

Bill 288 deputation at the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

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President, Promotion**



- **‘White Collar’ Engineer**
 - Graduated Mechanical Engineering from U of T with Honours, 2001
 - ~30 yrs experience in Custom Automation & Machinery design and manufacture
 - Currently President of \$30M+ Automation & custom equipment company
- **‘Blue Collar’ Experience**
 - Precision Machinist for 5+ years prior to graduating U of T
- **Chair of the Board of Directors at Skills Ontario**
- **Board Member, Ontario Council of Technological Education (OCTE)**
- **Board Member, Ontario Advisory Board, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME)**

Why Skilled Trades matter to White Collars

PROMOTION

- Many 'White Collar' careers touch and directly affect the Skilled Trades (i.e Engineering, Architecture, etc.)
- The absence of Skilled Trades competencies as an intrinsic aspect of White Collar education pathways directly undermines the effectiveness of these careers for several reasons:
 1. Propagates the systemic perception and divide between 'desk' jobs and Skilled Trades competencies at an early age
 2. Propagates a paradigm of a 'two-class' career system (White Collar 'respected', Blue Collar '2nd rate')
 3. Undermines an understanding the "designs" need to be constructable/manufacturable
- Instilling a strong appreciation of the Skilled Trades worker, competencies, and role Skilled Trades have played in our societal infrastructure and well being will:
 1. Increase likelihood of uptake (and respect) of Skilled Trades as a FIRST choice viable career pathway
 2. Create more 'champions'/advocates of the Skilled Trades

- Many White Collar technical graduates have little-to-no practical trades knowledge or experience
- Impacts can be substantial:
 1. Can take years of post-graduation work experience to develop the necessary understanding and skills to 'calibrate' effectiveness of designs (manufacturability, cost-effective designs, operability and maintainability, etc.)
 2. 'Disconnected' designs can be
 - i. be more costly to manufacture/operate
 - ii. take longer to manufacture/construct
 - iii. more expensive/more difficult to operate/maintain
 3. The longer the curve of industry-relevant effectiveness of early white-collar technical graduates potentially undermines/contributes to significant reductions of potential:
 - i. COMPETITIVENESS,
 - ii. PRODUCTIVITY,
 - iii. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- **Promotion of Skilled Trades Pathways is CRITICAL**
- **Must not be limited to or strictly focussed on direct Skilled Trades career incumbents**
- **Streamlining of understanding of and access to Skilled Trades pathways (i.e. apprenticeships) is essential**
- **Consideration to define requirements of mandatory curriculum content within Ministry of Education to ensure robust, effective, and pervasive respect for Skilled Trades broadly amongst youth and eventual society at large**

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