

Media Statement

Build A Dream Responds To Budget 2024: Building A Better Ontario

Windsor – March 28, 2024 – Build a Dream’s President and Founder, Nour Hachem-Fawaz, issued the following statement in response to the provincial government’s 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario.

“I am thrilled to see the Ontario government's continued commitment to investing in our young people and equipping them with the skills they need for the jobs of the future. These investments, particularly in the skilled trades sector, are vital for empowering youth to explore rewarding career pathways” said **Nour Hachem-Fawaz, President and Founder of Build a Dream**. “By expanding programs like the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program and launching new pre-apprenticeship training projects, we are creating invaluable opportunities for hands-on learning and career development that not only benefit youth, but also contribute to building a resilient and inclusive workforce.”

With prevailing labour shortages persisting across key economic sectors, Build a Dream welcomes the Ontario government’s continued commitment to addressing the pressing challenges facing Ontario’s skilled trades sector. The organization applauds several measures announced in the province’s budget that support skills development and apprenticeships for Ontario’s youth. These include:

- Addressing the challenges in the recruitment and retention of workers through an additional \$100 million in 2024-25 to equip workers, including apprentices, with the skills needed to advance in their careers.
- Expanding access to skilled trades training centres to prepare workers for the emerging and in-demand jobs of tomorrow.
- Investing over \$62.9 million to help more young people explore career opportunities in the skilled trades through the expansion of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and the launch of pre-apprenticeship training projects across the province.

We stand ready to collaborate with the government and other stakeholders to advance these important objectives and create a more inclusive and prosperous Ontario for all.

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