



Spring 2017 e-newsletter



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Message from the CEO

Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) is gearing up for another busy year. In January 2017, SCC attended Competition Preparation Week in Abu Dhabi and met with the representatives from the organizing committee and other WorldSkills Member organizations to discuss preparations for WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017. This promises to be another successful Competition. In addition to the event preparations meetings, a meeting of the CEO - National Skills Organization working group was held as well as the WorldSkills Marketing and Communications Working Group. Canada was active in both of these groups discussing ways that we can share more relevant information amongst other WorldSkills Member organizations.

Furthermore, the WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 Prospects have recently completed their WorldSkills Canadian Trials. The official members of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 were announced on March 28. The 31 competitors are now entering the midway point in their search for a medal at the 44th WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from October 14-19, 2017. On behalf of SCC, its Member Organizations and its National Board of Directors, I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching them compete on the international stage.

SCC is also continuing to prepare for the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition, which will be held in the city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, from May 31-June 3, 2017. We are excited about the warm welcome the Province of Manitoba has extended to us and the event is shaping up to be one of the best yet. Over 550 youth from across Canada will compete in over 40 skilled trades and technology contests for the opportunity to reach the pinnacle of excellence and be named national champion in their chosen field. This marks the 23rd Skills Canada National Competition and we hope to see everyone there!

Shaun Thorson
Chief Executive Officer

Skills/Compétences Canada In the News

Here are some recent news clips featuring Skills/Compétences Canada and its Member Organizations:

-Read this press release issued by [Skills/Compétences Canada](#) on March 7th: *TransCanada Returns as Presenting Sponsor of the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition for the Third Consecutive Year.*

-Read this press release issued by [Skills/Compétences Canada](#) on March 8th: *Skills/Compétences Canada Backs HeForShe*, a campaign that advocates gender

equality.

-Read this press release issued by [Skills/Compétences Canada](#) on March 28th announcing the 31 official members of WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 who will be competing at WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017.

-Check out this article: *Breakthrough for women in skills trades on P.E.I.* featuring Skills Canada Prince Edward Island, published on March 1st, 2017, in [The Guardian](#).

-Read this article featuring the Skills BC regional competition: *Trades compete at KPU Tech*, published in the [Cloverdale Reporter](#) on March 1st, 2017.

-Check out this article: *70 students take part in Skills Canada contest* featuring Skills Canada Ontario, published in the [Simcoe Reformer](#) on March 2nd, 2017.

-Read this article: *Mike Holmes: Call for more women to work in the trades*, which features an interview with Mike Holmes and Sherry Holmes, published in the [National Post](#) on March 4th, 2017.

-Read this interesting article about First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who attended a day of workshops on the skilled trades at Cambrian: *'Enlightening experience': Skills Ontario reaches out to Aboriginal youth*, featured on [Sudbury.com](#), on February 21st, 2017.

-Read this article: *Skills Canada Saskatchewan arranged a visit for Gronlid students to get a closer look at the trades*, published in [Melfort Journal](#) on February 10, 2017.

-Check out this article: *Students from Alliance St-Joseph and Ste-Marie win gold and bronze at the regional Elementary Cardboard Boat Race competition* featured on [Sudbury.com](#), on February 4th, 2017.

-Read this article featuring the cardboard boat races hosted by Skills Canada British Columbia: *Better bring a towel: Shuswap students race in cardboard boat*, published on [CBC News](#), on January 15, 2017.

-Check out this article: *Sink or float in a cardboard boat*, featuring Skills Canada British Columbia, published on January 13, 2017, in the [Salmon Arm Observer](#).

-Read this article: *Quesnel Students Have Skills*, which highlights the Quesnel students that have participated in skills competitions, in [My Cariboo Now](#), on January 12, 2017.

Skills Canada News

WorldSkills Member Countries and Regions Gathered in Abu Dhabi for Competition Preparation Week

This past January, over 300 delegates from WorldSkills Member countries and regions gathered at the Abu Dhabi Centre for Vocational Education and Training in preparation for the 44th WorldSkills Competition. This included planning meetings with competitions committees, skills management teams and partners. There were also several meetings to discuss the implementation of the WorldSkills strategy and the 2025 vision.

In addition, the One School One Country Programme was launched as students from 59 local schools welcomed representatives of the WorldSkills countries and regions. The launch of One School One Country included an elaborate and colourful dance by more than 50 schoolgirls from the United Arab Emirates. Children and teachers then took the stage to announce which school would be paired with which Member. Skills Canada will be paired with Hamooda Bil Ali School. On October 12, 2017, the students will meet the competitors from their matched team to learn about each other and their cultures, while increasing international awareness of vocational skills.

