



## Fall 2017 e-newsletter



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**Comments or questions  
about this e-newsletter?**

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## Message from the CEO

Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) is getting ready for a busy fall with several meetings and events that will be held in the coming months.

During the last couple of months, several members of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 kicked off their pre-competition tour by meeting and demonstrating their trade or technology to their local Member of Parliament. The 31 members of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 are getting ready to participate in the upcoming 44th WorldSkills Competition, which will be taking place October 14-19, 2017, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. SCC is looking forward to watching them compete on the world stage. We wish them the best of luck!

During the first week of November, SCC will be hosting National Skilled Trades and Technology Week (NSTTW). From November 5-11, 2017, SCC along with its Provincial/Territorial Member Organizations will be holding events to raise awareness of skilled trade and technology careers to parents, youth and educators. SCC in partnership with Skills Canada Alberta will be hosting a launch for NSTTW on November 7th, at the Shaw Conference Centre, in Edmonton, Alberta. Immediately following the launch, Skills Canada Alberta will be hosting their second Skills Exploration day for high school students. For more information about the launch and this week of activities, [click here](#). For more information on Skills Exploration day, [click here](#).

Skills/Compétences Canada and Skills Canada Alberta have begun preparations for the 2018 Skills Canada National Competition. This event will be held from June 3 to 6, 2018, at the Edmonton EXPO Centre, in Alberta. We hope to see you there!

Shaun Thorson  
Chief Executive Officer

## Skills/Compétences Canada In the News

Here are some recent news clips featuring Skills/Compétences Canada:

-Read this press release issued by [Skills Canada](#) on August 14th: WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 demonstrate their talents to local Members of Parliament, highlighting the meetings between several members of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 and their MPs where they had the opportunity to demonstrate their trade or technology.

-Read this article published on August 21st in [AutoSphere](#): Sam Piercey Foundation Supports Skills Winners. Sam Piercey Foundation has agreed to award financial assistance to each of the four winners of the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition for automotive paint and body repairs.

-Check out this interview with Luc Morin, Executive Director of Skills New Brunswick, where he talks about WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 and their participation at the upcoming 44th WorldSkills Competition, in Abu Dhabi, featured on [Radio-Canada](#), on August 14th.

-Listen to this interesting interview with Ashley Weber, WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 Competitor in Car Painting, who talks about her experience as a woman in the trades featured on the [Third Wave Radio Station](#) on August 8th.

-Read this interesting article featuring Ashley Ritchie and André Viau, two medal winners at SCNC 2017, and Shaun Thorson, CEO of Skills Canada: Apprentices strut their stuff at skills nationals, published in [Daily Commercial News](#), on July 27th.

-Check out this article published in [3BL Media](#) on July 19th: Why You Should Consider a Career in the Skilled Trades. This article features an interview with Alexandre Sidorchuk, WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 competitor in Aircraft Maintenance, who talks about his chosen trade and Skills Canada's CEO Shaun Thorson who discusses the growing need for skilled workers.

-Read this article: Hearst native wins silver at Skills Canada competition, featured in [Kapuskasing Times](#) on June 27th.

-Check out this article: Bluefield student wins bronze at national skills competition, published in [The Guardian](#) on June 24th.

-Read this article: Bachelor of Information Technology Student Wins Gold at National Skills Competition featured in the [Carleton Newsroom](#) on June 21st.

-Check out this article: Luchak showcases top mechanic skills in Canada featuring the gold medalist in Automotive Service published in [Camrose Canadian](#) on June 15th.

## Skills Canada News

### SCNC 2017 Recap Booklet

The 23rd Skills Canada National Competition held last June 1st and 2nd in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was a success! To relive the memories and read about the highlights of this event, read our [SCNC 2017 Recap Booklet](#).

### Essential Skills Corner

#### Essential Skills Work Ready Youth Program

Available this fall for Teachers, Resource Teachers, Guidance Counsellors and Youth Centre Workers. The program consists of nine work book modules, each representing one of the nine Essential Skills (ES), a Facilitator's guide, and an Essential Skills Assessment. The purpose of the ES Work Ready Youth Program is to help young Canadians improve their level of Essential Skills. Good Essential Skills are needed for school, work, and life.

