

2023 Skills Canada Automotive Technology Summit – Speaker Spotlight



Scott Wideman is the Collision Program Manager for Volkswagen Group Canada. With more than 30 years of experience in the automotive sector, Scott has spent 19 years in various dealer aftersales roles for nine different automotive brands. In his current role, Scott is responsible for the collision program development and implementation for Volkswagen and Audi and is focused on working with all stakeholders to improve the repair process with consumer safety the top priority. A key area of focus for Scott has been the support of the collision repair sector of Skills Canada by dedicating time to educate students on body technology advancements and to attract youth to pursue a career in the collision repair trade. He is an avid English football (soccer) fan and resides in Pickering with his wife Joanna and two sons.



Sarah Giesbrecht, Director of Human Resources of Birchwood, guides, coaches and mentors her staff and managers, answering their questions, building their confidence, helping them overcome obstacles, and form better working relationships with one another. She chose a career in HR, because she loves developing and training talent. She aims to not only change people's lives for the better at work, but help companies evolve with the best people-management policies and processes. To meet the company's strategies and goals and employee needs. Sarah holds degrees in Geography and Business Administration from the University of Winnipeg and is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR). She was a nominee for the Rising Star Award at the 2016 CPHR HR Excellence Awards and a nominee for the 2018 Future Leaders of Manitoba Awards.



Waldemar Koos is the Director, Physical Damage Management (PDM) at Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI). The PDM team ensures Manitobans receive quality estimating and vehicle repair services through various programs offered in partnership with industry. Waldemar is also the chair of MPI's Technical & Parts Consultation Committee that provides the Manitoba auto body repair industry the opportunity to raise ideas, discuss emerging repair industry trends and share concerns and potential solutions directly with representatives of MPI. Prior to his current role, Waldemar lead MPI's Research & Estimating department which focuses on understanding the impacts of changing vehicle technology on Manitoba's repair industry as well as optimizing the use of estimating software to streamline the repair process and help ensure proper repairs to manufacturer's standards. Waldemar earned an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Manitoba.



Venessa Di Vito is the owner and founder of Auto+ Performance. For almost 20 years Venessa has been helping automotive businesses across North America with value added business best practices, including helping businesses in sales and marketing, and will continue to find ways to support and grow this ever evolving, yet incredibly exciting, industry. Her business, Auto+ Performance is a full-service automotive solutions company specializing in generating growth in sales, traffic, and customer retention for a Collision Repair facility within their local communities. The company offers products, services, and solutions around Websites, Social Media Marketing, SEO, Email Marketing, Advertising, Estimating, Jobs & HR Services, Scheduling, Production, Bookkeeping, and much more.



John Marlowe is the Industry Engagement Officer for Level5drive Incorporated. As a 30+ year veteran in the collision repair industry, he has a deep understanding of new technologies, and repair processes and methodologies that the collision repair industry needs to be informed of. John is also a technical advisor for Certified Collision Care, Skills Canada volunteer to promote careers in collision repair to young people, among other industry roles.