To read more, go to: www.worldskills.com



The principal and students from the Hamooda Bil Ali School welcomed Skills Canada staff by presenting them with handmade art, which they crafted themselves at their school.

Skills/Compétences Canada Backs HeForShe Campaign

Skills Canada is proud to endorse the HeForShe initiative, which is a global campaign that was launched by United Nations (UN) Women to engage men and boys as advocates and stakeholders, to break the silence, raise their voices, and take action for the achievement of gender equality. Skills Canada is joined by its fellow Members of WorldSkills in backing this vital push for gender equality in vocational education and skilled professions.

WorldSkills has asked their member countries and regions to highlight their support on March 8th, International Women's Day. Skills Canada has created a new HeForShe section on our Website, which includes links to the [UN](#) and [WorldSkills](#) HeForShe sites and a "Women in Trades" [video](#) hosted by Sherry Holmes of the Holmes group. SCC has also produced a series of editorials spotlighting the four WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 female competitors in non-traditional trades. This includes Ashley Gale Weber in Car Painting, Deanna Reynolds in Industrial Mechanic/Millwright, Marilou Morin in Landscape Gardening and Vyolaine Dujmovic in Autobody Repair. To read their editorials, [click here](#).

SCC also distributed a [press release](#) announcing its endorsement of this campaign and shared information via [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



HeForShe
UN Women Solidarity Movement
for Gender Equality



For more information, visit: www.skillscanada.com.

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendar for the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition!

The countdown is on for the 23rd Skills Canada National Competition, which will take place May 31-June 3, 2017, at the [RBC Convention Centre](#), in the vibrant city of

Winnipeg, Manitoba. Known as the "cultural cradle of Canada," Winnipeg is Manitoba's cosmopolitan capital city.

The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) is the only national, multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices in the country. This year, more than 550 young people from all regions of Canada will come to SCNC to participate in over 40 skilled trades and technology contests in six sectors including construction, employment, information technology, manufacturing and engineering, services and transportation.

By providing a forum where Canadian youth can compete at the national level, SCNC provides hands-on experience related to skilled trades and technology careers. Through these competitions, Skills/Compétences Canada seeks to raise the awareness of the skilled trades and technology sectors to Canadian youth and their influencers.

SCC encourages local schools to visit the SCNC to view the many career opportunities that are available to youth and also experience hands on learning with various Try-A-Trade® and Technology activities. These activities enable visitors to put their skills to the test and get a feel for the trades. Participants will complete small projects that expose them to components of various trades, such as bricklaying, electrical wiring and cooking, just to name a few.

As always, admission to the Competition is free and it's open to the public.

School group registration and bus subsidy information is available [online](#).

If you would like an opportunity to gain valuable experience as a volunteer, [click here](#) for more information and to register.

For partner organizations that are interested in participating at SCNC 2017 as an exhibitor, [click here](#) to book your exhibit space and obtain additional information on the available opportunities.

Over 60 of Canada's top employers, associations, labour groups, training institutes and government partners will comprise the Career Zone with exhibit booths and interactive activities for all attendees. There will also be an Essential Skills Stage showcasing a number of interactive activities highlighting the Essential Skills (ES) and an ES passport for visitors to fill out for a chance to win a special prize! This year's theme is *Working with Others*, [click here](#) for more information.

For more information about SCNC 2017, [click here](#).



3rd Annual Essential Skills Forum/Stakeholder Roundtable

Hosted by Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) and the Canadian Apprenticeship Forum (CAF)

Join us on Thursday, June 1, 2017, from 8:30am - 12:30pm, at the Winnipeg Delta,

in the Assiniboia Room for the 3rd annual Essential Skills Forum and CAF Stakeholder Roundtable. CAF members and registered Skills Canada National Competition delegates can attend for FREE (with promo code). For CAF non-members and those not registered as delegates, the participation fee is \$50.00. The theme of this year's Forum is **Building Blocks For Youth Success in the Trades**.

For more information, [click here](#).

To register, [click here](#).

The Countdown is on for WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017!

The WorldSkills Competition, held every two years, is the biggest vocational, education and skills excellence event in the world that truly reflects global industry standards. The competitors representing the best of their generation are selected from skills competitions held in 76 WorldSkills member countries and regions. The 44th WorldSkills Competition will take place from October 14-19, 2017, at the [Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre](#) (ADNEC).

WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 is expected to be the largest WorldSkills Competition yet, with 1,300 competitors from [60 member countries and regions](#) who will be competing for the title of world champion. There will be over [50 skill competitions](#), in six sectors, including Construction and Building Technology, Creative Arts and Fashion, Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Social and Personal Services and Transportation and Logistics. The 44th WorldSkills Competition will be the biggest event ever held at ADNEC, attracting more than 100,000 visitors.



