

SKILLS/COMPÉTENCES CANADA SPOKESPEOPLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Please visit the Media Centre on the ground floor at the Halifax Exhibition Centre, room Prospect 3, or contact Michèle Rogerson, micheler@skillscanada.com, 613-266-4771 to arrange for an interview or photo opportunity.

Select spokespeople are available to take part in French interviews.



John Oates

President, Skills/Compétences Canada

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

John is a longtime supporter of skilled trade and technology careers in Canada. He recently retired from the College of the North Atlantic, where for nearly 40 years he was a vocal advocate for increasing trade and technology training opportunities in his home province and across the country. In addition to his work with Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC), John has extensive experience with Board governance and strategic planning. He currently sits on many Boards of Directors including the Public Service Credit Union, League Data, Together By Design and the Anna Templeton Centre for Craft, Art and Design.

John has been SCC's Board of Directors' President since 2014, leading the organization into the future. He will dedicate the next year advocating the important role that skilled tradespeople and technologists play in making Canada a leader worldwide.



Shaun Thorson

Chief Executive Officer, Skills/Compétences Canada

Shaun Thorson is a tireless champion of skilled trade and technology careers for Canadian youth. CEO since 2006, Shaun held various positions within the Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) organization at the provincial and national levels for the past 25 years.

Shaun recognizes the vital role of a strong and vibrant skilled trade and technology workforce in maintaining Canada's global economic leadership, and he fosters thought-provoking engagement with industry leaders to ensure best practices and positioning. In addition to hosting the annual Skills Canada National Competition, SCC is a member of WorldSkills. Within this international body Shaun has chaired the Sustainability Initiatives, Quality Assurance Management Council, the WorldSkills Americas Technical Committee and acted as Canada's WorldSkills Technical Delegate from 2006 to 2013 and in 2017.

Shaun is the Board Chair of the CWB Welding Foundation, and he Chairs the WorldSkills, CEO-National Skills Organization Council.



Kate Campbell

HGTV Star Founder of KateBuilds Inc.

Kate Campbell entered into the skilled trades in 2005. After graduating high school and realizing that the university path just wasn't for her, Kate applied to a *Women in Skilled Trades* (WIST) course based out of Burlington, Ontario. After being accepted to the course and picking up a power tool for the first time, Kate realized she had found her passion. During the three-month program, she was introduced to carpentry, electrical, plumbing, finish carpentry and several other trades. Kate had always known that she wanted a career where she could stay active, be creative and constantly be challenged. Well... she found one!

Kate has been working in the television and renovation industry for over twelve years and has been taught by some of the Canada's top renovators. She can be seen as part of the crew for HGTV's *Holmes On Homes*, *Holmes in New Orleans*, *Holmes Inspection* and assisting the final contestants as a part of *Handyman Superstar Challenge*.

While working with these shows she was faced with many challenges and was also exposed to every aspect of home renovation and building. Kate was personally involved in building two homes and helped out with countless renovations. She's worked with the best designers, best builders and the most cutting-edge building materials out there. Kate Campbell has also been featured as one of the crew in HGTV's hit shows *Decked Out* and *Disaster Decks* where she helps build some of the most interesting and unique decks out there.

To top it all off, most recently Kate was asked to participate in HGTV Canada's hit show *Home to Win* as one of the hosts and celebrity contractors. When she's not working with the show, Kate also runs her own renovation company with her husband – *KateBuilds Inc.* They recently finished renovating and restoring a 150-year-old farmhouse together.

Kate is extremely passionate about speaking to young women who are considering entering the trades. Kate is focused on "changing the face" of the skilled trades and ESPECIALLY passionate about being an advocate for women and supporting causes that are important to her.



Sebastien Clovis

Renovator and DIY Enthusiast

I guess you could say that Sebastian is a man of many hats, but first and foremost he's a renovator and DIY enthusiast. He has a unique connection with his audience that stems from his personal journey from professional football player to licensed renovator and television host. He thrives on inspiring people to take pride in themselves, their homes, communities, and family.