#### Essential Skills Social Media Challenge

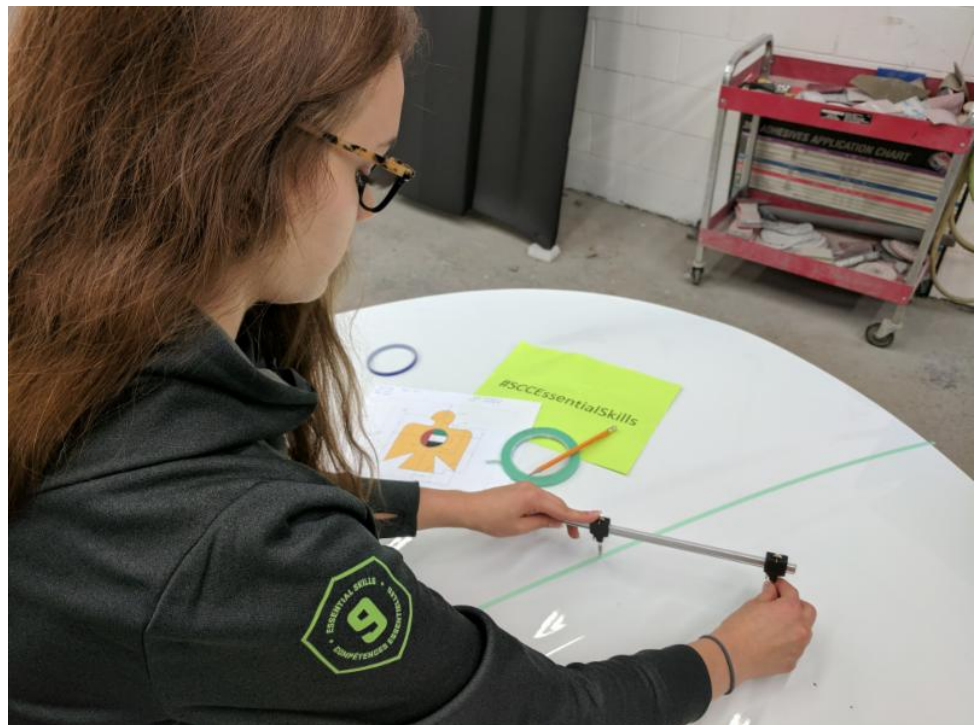
SCC launched an Essential Skills Back to School Social Media Campaign in August 2017. We challenge all Canadians: students, industry, partners, and Educational Agencies to emphasize the importance of the nine Essential Skills, with a special emphasis on which Essential Skills are most important for studies and careers in the skilled trades and technologies. **#SCCEssentialSkills**  
**#SCCCompetencesEssentielles**



**UA Canada @UACanada · Aug 31**

Essential skills are important/Les compétences essentielles sont importantes  
 #the9atwork #backtoschool #SkillsCanada #UAproud #AUFier

UA Canada staff participate in the Essential Skills Social Media Challenge.



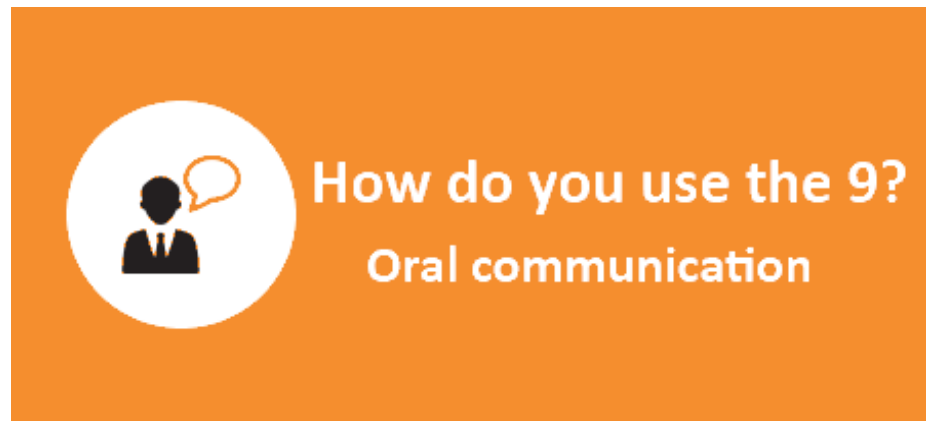
Ashley Weber, WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 competitor in Car Painting, shows off her Essentials Skills.

