

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2023**



PRESS RELEASE

Aurora Chamber of Commerce Launches Manufacturing and Skilled Trades Scholarship Program for Local High School Students!

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the launch of the Manufacturing and Skilled Trades Scholarship Program for High School Students.

The Manufacturing and Skilled Trades Scholarship will provide financial assistance to TWO eligible students, one for Manufacturing and one for Skilled Trades, who plan to attend a college or university, or a trade school or a work apprenticeship program in manufacturing-related fields, such as mechanical engineering, industrial design, production management, as well as in skilled trades-related fields, such as welding, plumbing, electrical work, and more.

"Both the manufacturing and skilled trade sectors are critical industries to our economy, and it's important to invest in the next generation of professionals in these fields," said Sandra Ferri, President & CEO, Aurora Chamber of Commerce. "Through this scholarship program, we hope to support students who are interested in pursuing a career in these fields and help address the talent shortage."

"We are grateful to the Aurora Chamber of Commerce for providing these scholarship opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in the skilled trades," said Scott Yake, Director of Education (Interim), York Region District School Board. "Providing support for young people to combine academic learning with hands-on experience will open doors to endless opportunities in the skilled trades and allow students to shape their own future."

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John Long, Vice President, Operations at Ontario Heating and Air Conditioning Limited added, “The Chamber’s leadership in supporting local trades and manufacturing companies by encouraging local youth to take the Manufacturing and/or Skilled Trades career pathway will help to shine a spotlight on how lucrative these pathways can be and the importance of these areas to the business community.”

“The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is once again making a positive difference in the lives of Aurora students,” said Domenic Scuglia, Director of Education, York Catholic District School Board. “Their brand-new Manufacturing and Skilled Trades Scholarship is an excellent opportunity for students who are interested in manufacturing and skilled trades to follow their dreams. Manufacturing and the skilled trades are needed careers that provide fulfilling work and allow individuals to give back to the community. I wish all the applicants for this scholarship good luck and God bless in their studies and careers.”

The scholarship program will award 2 scholarships of \$5,000 each to eligible high school students who meet the program's criteria. To be eligible for our scholarship program, students must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a grade 12 high school senior who will be attending a college / university / academic or skilled trades program in the upcoming academic year or workplace apprenticeship program.
- Have a minimum overall grade of achievement of level 2 (65%+).
- Must be a permanent resident or Canadian citizen.
- Must be a student in an Aurora High School or a resident of Aurora, Ontario.
- Must be between the ages of 17-24 at the time of application.
- Show evidence of community involvement and leadership potential, such as volunteer work or extracurricular activities.

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- Must answer questions that demonstrate their interest and commitment to their chosen field of study.
- Consideration will be given to students who are members of underrepresented groups in their field of study or who are pursuing high-demand occupations.

The deadline for applications is **May 5th, 2023**, and scholarship recipients will be contacted on **May 29th, 2023**.

For more information about the Manufacturing and Skilled Trade Scholarship and/or to apply, please visit our website at:

<https://www.aurorachamber.on.ca/scholarship-program/>

About the Aurora Chamber of Commerce:

The Aurora Chamber of Commerce is a politically independent, membership-based, volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization. Their mission is to lead and serve the Aurora business community by offering programs and projects that address the labour shortage, stimulate growth, and create an economic competitive advantage for their members. Their goal is to build, drive and positively influence the economic landscape of Aurora.

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