

NATIONAL SKILLED TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK



SKILLS/COMPÉTENCES CANADA SPOKESPEOPLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Please contact Michèle Rogerson, at micheler@skillscanada.com or 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 five 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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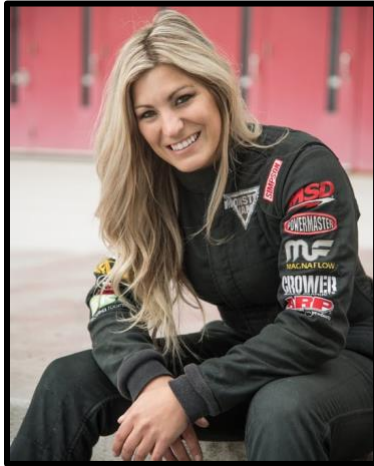
Nick Katalifos,
Director General, English Montreal School Board

Nick Katalifos has worked for the EMSB and the former Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal since 1991. For the past three years he has served as the Principal of the Wagar Adult Education Centre in Côte Saint-Luc. Prior to that he was the Principal of three elementary schools – Roslyn in Westmount and General Vanier and Pierre de Coubertin in St. Léonard – and he was the Vice Principal of two elementary schools – Gardenview in St. Laurent and Westmount High. He began his career in the education system as a teacher.

Mr. Katalifos has been integrally involved with community groups and associations, particularly as they relate to special needs. Since 2010 he has been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Giant Steps School and Resource Center. The school was established to educate and provide assistance to students on the autism spectrum. In addition, the school runs a resource center for parents, professionals, and autistic adults. His term as Chairman ends in June.

Mr. Katalifos obtained his BA and MA in History from Concordia University, his Diploma in Education from McGill University, and his Workplace Mental Health Certificate more recently from Queens University.

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Cynthia Gauthier
Monster Jam Truck Driver

Cynthia Gauthier started at a young age working on a farm close to home. Her dad, who was a mechanic, would frequently bring her to different dirt tracks to watch the races. Cynthia spent hours with him in the garage learning about all things mechanical. This gave Gauthier a passion for everything with an engine. Cynthia worked hard and saved up enough money to buy her first dirt bike at the age of 18. Before long she was racing on a regular basis. She graduated from college with a degree in accounting but her passion for racing was undeniable!

After three years of racing in the amateur class, she was able to move up to race in the Pro Women's Canadian National Series. Afterwards she started racing short course Buggies. She joined the racing team that went to the Monster Jam World FinalsSM in 2013 and 2014. After witnessing the event, she was hooked on Monster Jam trucks. In 2015, she got to do the Maple leaf tour with Monster Jam. In 2016, she started competing in the new Triple Threat Series Tour. In 2019, she competed in the Stadium championship and got three freestyles and one overall victory. She also won the first World finals victory in the high jump competition. During the Monster Jam World Finals in Las Vegas, she received the award for the Monster Jam Arena Donut of the year in 2016, and Monster Jam Rising Star in 2018. In 2017 Cynthia started a new venture hosting a French TV show called Zone VL. The show highlights all types of different power sports in which the hosts get to test drive different machines in the power sports realm.

Cynthia wants to be a good role model for all the little girls who look up to her, and show them that with hard work and dedication, you can reach your goals as long as you never give up on your dreams.

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Tommaso Maffei

Skills/Compétences Canada Alumni and Bronze Medalist in Cabinetmaking at the 2023 Skills Canada National Competition, in Winnipeg

Tommaso Maffei is a student at Rosemount Technology Center studying in furniture finishing. Previously he attended Loyola High School and graduated in 2019. He then followed the “normal” route going to Cegep at Champlain college St. Lambert. He studied in a three-year program called Entrepreneurship and small business management. After two and a half years he decided to pursue a trade and attended the Cabinetmaking program at RTC. He studied in the 18-month program and a little more than half the program he was offered a position at F-List, which is a cabinetmaking shop which specializes in aerospace. He started working while going to school. Getting close to the end of the program Tommaso was given the opportunity to compete in an in-house cabinetmaking competition with the chance to go to the Olympiades québécoises des métiers et des technologies where he won a bronze medal. Because of the age requirement he was given an opportunity to compete at the 2023 Skills Canada National Competition, in Winnipeg. With little time to practice due to having to work, go to school and train for the upcoming competition he just tried his best. The time came and at the end of the two-day competition he won a bronze medal. He continues to go to school at RTC in the Finishing program. He is now also registered to take on carpentry, in the coming months all while continuing to work.

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Industry Partners, Sponsors and Suppliers

Industry representatives working with Skills/Compétences Canada to make NSTTW possible will be on hand to discuss skilled trade opportunities, needs and issues related to their sectors.