### Essential Skills Day - September 22, 2017

Essential Skills Day (ESD) has been celebrated nationally since 2009 to raise awareness about the importance of workplace training and the nine Essential Skills. The objective of ESD is to enhance employers' understanding of the benefits to the organization and its employees of investing in skills training. Organizations across the country celebrate the day, and ABC Life Literacy Canada has created free



downloadable resources, which are available at [EssentialSkillsDay.ca](http://EssentialSkillsDay.ca). Join the Essential Skills Day conversation on Twitter using the hashtags **#ESD2017** and **#The9atWork** and share how you use the 9 Essential Skills at work.



### Essential Skills Forum

The Essential Skills Forum serves as an opportunity to bring education and industry together to discuss the skills gap as it relates to the importance of educating youth on the nine Essential Skills and how they relate to the skilled trade and technology occupations. This half-day conference allows attendees to participate in interactive sessions that encourage open dialogue amongst many stakeholder groups. Look for an Essential Skills Forum near you - more information to come! To see the SCNC 2017 Essential Skills Forum report, [click here](#).



For more information about the Essential Skills program, [click here](#).

## Upcoming Events

### WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017

Held every two years, the WorldSkills Competition is the world's largest professional education event. It represents the pinnacle of international excellence in skilled trades and technologies.

Abu Dhabi is hosting the 44th WorldSkills Competition from October 14-19, 2017. This is the first time the Competition will be held in the Middle East and Africa region. Over 1,300 Competitors from around the globe will descend on the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, one of the largest exhibition centres in the Middle East.

For more information, go to: [www.worldskillsabudhabi2017.com](http://www.worldskillsabudhabi2017.com).

## WorldSkills Team Canada 2017

The 31 WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 competitors will demonstrate their skills as they compete for the title of World Champion in their respective skill area. The competitors will participate in simulated real work challenges, and be judged against international standards of quality. The venue allows for open-forum competitions where the public can observe the precision, artistry and complexity of the work being accomplished.



The members of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 gathered at SCNC Winnipeg 2017 to complete a training project.

To see the WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 Booklet, [click here](#).

Follow WorldSkills Team Canada 2017's journey at [www.skillscanada.com](http://www.skillscanada.com)! Twitter #WSTC2017

## National Skilled Trades and Technology Week (NSTTW) November 5 -11, 2017

Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) and its Member Organizations will be hosting events to raise awareness of skilled trade and technology careers to parents, youth and educators. This is an opportunity for all types of organizations across Canada, from businesses to educational institutions, to get involved in promoting skilled trade and technology opportunities to youth in a "hands-on" way.



A list of activities happening in each province and territory is available at [www.skillscanada.com](http://www.skillscanada.com). To obtain more information about these activities, please contact your provincial/territorial office.

## **Official Launch of National Skilled Trades and Technology Week 2017**

Stakeholders from education and industry are invited to participate in the Essential Skills Work Ready Youth Program workshop, where they will be introduced to the Essential Skills program through interactive activities that will help improve Essential Skills for Canadian youth entering the workplace.