At the 2016 Skills Canada National Competition, the highest-ranking age eligible medalist in each applicable skill area were selected to participate in the WorldSkills Canadian Trials, which were held in January, February and March of 2017. Having reached pre-established Canadian standards, 31 competitors were named to WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 and will compete in the upcoming 44th WorldSkills Competition. [Click here](#) to learn more about WorldSkills Team Canada 2017 and to follow their journey.

For more information about this event including an [event guide](#), [FAQs](#) and [delegates packages](#), visit www.worldskillsabudhabi2017.com.



2018 Skills Canada National Competition

The 24th Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) will be held from June 3-6, 2018, at the [Edmonton EXPO Centre](#), in Edmonton, Alberta. More than 550 participants will be competing in over 40 skill areas. Several thousand visitors are also expected to come through the doors at the Edmonton EXPO Centre during this free event that is open to the public. Visitors can also actively participate in over 40 Try-a-Trade® and Technology activities. SCNC is a great opportunity for businesses and organizations of all sizes to become involved in the skills development of

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

Industry News and Stories



Contributed by: DeWALT

An Inspiring Experience

Fixturlaser Canada had the privilege of attending the WorldSkills Leaders Forum held in Niagara Falls, ON, on October 4, 2016. We have been involved with Skills/Compétences Canada for a number of years, and this was a great experience for us.

In the past it's been assumed and understood that to be successful in life you had to acquire a university education. This would hopefully allow you to have a noble profession, such as a doctor, lawyer, engineer, etc.

While attending the WorldSkills Leaders Forum, we had the chance to meet, but most importantly listen to, WorldSkills alumni speak about their incredible experiences and success as masters in their skilled trade and technology fields. We have always believed in Skills/Compétences Canada. However, this experience gave us special pride in being a part of something that will give hope, and most importantly inspire future generations.

In the past many youth have faced the future with some hesitation and doubt about their prospects of success if they did not have a university education. Thanks to organizations like Skills Canada, a growing number of young people are realizing that an education in the skilled trades is now an avenue that offers unlimited potential.

Contributed by: Fixturlaser

Building a Future for Canadian Youth

Princess Auto is excited to partner with Skills/Compétences Canada to help promote careers in skilled trades and technology to the next generation of young Canadians.

With Canada experiencing increasingly low numbers of qualified skilled labourers, Princess Auto is supporting Skills/Compétences Canada's efforts to encourage youth to look into the trades as viable career options. "We are thrilled to be working with Skills/Compétences Canada, as well as colleges across the country through our Princess Auto Foundation," said Geoff Frodsham, CEO of Princess Auto Ltd. "Careers in the skilled trades are in high demand, and prospective students need the right resources to succeed."



Learning a trade requires more than having tools; equally important is the development of problem-solving and creative thinking skills during the "hands-on" learning process. These are essential tools in skilled trades and technology careers. Frodsham comments on the resourcefulness of Princess Auto customers, who include young professionals in the trades, and their role in society. "Every day, our store teams across the country see customer creativity and inventiveness being applied. These folks are not just building a life for themselves, they're building communities."

By supporting Skills/Compétences Canada, Princess Auto is helping the next generation of skilled Canadians in trades and technology "Make it Work."

Contributed by: Don Balcaen, Princess Auto



Donor Support Helps Manufacturing Grad Qualify for Trades and Technology International Competition

It's safe to say Silas Meeches has turned out to be a good investment.

With the help of several donor-supported awards and bursaries from Red River College (RRC), Meeches, 20, graduated with his Manufacturing Technician diploma in May 2016. Now, he's busy prepping for the 2017 WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi, an event he describes as "the Olympics for trades and technology students."

Meeches first qualified for the event in June 2016 when he won a silver medal (in CNC Machining) at the Skills Canada National Competition in New Brunswick. Before nationals, he won gold in the Skills Manitoba Regional Competition hosted at RRC.



Silas Meeches wins the silver medal in CNC Machining at SCNC 2016.

Originally enrolled in the College's Precision Metal Machining certificate program, Meeches didn't feel it was a good fit for his skill set. He credits Manufacturing Technician co-ordinator Rob Ataman for pointing him to a program where he could thrive.

"From what I've heard [Rob] has always been a big help to students, and I was no exception," says Meeches. "There was a lot of pushing in the right direction. I'd say 'I don't know if I can do this,' and he'd say, 'I know you can.'"

