

SKILLS/COMPÉTENCES CANADA SPOKESPEOPLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Please visit the Media Registration desk (located at the entrance of Salon 4) or contact Michèle Rogerson, micheler@skillscanada.com, 613-266-4771 to arrange for an interview with any of the following people or a photo opp.



JOHN OATES
President of Skills/Compétences Canada

John Oates, the President of Skills/Compétences Canada, has had a long history with the Skills Movement in Canada. He has been the President of Skills Canada – Newfoundland and Labrador since 2004, the same year he joined the national Board of Directors. During his time on the Board of Directors of Skills/Compétences Canada, he has served in the positions of Director, Secretary, and Vice-President.

John has long been a strong proponent of promoting careers in the skilled trades and technologies. He recently retired from College of the North Atlantic, where for almost 40 years he was a very vocal advocate for increasing trade and technology training opportunities in his home province, as well as across the country. In addition to his work with Skills/Compétences Canada, John has extensive experience with Board governance and strategic planning. He currently sits on the Boards of Directors of the Public Service Credit Union, League Data, Together By Design and the Anna Templeton Centre for Craft, Art and Design.

John has been in the role of President on the Board of Directors of Skills/Compétences Canada since 2014, leading this organization into the future. He has dedicated the next two years to continuing his advocacy role in highlighting the important roles played by skilled tradespersons and technologists in making Canada a truly great country.



MALCOM HAINES
Dean of Northern Alberta Institute of
Technology (NAIT), School of Trades

Malcolm Haines is the dean of the School of Skilled Trades at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). He leads a team of more than 500 faculty and staff, who teach approximately 15,000 apprenticeship and full-time students per year. With a degree in psychology from the University of Alberta already in hand, Malcolm first came to NAIT in 1991 to train as a sheet metal worker and graduated with his journeyman ticket in 1994. In 1997, he returned as an instructor and taught for over 10 years, becoming the associate chair of the Sheet Metal Worker program. He also held the title of associate dean and interim dean before officially being appointed dean in 2014.



KATE CAMPBELL
Crew Member on HGTV's Decked Out, Disaster Decks, Deck Wars and Custom Built

Kate Campbell's television career started at the Holmes on Homes show where she worked on and off camera as an apprentice carpenter. Her jump to the outdoors was a result of a job offer from Paul Lafrance of Deck Wars, Decked Out, Disaster Decks and Custom Built.

Since joining the Decked Out team, she has quickly become part of the family. She has no problem putting up with the boys and their shenanigans. It also helps that Kate is skilled in the art of knock knock jokes and has a gift for puns. Kate was raised in Georgetown, Ontario and has a passion for adventure and travel. She found her passion for carpentry after taking a skills course for women. She is a certified carpenter and is a strong advocate for women in the skilled trades.



AARON TAVES
WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 competitor in Automobile Technology

Aaron Taaves, who is 19 years old, currently attends the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and also works at Fountain Tire. In his spare time, he is a volunteer firefighter in the city of Camrose, Alberta.

Aaron chose to pursue a career in automobile technology because of his love of cars and his passion for abstract problem solving. One of his career goals is to one day have his own automotive shop as well as a parts distribution store chain across Alberta. He got involved with Skills Canada through high school and has since competed in seven Skills Canada competitions.



THE HONOURABLE DAVID EGGEN **Minister of Education, Province of Alberta**

David Eggen was sworn in as the Minister of Education and as the Minister of Culture and Tourism on May 24, 2015.

Mr. Eggen was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Edmonton-Calder on April 23, 2012 and again on May 5, 2015. He previously represented the constituency from 2004 to 2008 and served as the ND's critic for energy, education, environment and sustainable resource development.

Mr. Eggen was educated at the University of Alberta, where he received a bachelor of education degree in 1984. He then went to Zimbabwe, where he taught for three years. Upon his return to Edmonton he taught at a number of local schools from 1990 to 2004.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS, SPONSORS AND SUPPLIERS

Representatives from industry, education and labour that continually work with Skills/ Compétences Canada to make the Skills Canada National Competition, NSTTW and WorldSkills events possible are on hand to discuss skilled trades opportunities, needs and issues related to their sectors.