**Join us on Tuesday, November 7 to kick off a week of activities beeing hosted across the country**

Tuesday, November 7, 2017  
Shaw Conference Centre - Salon 4  
9797 Jasper Ave, Edmonton, AB

7:15 am - 9:00 am                      Networking breakfast and Official Launch

9:00 am - 10:30 am                  Essential Skills Workshop "Essential Skills Work Ready Youth Program"

10:45 am - 11:30 am                Skills Exploration Day tours

[NSTTW Poster](#)

[Additional Information](#)

Please RSVP to Dexter Hiltner before October 24 by phone at 1-877-754-5226 ext. 520, or by email at [dexterh@skillscanada.com](mailto:dexterh@skillscanada.com)

Please RSVP attendance at the [Essential Skills Workshop](#) "Essential Skills Work Ready Program" to Marisa Sosa before October 24 by phone at 1-877-754-5226 ext. 517, or my email at [marisas@skillscanada.com](mailto:marisas@skillscanada.com)

## **Mark your Calendar for the 2018 Skills Canada National Competition!**

Join us on June 4th and 5th, 2018, at the [Edmonton EXPO Centre](#) in Edmonton, Alberta for the 24th Skills Canada National Competition.



**JUNE 4-5 / 4-5 JUIN**  
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**Canada**

For more information, go to [www.skillscompetencescanada.com](http://www.skillscompetencescanada.com).

For information about how you can become involved please contact:  
Gail Vent, Director, Business Development, [gailv@skillscanada.com](mailto:gailv@skillscanada.com).

## Industry News and Stories



## ConsuLab Goes Global at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017

ConsuLab is proud to be the official provider of training aids used in the Automobile Technology Contest Area at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017. For many years, ConsuLab has supported Skills/Compétences Canada in provincial /territorial and national Competitions. Supporting WorldSkills is a natural progression. ConsuLab engine benches and multiplex lighting system trainers will be used in the Automobile Technology Contest Area this fall. The 44th WorldSkills Competition runs from October 15 - 18, 2017. We will have three ConsuLab representatives at the Competition in Abu Dhabi. "This is a proud moment in our company's history," said ConsuLab President Kevin Boden, who will be at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017. "This also reinforces our company's commitment to Skills Canada."



Contributed by: ConsuLab



## Welder Learns Essential Skills at Skills Canada National Competition

When 17-year-old Joel Moerman, 2017 Skills Canada National Competition gold medalist, flips down the lid on his welding helmet, it's a new world for him where he is in control and where he can turn simple pieces of metal into something great.





**Joel Moerman stands on the podium to accept his gold medal at the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition.**

"Welding is so much fun. There's so many things that can be welded," said Joel. "Being in control and building really cool things is what I like the most. There's no limit to what can be welded out of metal - your creativity just flows."

The grade 12 student from Sturgeon Composite High School in Namao, Alberta said he started welding in high school because he thought it would be a good skillset to have while working on the family farm. And in no time, he couldn't get enough of the arcs and sparks.

Joel's passion for welding would eventually land him in the Provincial Skills Canada Competition in Alberta where he captured gold, and went on to win gold at the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition.

"There's so much preparation that goes into training for these competitions. My teacher Lucas Case and I spent hours in the shop just trying to perfect my technique," he said. "When I was called to the stage to accept the gold medal, it was a surreal feeling. It's really hard to explain, but you do feel proud of such an accomplishment."

The next step in Joel's welding journey is to finish high school and start his apprenticeship at CLAC in Edmonton, Alberta in July.

"I'm really excited about starting my apprenticeship," he said. "I'm looking forward to working in different settings including the typical welding shop, infield and the pipelines. The more experience I get, the better I will be prepared to enter the workforce."

Lucas Case said his student has grown over the years in terms of his skill set and ability to find solutions to any task.

"Joel is an amazing student, he really enjoys learning and becoming a better welder," said Lucas. "This is my first year teaching here and to have a student win gold on the national stage makes me feel proud. I'm extremely proud of Joel and his accomplishments. He's going to do great things in the profession. Helping Joel along the way with a close friend Mike Johnson was an honour. I also want to say thank you to the Canadian Welding Association Foundation, they really helped us through funding to get new tools for the shop. This helps our welding students excel."

