

Commitment to Partnership and Inclusion Powers Future Workforce: 'National Apprenticeship Award - Top Employer' for 2023 Announced

OTTAWA, May 15, 2023 - Canadian trades employers know that our country's future skilled workforce will rely heavily on the attraction and retention of apprentices. The best of industry was recognized today as the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF-FCA)'s Top Employer Award was presented to Hydro Ottawa.

"This year's winner understands that it is good business to support apprentice career progression, developing both talented tradespeople and a pipeline of future workers" says France Daviault, CEO of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. "At Hydro Ottawa, currently 19% of their trades workforce is made up by apprentices. That is worth celebrating."

After reviewing nominations from across the country, this choice was affirmed by the CAF-FCA Board of Directors, a dedicated group of volunteers drawn from all corners of Canada's apprenticeship community.

Bryce Conrad, Hydro Ottawa CEO remarked, "We are extremely proud to be recognized by the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum for our commitment to training apprentices and promoting careers in the skilled trades. Much of the growth in our significantly younger workforce can be attributed to our ongoing hiring in the skilled trades, specifically apprentices. With a large portion of our workforce having retired and many eligible to retire in the next ten years, we know that these young employees are the future of our organization. We look forward to continuing partnerships that will help develop our trades and ensure a more diversified workforce."

Hydro Ottawa's current initiatives include:

- A partnership with Algonquin College to develop and deliver the College's two-year Powerline Technician Diploma Program. Through in-class and hands-on learning, this program is designed to help students develop the essential skills to design, plan, construct and maintain electrical distribution lines. Algonquin College provides classroom instruction, while Hydro Ottawa is responsible for the design, development and on-site delivery and assessment of the hands-on, practical training in the curriculum.
- With Algonquin College, recognition as a Training Delivery Agent (TDA) for the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development for the certification of Powerline Technician Apprenticeship Training in Ontario. This collaboration allows Powerline Technician apprentice training and certification to take place in the Eastern Ontario region for the first time and lead training of the next generations of Powerline Technicians.
- A partnership with Simwave (now part of Calian), to develop virtual reality training modules, the first on the proper method of connecting and energizing a new underground residential service and meter, allowing apprentices exposure to work

tasks and procedures in the virtual environment before they tackle them in the real work environment.

- Creation of the Hydro Ottawa Award, a \$2,500 entrance award, given to a first-year female student in the Algonquin College/Hydro Ottawa Powerline Technician Diploma Program. The award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated high academic achievement and commitment to her community through volunteer activities in the areas of education/capacity building, renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation, or health, safety and wellness. In 2022, Hydro Ottawa awarded this scholarship to its fourth recipient.

As the 2023 recipient, Hydro Ottawa becomes a Champion member of the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum. They also receive a complimentary delegate pass to the next National Apprenticeship Conference taking place June 2-4, 2024 in Calgary, AB. Nominations for the 2024 National Apprenticeship Awards will open early next year.

About CAF-FCA

CAF-FCA is a Canadian non-profit organization that collaborates with employers, unions, equity-seeking groups, education institutions, and the jurisdictions to develop a highly skilled and inclusive workforce through innovative apprenticeship systems and policies. As the only Canadian organization that brings multi-sector apprenticeship stakeholders from around the country, CAF serves as a national voice for the apprenticeship community, influencing the industry through research, discussion, and collaboration. CAF also aims to eliminate the educational and employment gap, especially between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, and to ensure equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities within the skilled trades in the country.

About Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc.

Hydro Ottawa Holding Inc. (Hydro Ottawa) is a private company 100 per cent owned by the City of Ottawa and whose core businesses are electricity distribution, renewable energy generation, and energy and utility services. As a leading partner in a smart energy future, Hydro Ottawa is committed to sustainability and reducing its impact on the environment in all aspects of its operations. It owns and operates three primary subsidiary companies: Hydro Ottawa Limited - a local distribution company that delivers electricity to more than 354,000 customers in the City of Ottawa and the Village of Casselman; Portage Power - the largest Ontario-based municipally-owned producer of green power with 131 megawatts of installed green generation capacity (enough to power 110,000 homes); and Envari - an energy solutions company offering products and services that help reduce energy consumption and costs for municipalities, industrial and commercial clients, and various local distribution companies.