



SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION OLYMPIADES CANADIENNES DES MÉTIERS ET DES TECHNOLOGIES

**MAY 29 & 30
LES 29 ET 30 MAI
REGINA,
SASKATCHEWAN**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEDIA

MEDIA CONTACT: Michèle Rogerson, T. 613-266-4771, micheler@skillscanada.com

Media Centre Services

- Located at the REAL District, in the Vterra International Trade Centre on Level 1.
- Access through the main entrance.
- Internet available for media at the Media Centre.

Hours of Operation

MAY 28: 10 am to 3 pm

MAY 29 AND 30: 9 am to 5 pm

MAY 31: 9 am to 10 am

Media Accreditation and Registration

- All media attending SCNC need to be accredited and ensure that their media badge is always visible.
- Media includes reporters, journalists, photographers, and film crews.

Please Note: To obtain a media accreditation badge when the media center is closed, please go to the registration desk, which is located on Level 1, by the main entrance.

Audio/Video Recording and Photography

All cameras must be clearly identified with media affiliation. Tape recorders may be used only for pre-approved spokesperson or competitor interviews. Photography is not permitted in the Skill Area but is permitted immediately outside of these areas. Please note that all competitors and volunteers have signed waivers to be photographed and filmed.



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Interviews

Interview requests may be submitted in advance to the Skills/Compétences Canada office and on-site through **Michèle Rogerson** at micheler@skillscanada.com or 613-266-4771. Interview requests can also be submitted onsite to the Media Centre and must be organized and approved prior to the interview.

Obtaining Timely SCNC 2025 Pictures, B-Roll and Videos from SCNC

- Pictures will be uploaded at the end of each day on **Flickr**. These will be saved in the SCNC 2025 Album. If you require a specific photo that you cannot find, please contact **Bradley Thomas** at bradleyt@skillscanada.com or 613-816-2872 and he will assist you.
- Videos of the competition can be viewed on **YouTube**. For B-Roll footage or copies of promotional videos, please contact **Bradley Thomas**.
- The official hashtag for SCNC is **#SCNC2025**
- Our Facebook handle is **@SkillsCanada**
- Our X handle is **@Skills_Canada**
- Our Instagram handle is **@skillscompetencescanada**
- Find us on LinkedIn: **Skills/Compétences Canada**
- Check us out on TikTok: **@skillscompetencescanada**

Media Code of Conduct

Skills/Compétences Canada openly encourages and promotes all aspects of the Skills Canada National Competition to media. However, to ensure competitors are respected during competition time, a code of conduct applies. In other words, no photography or filming of a competitor should take place that may interfere with or hinder the performance of the competitor in the competition.



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Livestream

Catch the livestream of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies on **May 28 at 4 pm CST**, and on **May 31 at 11 am CST**, on SCC's [YouTube](#) channel. You can also check out the livestream of the competition action, watch fascinating interviews, and much more, during the competition days on **May 29 and 30, from 9 am to 4 pm CST**, on this channel.

In Addition

- Media may take photos and film from outside the Skill Areas during the competition.
- Media can enter a Skill Area only during breaks in the competition **with the permission of the Chair of the National Technical Committee (NTC) for that Skill Area**. Specific 'shots' or 'angles' are to be organized in discussion with the Chair or NTC media member, and the competitor. Steel toe shoes/boots are required to enter the contest area. Steel caps are available for media at the Media Centre located beside the main entrance.
- The NTC media member for each Skill Area will be identified with a fluorescent wristband.
- No media can communicate with a competitor without the permission of the NTC Chair or the NTC media member.
- No media is to enter the 'personal space' (i.e. do 'close-ups') of a competitor without the permission of the NTC Chair or NTC media member.



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SKILLS/COMPÉTENCES CANADA SPOKESPEOPLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Please visit the Media Centre, on Level 1 of the Viterro International Trade Centre, beside the main entrance, at the REAL District, 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

As a former Minister of Education (Yukon, 2006-2011), Dr. Patrick Rouble realizes the importance of building a community with people who have the diverse skills and abilities that we need to succeed. He is a Department Head with Yukon University and has a broad background in education, research, business management and government. Upon his retirement from public office, Patrick continued his passion for lifelong learning and completed a Doctorate in Education at the University of Calgary. He now plans on putting some of his skills, and his new Cordless 30° Framing Nailer, to good use rebuilding a cabin in Tagish, Yukon. Patrick has served on the Skills Canada National Board since 2016, and this year will be his 5th and final year as President of the Board. As he concludes his tenure, he would like to thank all involved in the skills movements – competitors, teachers, organizers, sponsors and those involved in the 13 Member Organizations across Canada – for their amazing contributions. All have played an important role in how we make the lives of young people and the whole country better.



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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 35 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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Krystal Nieckar

Executive Director, Skills Canada Saskatchewan

With 20+ years of experience working in non-profits, Krystal comes to Skills Canada Saskatchewan with a wealth of knowledge. Krystal is an advocate by nature. She enjoys building relationships, creating opportunities and fostering a sense of community. She has experience in housing, disability, and employment services; 2SLGBTQ+ advocacy; executive leadership; and, most recently, skilled trades and technologies. Born and raised in rural Saskatchewan, Krystal grew up in a small farming community. She now lives in Treaty 6 with her partner and daughter where they are renovating their century old home.