Sebastian's professional career didn't start on TV. Before that he was a Boy Scout and Alter Boy turned All-Canadian university football standout. He graduated with a degree in psychology and was drafted in 2005 by the BC Lions. Under the leadership of legendary coach Wally Buono, he was able to help propel the BC Lions to a Grey Cup championship in 2006, solidifying Wally's place as the winningest coach in CFL history.

After the sun set on his athletic career, Sebastian looked to his next area of expertise, home renovation. Having started his apprenticeship at age 14, he quickly picked up his tools, brushed up on the latest renovation technology, got licensed, and began work. Now the principal owner of *Clovis & Co. Contracting*, he believes everyone should strive to understand the mechanics of their home, tackle improvement projects, and understand when it's necessary to call in a professional.

Sebastian's TV career began with his first show, *Tackle My Reno*, and since then he's become somewhat of a common face in the television world. He is now the host of HGTV's *Save My Reno* and one of the many faces on the hit show *Home to Win*. As a resident home renovation and DIY expert on *The Marilyn Denis Show*, his charismatic smile and trusty tool belt helps him energize, engage and inform the audience.



Andy Hay

Celebrity Chef

For years Andy had an obsession with food. Beyond simply eating something delicious, he had been fascinated by the process of cooking. The heat, sounds, smells, successes, and failures. To him cooking is meditative. A creative and physical outlet that allows him to relax, focus and explore. After eight years in working in the technology industry, Andy decided to quit his job and chase his dream of becoming a chef. Since that time, he has appeared on *Masterchef Canada* and started his own catering company which focused on delivering authentic East Coast experiences through food.



Jennifer Green

*Chair, Skills Canada National Alumni Committee and
President, Skills Ontario Alumni Association*

Skilled tradesperson, Jennifer Green has made remarkable contributions as an advocate for the advancement of trades and women in trades and technologies, through her leadership, individual achievements and various presentations and speaking engagements. She graduated from Conestoga College in 2008 as a licensed Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Millwright with a Certificate of Apprenticeship and

Certificate of Qualification through the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, where she was employed at Linamar. She also worked as Maintenance Planner/ Scheduler at the Upper Grand District School Board.

Jennifer is a sought-after speaker, and works actively with Conestoga, educational partners, Skills Ontario, Skills Canada, community, companies and organizations; for the advancement of trades, gender and age gap. She is a tireless advocate for the promotion of women in non-traditional careers, is a mentor for trades and apprenticeships, and is a trail blazer and a role model for women in the skilled trades.

This has led her to various honours and awards, including the YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Award; Trades in 2013, and the Conestoga College Alumni of Distinction Award in the same year. She also competed in the Industrial Mechanic Millwright competition at Skills Ontario in 2008, earning Gold. Moving on to compete that same year at the national level at Skills Canada, earning Silver.

Green has been involved with Skills Ontario since 2005, through numerous volunteer events, mentoring and speaking engagements. She also aided in the creation of the Skills Ontario Alumni Association in 2016 and became the inaugural president; where she continues to evolve the association, and others as the National and Ontario Lead on the Skills Canada National Alumni Committee. Jennifer has recently joined Skills Canada Ontario as the Director of Competitions and Young Women's Initiatives.

Skills Canada: National and International Competition Alumni

Many former Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) and WorldSkills alumni volunteers will be in attendance to make the 2019 Skills Canada National Competition a winning success. As well as being on site, they are also on hand to speak about their competition experience and how it has helped them in their careers.

Technical Committee Members (Competition Experts)

Each of the 44 competition projects are designed and judged by a National Technical Committee (NTC) made up of experts from education and industry across the country. These experts are on hand to discuss specifics about contest areas.

Industry Partners, Sponsors and Suppliers

Industry representatives working with Skills/Compétences Canada to make SCNC possible will be on hand to discuss skilled trade opportunities, needs and issues related to their sectors.