

# National Skilled Trade & Technology Week

## Semaine nationale des métiers spécialisés et des technologies



### Skills/Compétences Canada Spokespeople and Special Guests

Please contact Michèle Rogerson, [micheler@skillscanada.com](mailto:micheler@skillscanada.com), 613-266-4771 to arrange for an interview.

Select spokespeople are available to take part in French interviews.

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**Dr. Patrick Rouble**  
President, Skills/Compétences Canada

Dr. Patrick Rouble lives in Whitehorse, Yukon and is the Principal Consultant with Transom Frame Consulting. He has a diverse background with experience in education, research, business management and government. Patrick served two terms in the Yukon Legislative Assembly and was a Member of Cabinet for 5 years. He held the portfolios for Education, Energy, Mines & Resources and the Public Service Commission. Upon his retirement from office, Patrick continued his passion for lifelong learning and completed a Doctorate in Education at the University of Calgary.

Patrick believes strongly that we need to encourage more Canadian youth to consider rewarding and meaningful careers in traditional trades and emerging technologies. He believes in helping Canadian youth develop the skills and abilities to lead meaningful and rewarding careers and that having a gratifying career will not only help build stronger individuals but will also help to build a stronger Canada.

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**Shaun Thorson**  
Chief Executive Officer, Skills/Compétences Canada

Shaun Thorson, Chief Executive Officer of Skills/Compétences Canada, is a tireless champion of skilled trade and technology careers for Canadian youth. The CEO since 2006, Shaun has 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 fosters engagement with thought-leaders to ensure best practices and positioning. Known for the annual Skills Canada National Competition, Skills Canada is also member of WorldSkills. Within this international body Shaun has chaired the Sustainability Initiatives, Quality Assurance Management Council, the WorldSkills Americas Technical Committee and was Canada's WorldSkills Technical Delegate from 2006 to 2013 and in 2017.

Shaun is the Past President of the CWB Welding Foundation and Chairs the CEO-National Skills Organization Council for WorldSkills.

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### Sherry Holmes

Contractor, Part-Time Designer, and weekend DIYer!

Sherry Holmes grew up watching, working and playing with her dad, Celebrity TV Host & Contractor, Mike Holmes. As early as 16-years-old she began working behind-the-scenes of Mike's breakout series, *Holmes on Homes*®. In 2008, after a Crew member fell ill, Sherry decided to strap on her own tool belt and travelled to New Orleans to help build a hurricane-and flood-resistant home for a victim of Hurricane Katrina, in Holmes in New Orleans. Since then she has been a permanent member of Mike's Crew, first on *Holmes Inspection* and then on *Holmes Makes It Right*, and more recently *Holmes: Next Generation*, airing on DIY & HGTV in 2018, where she teams up with her brother, Mike Jr. (and learning a few tricks from her famous father) where they rescue homeowners from dysfunctional homes, shady contractors and do-it-yourself projects gone wrong.

As a big supporter for youth who want to get into the trades, Sherry continues the family support to Skills/Compétences Canada and WorldSkills. She also mentors' young women through Conestoga College's Jill of All Trades, and acts as an Ambassador for Habitat for Humanity's Annual Women Build Event, a program that calls on women to help build stronger, safer communities. On and off the jobsite, Sherry continues to change the face of Canada's skilled trade workforce, demonstrating that women can bring an entirely new dimension to the construction industry that makes it fundamentally stronger from the ground up. Like her proud father, everything she teaches and believes in is based on quality, integrity and trust.

**TWITTER:** @SHERRYL\_HOLMES

**FACEBOOK:** @SHERRYHOLMES

**INSTAGRAM:** @HOLMESSHERRY

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### Sebastian 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.



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### Jack Dupuis

Skills/Compétences Canada Alumni and Silver Medalist in Heavy Vehicle Technology at WorldSkills Kazan 2019

Jack is currently studying at the Centre de formation en mécanique de véhicules lourds and works for Audet and Knight in Val-Alain, Québec. He chose to work in a skilled trade because he wants to be more active than just sitting in an office. Jack has always had a passion for machines and mechanics, and he wants to build a career in that field. His ambition is to start his own business with a mobile diesel mechanics unit to repair different machines on site.

He heard about the skills competitions at his training centre and decided to find out more. When he learned that there was not only a Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) but also a WorldSkills Competition, he knew that he wanted to be part of this great adventure. Jack won a gold medal at SCNC Edmonton 2018 where he qualified for the WorldSkills Team Canada Selection Event and placed first. This earned him a spot on WorldSkills Team Canada 2019 and gave him the opportunity to compete at WorldSkills Kazan 2019. At the WorldSkills Competition, he proudly earned a silver medal!

The person who has inspired him the most is his father as he has learned a lot from him. When he was growing up, he spent a lot of time working with him and asking lots of questions. Jack's father always took time to explain things to him and he truly believes his advice has helped him get to where he is today.

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### Britnee Mishak

Chair of Skills/Compétences Canada's National Alumni Committee (NAC)

Britnee knew she wanted to work in the graphic design field at a young age. Her original plan was to become a 3D Animator, but she decided to do a two year diploma in Graphic Communications at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) instead, where she learned about graphic design and bindery. Britnee currently works in bindery where she gets to see the project from start to finish and enjoys seeing the final product. In the future, she may look at adding marketing to her skill set.

She became involved with skills competitions in 2015 when she competed at a Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition, in Graphic Design, and won the silver medal! From there, she joined the Essential Skills Youth Forum as the Leader and also participated as a Skills/Compétences Canada Alumni member for the Canada 150, at the 2017 Skills Canada National Competition, in Winnipeg. She has since become the President of Skills Canada Saskatchewan's Provincial Alumni Committee and the Chair of Skills/Compétences Canada's National Alumni Committee. Skills has shown her that she has the abilities to succeed in her field.

Her advice to youth is to research. "It's great to have a few options of what you may want to do, but make sure you find out what the job is like on a daily basis. This can help you cut down on your schooling costs and get you working in your dream job!" said Britnee.

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### Industry Partners, Sponsors and Suppliers

Industry representatives working with Skills/Compétences Canada to make National Skilled Trade and Technology Week possible are available to discuss skilled trades opportunities, needs and issues related to their sectors.