Deborah Mates, Executive Director of the Canadian Welding Association Foundation, said Skills Canada is the perfect venue for aspiring welders to broaden their skill set.

"The CWA Foundation has been involved with Skills Canada for several years as a major sponsor. The competitions present a positive opportunity for the competitors where they learn a lot of valuable life skills. Joel is one of the many bright and passionate young individuals who will have a bright future in the Canadian welding industry. I wish Joel all the best in his future endeavours."

Contributed by: CWA Foundation

**cwa**foundation

## **A Journeyperson's Journey**

### **From inspired youth to future PCL leader**

Construction is in Jamie Lesperance's blood. His father Roger was a long-time PCL employee, and Jamie was eager to follow in his footsteps - tinkering with projects at a young age.

"I remember a six-foot-tall dollhouse my dad built for my sister," said Jamie. "I would always pretend I was making repairs to it."

This fascination sparked what promises to be a lifelong career in the industry. Although Jamie is now a construction professional with a lengthy list of credentials, he initially had little interest in pursuing a formal education.

"I worked for small construction firms throughout high school," Jamie reflected. "I just wanted to be out in the field getting my hands dirty."

Jamie's outlook on education changed when he entered PCL's apprenticeship program. He rapidly completed the hours needed to earn his Journeyperson Red Seal certification and ascended the ranks from an entry-level journeyperson to a full-time superintendent.

"There was always a goal for me to work towards," said Jamie. "I wanted to eventually become a superintendent and to be the person in charge. There's so much room to grow at PCL-it never ends."

He reached his goal and in the fall of 2014 became a Gold Seal certified superintendent. Jamie still regards each day on the jobsite as an opportunity for growth.



"You're always learning from people who come from all over the world," said Jamie. "Whatever the experience, there's always a lesson to take away."

To encourage other young people who are interested in pursuing a career in construction, PCL has proudly partnered with Skills Canada for the next five years. Their sponsorship commitment for the Skills Canada national Competition will see PCL contribute \$15,000 in annual support to this event.

Contributed by: PCL



**CONSTRUCTION**

## **Why You Should Consider a Career in the Skilled Trades**



**Jobs in the skilled trades are long-lasting, well-paying gigs that open up a lot of doors for future career options.**

Precision means everything in Alexandre Sidorchuk's line of work.

After all, once he finishes his apprenticeship as an aircraft maintenance technician, he'll be the one who has the final say in whether a plane gets off the ground.

"If you're not doing something [to] 100 per cent, you're doing it wrong," Sidorchuk said. "Those are the standards I'm held to at work."

No pressure, right?

Aircraft maintenance technicians are responsible for "anything and everything" to do with an aircraft, explained Sidorchuk.

"If there's a problem with the structure, you have to be able to interpret the repair and fix it. If there's a problem with the plumbing, you have to be able to go in and fix that, too," he added.

"You can't pull a plane over to fix it in the air."





**Alexandre Sidorchuk, 22, is a WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 competitor in his chosen trade of Aircraft Maintenance.**

And despite being just 22, the Calgary, Alberta native is well-versed in his chosen trade.

Sidorchuk is a member of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 and will represent his country at the 44th WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi this October.

"I'm at the point where, on paper, I'm the best aircraft maintenance apprentice in Canada," he said.

### **A growing need for skilled workers**

Young tradespeople like Sidorchuk are in increasingly high demand in Canada, according to Skills Canada CEO Shaun Thorson.

"There's a large percentage of skilled tradespeople that are getting closer to retirement, and we will need people to replace them," Thorson said.


But these trades - aircraft maintenance to hairstyling to steamfitting and pipefitting - require a significant amount of technical and essential skills training. And it's often a challenge to market these opportunities to young people, Thorson explained.

"Students are not presented all the options on what the educational pathway is, and when we're talking about skilled trades and apprenticeship, there aren't as many opportunities for them to understand what the educational options are," he added.



**Skills Canada CEO Shaun Thorson says students need more exposure to the opportunities available in the skilled trades.**

Through Skills Canada's provincial and territorial and national competitions, students get a chance to see what's involved in those occupations.



