Media Release

Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Partners with Ron's Auto for Skills NT Power Up!

Yellowknife, NT (November 22, 2017) – For the first time, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) partners with Yellowknife employer Ron's Auto for their annual Skills Canada NWT Power Up! workshops for students.

Power Up! is an annual two-day youth conference for Grade 8 students across the Northwest Territories. Hosted by Skills Canada NWT in Yellowknife, the conference provides students with the opportunity to learn about some of the exciting career options available to them. Students participate in workshops of their choice hosted by employers who have signed up to be mentors.

This year, students at the WSCC workshops will find themselves at Ron's Equipment Rental and Industrial Supply (also known as Ron's Auto). Under the guidance of a WSCC Safety Officer, the WSCC's OHS Education Specialist, and the Safety & Training Manager at Ron's Auto, students will get the opportunity to step into the role of Safety Officer and conduct a mock safety inspection in an active workplace. In addition, students will be asked to spot potential workplace hazards and participate in safety briefings.

"One of our goals at the WSCC is to impart safety knowledge to students from a young age, especially since our future young workers might not realize that a career in safety is an option," says Judy Kainz, Director of Prevention and Employer Services. "With their focus on safety excellence in the workplace, Ron's Auto was the obvious partner. At the end of the day, we all want young people to experience firsthand what a career in safety might look like, and how they can be safety ambassadors, wherever their career paths take them."

The Power Up! youth conference takes place in Yellowknife in November of each year.

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About Ron's Auto

Ron's Equipment Rental and Industrial Supply was started by owner Ron Gibeault in 1970, originally as an automotive repair shop under the name Procan Tools, when he moved north from Alberta with his wife Joan. Ron's two sons, Gordon and Brent, later joined him after being raised around the family business. When the need presented itself, they began to rent some equipment to their customers, thus beginning the construction and equipment rental side of today's business.

All three owners are certified mechanics with a lifetime of experience and knowledge. Today, the shop in Kam Lake is 30,000 square feet and the team has grown from 5 to 30 employees. Ron's also has one of the only basements in the Kam Lake area where hundreds of brands of parts and industrial supplies are housed. Ron's Equipment Rental and Industrial Supply services both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. For more information on Ron's Auto, visit https://ronsauto.ca/.

About Skills Canada NWT

Skills Canada NWT is a registered charity with a mission to promote careers in skilled trades and technology for northern youth. The organization pursues this mission through community-based Skills Clubs, youth conferences, regional skills competitions, and a Territorial Skills Competition, as well as taking a team to the annual Skills Canada National Competition each year. The organization also hosts career expos with its competitions and offers presentations about careers in skilled trades. For more information on the Power Up! youth conferences, visit www.skillscanadanwt.org/powerup.

About the WSCC

WSCC is an arm's length government agency responsible for administering the *Workers' Compensation Acts*, *Safety Acts*, *Explosives Use Acts*, the *Mine Health and Safety Acts*, and associated *Regulations*.

Together, with our partners, the WSCC provides services to almost 40,000 workers and 4,000 employers across the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. We process over 3,000 claims and conduct over 1,000 inspections annually to ensure the safety of Northern workplaces. The WSCC is unique in Canada as it is the only workers' compensation organization in the country to insure workers across more than one province or territory. We proudly offer services in the official languages of both territories. For more information, visit www.wscc.nt.ca or www.wscc.nu.ca.