That's not to say Meeches lacks in self-motivation. Despite graduating in the spring, he still spends the bulk of his time refining his trade in RRC's machine shop. With the WorldSkills Competition slated for October 2017, Meeches has a few months to train for the event.

"I'm making sure I understand all the programs, all the materials, all the dimensioning, all the stuff I've been doing for the past few years," he says. "Everything has to be perfect."

While a student at RRC, Meeches' tireless work ethic earned him the Sadvik Coromant Award, the Ted M. Konyk Bursary, the Gene Haas Bursary and the H. C. McGregor Merit Award.

A graduate of Sisler High School, Meeches says he developed that work ethic while playing with the North Winnipeg Nomads Football Club.

"It was in bantam level that I saw I could be good at the sport if I put a little bit more extra work into it, and that carried into high school," he says.

"When I got into metal shop in high school I found I was putting more effort into there than I was into anything else. I thought I was supposed to be the football kid, but I started morphing more into a trades guy. When I first got to [RRC], I said 'OK, let's put in the effort that I've always been putting in,' and then a couple people helped me out. I thought 'OK, I can't fail,' and I started to go the extra mile, found more in the tank. I started putting in more and more work, which led me to here."

Meeches' hard work has already taken him places. In November of this year, he

made his way to Gothenburg, Sweden for the EuroSkills competition, where he competed in an unofficial capacity and gained practice time with the equipment he'll use in Abu Dhabi.

While admitting he is nervous during competitions, Meeches said he manages to keep his cool.

"Something I've learned to do here at Red River College is to trust myself," he says. "In the competitions, you can start second-guessing yourself because of the time limit and all the people watching you and making comments like 'What was that sound?' You ask yourself, 'Did I do this right? Did I do that wrong?' but at the end of the day, you have to trust yourself."

Meeches said his confidence in competition has already caught the attention of a few potential employers.

"They see it as, 'He can work under stress. He can work under tight deadlines. He can make sure we hit our targets, so when the time comes, he won't flinch,'" Meeches says.

Every year, hundreds of students just like Meeches receive financial awards that make a real difference in their lives. Many of them tell us they would not have been able to continue with their studies had they not received a scholarship, bursary or award to help cover their costs.

To be a part of student success at Red River College, please visit rrc.ca/development.

Contributed by: Red River College



Seeking Support for Trades Education?

[TransCanada's Empower Communities Scholarships](#) can help you or someone you know get there! This new scholarship program is accepting applications from first year trades students who live in the communities where we do business across Canada.

Apply now to our [Trades Scholarship](#)! Applications close April 15, 2017.

Contributed by: TransCanada



Apprenticeship: A Positive Start

Choosing a career path can be daunting. Considering that your income potential will usually align with your education level, post-secondary options must be weighed carefully. Competition to enter the workforce is also increasing, and with this, the expectations of employers. As a result, more youth are seeking additional education to distinguish themselves. However, College and University tuitions are higher than ever and can present additional challenges for graduates as they enter the workforce already straddled in debt. Recent reports have revealed that the average student debt in Canada was over \$25,000.00 in 2015. (National Post reported on the Canadian University Survey Consortium. Also, Globe and Mail informed that a Statistics Canada report revealed that in 2012, 28.3 Billion was owed in student loans.)

In light of this, Apprenticeship provides an appealing option for many reasons, but most notably because graduates of these programs are not burdened with debt upon

completion. The phrase, "earn while you learn" is commonly used to market the potential of Apprenticeship and in Canada; the government also provides financial incentives to participants.

Apprenticeship programs in construction can range from Carpentry to Plumbing and everything in between. The government recognizes the need for these trades and the importance of maintaining a structure that ensures the passage of knowledge from generation to generation. The qualifications of those that complete Apprenticeships are highly regarded and sought after by employers.



United Association Canada is a union of piping professionals that include HVACR techs, Plumbers, Steamfitters/Pipefitters, Sprinklerfitters and Welders. We have been involved with Apprenticeship in every aspect with relation to the pipe trades since they were first named under Apprenticeship regulations. These careers are challenging, but equally rewarding. With the support system that we have formed in unison with our contractors, our members have the highest completion rates in the country. They depend on us and we plan for success.

They may begin as Apprentices, but many members acquire the skills to fill a variety of future positions such as teacher, foreman, superintendent, owner and a host of others. Many of them will make million dollar decisions on billion dollar jobs sites. The sky is the limit.

While there may be many options after high school, Apprenticeship provides recognition of qualifications, pride of skill and a debt free start to your journey. We welcome you to the challenge.

Contributed by: UA



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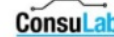


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[Click here](#) for a list of all sponsors and suppliers for SCNC 2017.

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

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