

# National Skilled Trade & Technology Week

## Semaine nationale des métiers spécialisés et des technologies

October 30 to November 5 / Du 30 octobre au 5 novembre



### Skills/Compétences Canada Spokespeople and Special Guests

Please contact Michèle Rogerson at [micheler@skillscanada.com](mailto:micheler@skillscanada.com) or 343-883-7545 ext. 509, to arrange for an interview.



**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 five years. He held the portfolios for Education, Energy, Mines and 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 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.

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**Jamie McMillan**  
*Founder of KickAss Careers*

Jamie became an ironworker in 2002 when women only represented 2% of the workforce across Canada and the United States. She thoroughly understands the struggles and challenges of working a male dominated workforce and is on mission to break down the negative misconceptions and stereotypes.

Through KickAss Careers Jamie's travels approximately 30 weeks a year providing engaging keynote presentations and workshops to more than 50,000 students, parents, educators, and employers each year across North America. Her efforts have gained international notoriety for opening doors and minds to the possibilities of well-paid careers in skilled trades and technology sectors.

Over the years Jamie has received the Top 20 Under 40 Award for making an impact in the metal trades, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program Champion Award and District School Board of Niagara Technology Education Partnership Award for her commitment to youth in schools across the province of Ontario.

In 2018 she received the Hamilton YWCA Women of Distinction Award for being a trailblazer excelling in her field promoting leadership and equal advancement opportunities. In 2019 Jamie was named a co-chair on a National Skilled Trades Advisory Committee to create a campaign to promote careers in skilled trades as first choice pathways to youth for the Canadian Federal Government by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Jamie continues to speak professionally across North America, works on various construction projects whenever possible and enjoys helping out at a homeless shelter for women. Most recently, Jamie joined the Helmets to Hardhats Canada team as an Outreach Specialist providing career opportunities in the Building Trades for serving, transitioning and former members of the military.

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**Emma Lewis**  
SCC Alumni

Emma got involved with skills competitions through her high school. She competed in Public Speaking from 2017-2019 at the provincial competition and went to the Skills Canada National Competition in 2017 and 2019.

She is currently working towards a degree in Jazz Performance at the University of Manitoba. Competing in public speaking was instrumental in her growth as a musician and performer as she uses this skill every day. She chose this career because she loves to connect with others and being in front of an audience allows her to tell a story and to have a larger impact by connecting with a big group all at once.

She continues to be involved with Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) as an alumni because SCC has had a huge impact on her life. Skills helped grow her self-confidence and make life-long friends. She wants to provide that experience to as many kids as possible.

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### Industry Partners, Sponsors and Suppliers

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