



Skills/Compétences Canada Spokespeople and Special Guests

Please contact Michèle Rogerson at micheler@skillscanada.com or 613-266-4771, to arrange for an interview.

Select spokespeople are available to take part in French interviews.



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.



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 28 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.



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

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INSTAGRAM: @HOLMESSHERRY



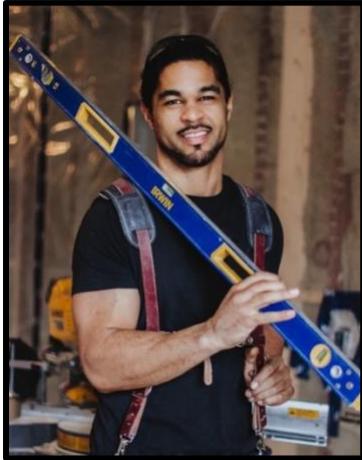
Kate Campbell
HGTV Star and Founder of Kate's Contracting Inc.

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 fifteen 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 crews in HGTV's hit shows "Decked Out" and "Disaster Decks" and "Deck Wars" where she helps build some of the most interesting and unique decks out there. Kate's also one of the hosts of HGTV's "Custom Built" which combines Kate's skills from her early renovating days and her creative, fun attitude from building on Decked Out. To top it all off, most recently Kate was asked to participate in HGTV Canada's hit show "Home to Win" and "Family Home Overhaul" (which premiered Fall 2020) as one of the hosts and celebrity contractors.

When she's not working with the show, Kate also runs her own renovation company – Kate's Contracting Inc. She specializes in real estate investment and rehabbing run-down properties, specializing in century homes with lots of character. Kate is currently working on renovating her 160-year-old Stone Farmhouse while documenting the process for YouTube and her social media channels. She also represents several companies such as Dewalt, Trex, and American Standard. 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. Kate's mission is to use her story and experience to help as many women get into the trades as possible.



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 its 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.



Mandy Rennehan
Blue Collar CEO™ & Founder of Freshco.ca

Sought-after speaker, multiple award-winning entrepreneur, and trade industry ambassador, Mandy Rennehan is *redefining the collar, blue™*, and inspiring youth to join the dynamic skilled trades industry. Mandy is the *Blue-Collar CEO™ & Founder* of Freshco.ca (not the grocery store!), Canada's #1 retail reconstruction and maintenance provider, operating across Canada and the eastern United States serving clients like Anthropologie, Apple, Banana Republic, Home Depot, Lululemon, Nike, Restoration Hardware, Sephora, The Gap, Tiffany & Co., plus many more. She is also the co-founder of RennDuPrat, a master design and custom fabrication company.

Mandy is humbled by the many awards she's received including, [the RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Momentum Award](#), [WXN's Top 100 Most Powerful Women](#), [the LGBT Business of the Year Award](#), [Profit Magazine's W100](#), and [Atlantic Business Magazine's Top 50 CEOs](#). As one of Canada's top entrepreneurs, she's also been featured in the [Canada 150 Women book](#), The Globe and Mail, Financial Post, Chatelaine, CTV, BNN and many more.

Her uncensored honesty is matched by her quick wit, East Coast humour, and big heart. It's impossible to remain unchanged after coming into contact with this authentic, self-made powerhouse.

Twitter: @MandyRennehan
Instagram: @Freshco_Inc
www.Freshco.ca



Skills Canada: National and International Competition Alumni

Many former Skills Canada National Competition and WorldSkills Competition alumni will be participating at SCVNC 2021 and available to speak about their competition experience and how it has helped them in their careers.

National Technical Committee Members (Competition Experts)

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

Industry Partners, Sponsors and Suppliers

Industry representatives working with Skills/Compétences Canada to make SCVNC possible are available to discuss skilled trade and technology opportunities, needs and issues related to their sectors.