

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA ADVISORY: Skills for Change launches Experience Ontario Pilot Program in Perth & Huron County.**

Stratford, Ontario, October 25, 2017 – Funded by the Ministry of Education, this Experience Ontario pilot program is directed at recent high school graduates and current grade 12 students in the Perth and Huron County area, who are interested in post-secondary education or training, but are uncertain of their pathway/next steps. Qualifying participants include:

- Recent (2016-2017) secondary school graduates who have an interest in attending college, university or apprenticeship training and who:
  - Did not apply to postsecondary education or training;
  - Applied and were offered admission but did not accept any offers; or
  - Applied and were not accepted to a particular program but have interest in attending other post-secondary programs.
- Grade 12 students on track to graduate in 2017-18 from a publicly funded Ontario school, who are interested in post-secondary education but not certain of their next steps.

This FREE program supports participating youth with the following:

- One-on-One coaching from a qualified and approachable Youth Coach;
- Extensive support for participants who are struggling or face barriers to success;
- Workshops and training about career development, soft skills and educational/career pathways;
- Mentor meetings with professionals in the participants' respective fields of academic interest;
- Support in securing entry level employment (if desired);
- **Funding to pay for 100% of participant's applications to college and/or university.**

This program supports participating youth pursuing their career and post-secondary educational pathways (apprenticeship training, college or university) with greater certainty and confidence, and facilitates better educational outcomes and sustainable attachments to the labour market.

We are looking to collaborate with youth organizations to cross-promote workshops & programs aimed to support participants along their journey. We are also looking to partner with local businesses in both Counties, to provide an opportunity for youth to conduct informational interviews, obtain sector specific information, job shadow and attend networking sessions with employers. In collaborating on this initiative, your organization will be helping to support the next generation of employees and in developing our future leaders.

Should your organization be interested in collaborating or if you know someone who might benefit from this initiative, please e-mail [exo@skillsforchange.org](mailto:exo@skillsforchange.org) or call 226-921- 7646 and you will be directed to our Youth Coach.

More information can be found at: <http://skillsforchange.org/employment-services/experience-ontario/>

*For 35 years Skills for Change has supported the integration and well-being of immigrants and refugees in Canada. For more information on us please visit [www.skillsforchange.org](http://www.skillsforchange.org).*

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