APPRENTICESHIP FORUM FOR EMPLOYERS 2026

Building Canada's Skilled Trades Workforce:
Global Insights, Employer Solutions & Apprentice Success

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, | Hilton Garden Inn, Mississauga, ON | 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Time	Session
7:00 – 8:00 AM	**Breakfast & Networking**
8:00 – 8:25 AM	**Opening Keynote – Candice White, Skilled Trades Ontario —** *Building Ontario's Skilled Trades Workforce: From Registration to Certification*
8:25 – 8:50 AM	**Fireside Chat – Candice White & Michael Gallardo —** *The employer perspective, challenges facing SMEs and the future of apprenticeship*
8:50 – 9:15 AM	**Global Workforce Spotlight – Katy Dorman (Virtual)** *— Insights from Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, & the U.S.: youth, training and retention*
9:15 – 9:25 AM	**Audience Polling & Employer Insights –** *lead by the* ***Ontario Black Construction Association***
9:25 – 10:05 AM	**Mentorship Is Retention —** *Mentor-led discussion with an employer and apprentice: What Good Mentorship Looks Like*
10:05 – 10:35 AM	**Networking Break**
10:35 – 11:00 AM	**NORCAT Innovation Spotlight —** *From Apprentice to Skilled Contributor*
11:00 – 11:10 AM	**Apprenticeship Scholarship Presentation**
11:10 – 11:50 AM	**Skills Council of Canada and The Learning Hub —** *Identifying learning gaps early and connecting apprentices with the right supports to help them succeed*
11:50 – 12:00 PM	**Employer takeaways & Closing Remarks**

Overview:

Global Insights → Katy Dorman
Her Australia, Canada and U.S. research gives a legitimate global component

Employer Solutions → Fireside, mentorship, NORCAT and Skills Council
These are all practical solutions employers can take back to their workplaces.

Apprentice Success → mentorship, assessment, training, scholarship and certification

Forum will consistently reinforce:

Employers are the key stakeholders in apprenticeships. Recruiting an apprentice is only the beginning — developing, supporting and retaining them through certification is where employers can make the greatest difference.