"For students that participate in the Skills Canada programs and competitions, the activities are always very hands-on and are very focused toward skills development and skills students will need in the workplace," Thorson said.

### **A viable career option**

Sidorchuk went into aircraft maintenance because he wanted to pursue a post-secondary education that allowed him to work with his hands and get out of a lecture hall.

"Getting into something where I could physically touch what I was learning about - that was an environment where I excelled," Sidorchuk said.

Similar interests in a technical education pushed TransCanada's Bryce Lord to become both a Registered Engineering Technologist and electrician. Twenty-eight years later, Lord is the vice-president of Canadian gas operations for the company.

"It's a totally viable career option, whether you choose a route like I did [and move into leadership], or you want to just stay in the trades, I think that they're long term, good-paying, great careers."

And while his day-to-day work might now involve a lot more paperwork and a lot less time in the field than it did when he first started out, he said his experience in the trades was invaluable as he moved up through TransCanada.

"When you're in a well-established company like TransCanada, that's just the start," he said. "If you show the right aptitude and right attitude, there can be great career opportunities."

### **Support for the trades**

"One of the keys to success in our programs is that we've been able to bring technical expertise from industry and education and bring those groups together to talk about how we develop programs that are focused at the appropriate education level while also identifying skillsets that industry requires," Thorson said.

TransCanada is proud to partner with Skills Canada to continue fostering the next generation of skilled tradespeople like Sidorchuk.

"The partnership [with TransCanada] is important to make sure we're always understanding where industries are moving," he added.

We've also previously partnered with Women Building Futures to promote its Women in Construction Awareness Campaign in Alberta, and offer trades scholarships through our TransCanada Scholarships program.

On July 14, we announced a new partnership with the Canadian Welding Association Foundation to support the future of welding in the country. This year, the CWA Foundation partnered with TransCanada to deliver nine Mind over Metal welding camps to students aged 12-15 across Western Canada. Learn more about how we're joining energies with the CWA Foundation [here](#).

### **Words of wisdom**

Alexandre Sidorchuk

"Don't be afraid to let yourself learn something new."

Shaun Thorson

"Do your research."

Bryce Lord

"The start of my technical career has never, ever let me down."

Contributed by: TransCanada

## **Safety on the Job: Everyone's First Priority**

Safety is everyone's shared responsibility and is of paramount importance on construction sites. Not only is a safe work environment a legal requirement but it also provides several benefits. A safe work site prevents work related injuries which cost employers time and very high insurance premiums. In addition, a safe work site is a productive work site. Companies that promote a safety culture can positively impact the morale of their workers while increasing their profits as a direct result of better organization and workflow.

The United Association is a construction union of over 350,000 piping professionals participating in nine Red Seal Trades. We maintain safety as an integral part of training in all trade disciplines and jurisdictions. On a daily basis, our members apply their knowledge of safety requirements, in different environments, on specialized systems while utilizing a wide variety of tools and equipment. Through accountability and professionalism, they assume a proactive role in identifying workplace safety hazards and providing solutions that ensure the protection of themselves, their co-workers, the public and the environment.

Unfortunately, not everyone has embraced a positive safety culture. There are some that believe that working hard automatically supersedes working smart. These parties habitually fail to realize the inherent danger associated with taking risks. As a result, preventable accidents continue to happen to people across Canada daily. Mitigating avoidable risk begins with changing these attitudes.

Safe working conditions continue to be reliant on the cooperative efforts of government, employers and employees. UA Canada and our members have always remained committed to being part of this team. We have been advocating for safety for over 125 years and we will continue to do so. This is because we do not believe in short cuts. What we strongly believe is that every worker deserves to return home to their loved ones unharmed each and every day.

We urge you to join us and be an advocate. Whatever you choose to pursue as a career, make safety your first priority.

Contributed by: UA Canada



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cwa foundation



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**WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 Premier Sponsor**

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[Click here](#) for a list of all sponsors and suppliers for WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017.

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