

SKILLS/COMPÉTENCES CANADA SPOKESPEOPLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Please visit the Media **Centre Level 1, Room 105**, at the Vancouver Convention Centre, 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.



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 over 30 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.





Kate Campbell

Celebrity TV Contractor / Founder Kate's Contracting Inc.

Kate Campbell entered the skilled trades in 2005. After realizing that the university path wasn't for her, Kate applied to a "Women in Skilled Trades" (WIST) course and 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 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 several homes and helped with countless renovations.

Kate Campbell has also been featured as one of the crew in HGTV's hit shows "Decked Out" and "Disaster Decks" and "Deck Wars". Kate is also one of the hosts of HGTV's "Custom Built" which combines her 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" as one of the hosts and celebrity contractors.

Kate also runs her own company, Kate's Contracting Inc. She specializes in real estate investment and rehabbing run-down properties, concentrating mainly on century homes with lots of character.

Kate is extremely passionate about speaking to young women who are considering entering the trades. Kate's mission is to use her story and experience to help as many women as possible feel empowered to get into the trades or feel confident in the world of real estate investment.





Sebastian Clovis

*Former Canadian Football League player
and host of HGTV's GutJob.*

Sebastian joined HGTV Canada in 2014 to help overwhelmed homeowners achieve their reno goals as host of Tackle My Reno. He then became the co-host of [Save My Reno](#) and a member of the all-star cast of Home To Win and Family Home Overhaul. Sebastian takes on a new challenge as host, creator, and Executive Producer of [Gut Job](#).

A former defensive back, Sebastian played for the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the B.C. Lions in the CFL, who he won the Grey Cup with in 2006. Since retiring from football in 2009, Sebastian has taken the discipline he learned as a professional athlete and applied it to being a self-employed contractor.





The Honourable Carla Qualtrough

*Minister of Employment,
Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion*

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Delta in 2015. She has served as Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion since 2019. Minister Qualtrough has previously served as Minister of Accessibility, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, and Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

A successful lawyer, dedicated volunteer, and Paralympic swimmer, Minister Qualtrough is a strong advocate for Delta, with a commitment to addressing inequality and championing diversity.

Committed to equity and inclusion, Minister Qualtrough has practised human rights law at the federal and provincial levels. She chaired the Minister's Council on Employment and Accessibility in British Columbia and was an adjudicator with the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal. Minister Qualtrough has been visually impaired since birth.

Passionate about the power of sport and physical activity to change lives, Minister Qualtrough has volunteered locally, nationally, and internationally, including with the International Paralympic Committee and for the Toronto 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games. She has been President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee and Chair of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada. She was also on the Board of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and was Vice-Chair of the Delta Gymnastics Society.

As an athlete, Minister Qualtrough won three Paralympic and four World Championship medals.

Minister Qualtrough has degrees in political science from the University of Ottawa and in law from the University of Victoria. Among many awards for her work, she has been named one of Canada's Most Influential Women in Sport numerous times and received a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.





The Honourable Anne Kang

Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training

Anne Kang was elected as the MLA for Burnaby-Deer Lake in 2017 and re-elected in 2020. Anne serves as Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Training and previously served as Minister of Citizens' Services as well as the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors.

She immigrated to British Columbia as a child and has lived in Burnaby for over 30 years. She has been an active community volunteer since the age of 8.

Anne was a three-term Burnaby City Councillor before becoming an MLA and has been a leader in many organizations that build community and support those who are vulnerable. Anne's commitment to community was recognized when she was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 for her contribution to Canada.

Anne has a passion for life-long learning. She completed her post-secondary education at UBC, receiving a Bachelor of Music, a Bachelor of Education – Elementary, a Diploma in Special Education – Learning Disability, and a master's degree in special education – Gifted and Creative Learner, and completed two levels of Montessori Certification. Before being elected MLA of Burnaby-Deer Lake, Anne was a music teacher in the Burnaby school system.

Anne lives and works in Burnaby and has two young children, who attend school in Burnaby.





Andrew Mercier,
Parliamentary Secretary for Skills Training

Andrew Mercier was elected MLA for Langley in the 2020 general election. He is a labour lawyer and an active member of the Langley community.

Andrew attended the University of the Fraser Valley and earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New Brunswick. He holds a Juris Doctor from Dalhousie University.

Before his election to the Legislature, Andrew worked as legal counsel for Teamsters Local Union 213. He served as the BC Building Trades Council's executive director, where he advocated for improved safety standards for construction sites.

Andrew has served his community on the University of the Fraser Valley Board of Governors and the City of Langley's Crime Prevention Task Group.

Andrew was raised in Langley, where he lives with his wife and young daughter.





Dr. Avis Glaze

International Education Adviser

From classroom teacher to Superintendent of Schools and Ontario Education Commissioner, Dr. Avis Glaze has worked at all levels of the K-12 education system. She was one of five commissioners on Ontario's landmark Royal Commission on Learning and served as the province's first Chief Student Achievement Officer

and Founding CEO of the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat where she played a pivotal role in working with educators to improve student achievement. Her company, Edu-quest International Inc. currently offers a wide range of services to school districts across the world. She was the first educator to receive the Order of Ontario for her work.

Avis is known for her commitment to closing achievement gaps to help students of all backgrounds achieve their full potential. Her extensive experience acquired over 40 years and her passionate focus on career development, human rights, and organizational development, have been recognized across the globe. Scotland awarded her the Robert Owen Award, the first of its kind, for her contributions to international education.

Dr. Glaze is a strong consensus builder, capacity builder and a lifelong learner. She is a Certified Trainer in Visible Learning, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Character Development, and the Assessment of Emotional Intelligence. She has co-authored several books including her latest, *Reaching the Heart of Leadership*, which is used in many leadership development programs. Dr. Avis Glaze is one of Scotland's International Education Advisers, was Adviser to New Zealand, and has worked with educators and policy makers in 50 jurisdictions across the world.

Visit her website at: www.avisglaze.ca





Britnee Mishak

Chair, Skills Canada National Alumni Committee

Britnee knew she wanted to work in a creative job since a young age. She looked at options and Graphic Communications at Saskatchewan Polytechnic popped up! It is a two-year diploma, in which you learn about graphic design and bindery.

She currently has a full-time job in bindery which is very hands on. Britnee enjoys seeing a completed job in her hands versus digitally on a screen like a designer would. In the future, she may look at adding marketing skills to her existing skill set.

Britnee became involved with Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) in 2015 when she competed at a Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition in Graphic Design and won a silver medal! From there, she became part of the Skills for Success Youth Forum as a participant and came back the following year as a Leader. The next year, she joined SCC's Canada 150 as an alumni member. She has since become the President of Skills Canada Saskatchewan's Alumni Committee and the Chair of the National Alumni Committee (NAC).

Her advice to youth when they are choosing their career path is to do a lot of research. Having a few options of what you may want to do is great, but make sure you find out what the job entails daily. This can help you narrow down your schooling costs and get you working in your dream job as quickly as possible!



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 2022 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 45 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.

