/Halton labour market and address training issues.

Oakville Liberal MPP Kevin Flynn, a former employee of Enersource when it was known as Hydro Mississauga, was the keynote speaker at the event.

Citing government statistics, the PHWDG says there is a shortage of 50,000 skilled trade workers in Canada, with this number is expected to rise significantly in the coming decades.

According to Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, there is an estimated need for one million new skilled trade workers by 2020.

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**Fair.** The Annual Apprenticeship Career Fair in the Region of Peel and Halton featured 70 exhibitors for potential employees and trainees to explore at the International Centre yesterday. John Wright of the Operating Engineers Training Institute Ontario (OETIO) demonstrates an excavator to Michael Petrella. *Staff photo by Fred Loek*

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