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Sherry Holmes

Contractor, TV Host and DIY Enthusiast

Sherry Holmes is a contractor, TV host, keynote speaker, brand ambassador, social media influencer, and ambassador for women in the skilled trades. Her dad is celebrity contractor, Mike Holmes, so construction is in her blood. She started behind the scenes on Mike's breakout series, *Holmes on Homes®* and became a permanent crew member when she joined her dad and brother on *Holmes in New Orleans*. Sherry continues to shine as co-host on *Holmes Family Effect* and *Holmes Family Rescue*. Production has also started on a brand-new series *Holmes on Homes: Building A Legacy*.

Now a working mom with two little girls, Sherry continues to lend her support and social media presence to youth and young women wanting to get into the trades with **Skills/Compétences Canada**, **Skills USA** and **WorldSkills** and mentorship programs like **Conestoga College's Jill of All Trades** and **WIST** (Women in Skilled Trades). Sherry advocates for change, equality and diversity in the face of Canada's skilled trades workforce, demonstrating that women can bring an entirely new dimension to the construction industry that makes it fundamentally stronger from the ground up.



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Arianna Dyck

*Miss Rodeo Queen Agribition Alumni 2023 – 2024 and
Welding Apprentice*

Ari was born in Banff, Alberta, and grew up in Canmore before moving to White City, Saskatchewan, at the age of eight, where she still resides today. From a young age, she had a deep love for horses. After relocating to Saskatchewan, she began volunteering at Dallas Valley Ranch Camp, where she developed her horsemanship skills, spent time with kids, and taught them how to ride. This experience fueled her passion for both horses and mentorship. In 2023, she competed for the prestigious title of Miss Rodeo Queen Agribition and was crowned Miss Rodeo Queen Agribition 2023-2024!

During high school, Ari realized that the traditional university or college path wasn't for her. Instead, she pursued a career in the skilled trades as a welder. She is currently a Level 1 welding apprentice, working toward her Level 2 certification. Entering the trades has opened up countless opportunities, allowing her to learn new techniques, problem-solve from different perspectives, and gain insight into how production businesses operate. Welding, which began as a ninth-grade elective, quickly grew into a lifelong passion that continues to shape her future.



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Jacob Waldbillig

Chair, Skills Canada National Alumni Committee

Jacob joined the National Alumni Committee (NAC) to give back to future competitors, and to further spread the word about the opportunities that exist in the skilled trades and technologies. His favourite part about being part of NAC is connecting with so many like-minded people from across Canada.

His Skill Area is Architectural Technology and Design. He competed at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2019, in Halifax and won the silver medal in his category. SCNC has enabled him to build confidence in himself and his skill set. It has also gave him the opportunity to test his knowledge and time management skills in a competitive environment. To qualify for SCNC 2019, in Halifax, he had to compete at the skills provincial competition, in Alberta. He felt a lot of pressure to push himself to do better than the previous year where he won the silver medal. His hard work paid off; he won the gold medal at the provincial skills competition 2019 and qualified to compete at SCNC 2019, in Halifax. Without a doubt, his proudest moment so far has been getting on the podium at SCNC.



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Skills Canada: National and International Competition Alumni

Many Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) and WorldSkills Competition alumni will be in attendance to make the Skills Canada National Competition 2025, in Regina. 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 competition projects are designed and judged by the National Technical Committee (NTC) made up of experts from education and industry across the country. These experts are on hand to discuss specifics about Skill 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.



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SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION 2025, IN REGINA

MAY 28 – MAY 31, at the REAL District, in Regina, SK

WHAT IS IT?

The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) is the only national, multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices in the country. During SCNC, Canada's best in skilled trades and technologies compete to become national champions in their respective discipline.

WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

- Provide competitors and student visitors with hands-on experience.
- Get Canada's youth to consider skilled trade and technology careers as a viable, rewarding option.
- Engage with industry leaders, educators, and political decision makers.
- Strengthen Canada's position as a global economic leader.
- Promote awareness of the nine plus one Skills for Success through Try-A-Trade[®] and Technology activities hosted by educators and industry experts. This year's theme is *Writing*.
- Highlight innovation and the importance of digital literacy and technology driven skills that are crucial to keep pace with the quickly changing job market.
- Encourage equity-denied groups and diverse populations to get involved in the skilled trade and technology sectors.



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Free event: open to the public on Competition days (May 29 and 30).
- Over 40 competitions, representing six sectors: Construction, Employment, Information Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering, Services and Transportation.
- More than 500 competitors.
- Over 50 Try-A-Trade[®] and Technology activities for visiting youth.
- Thousands of local student visitors.
- Professionally produced Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- Skills for Success activities highlighting this year's theme, *Writing*.
- Includes 50+ industry and education exhibitors providing information and answers to visiting students and the public.
- Skills Showcase featuring First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Skills.
- Empowering Women in Trades initiative bringing together industry partners to show young women the incredible careers that are available in the skilled trades.
- Livestream of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and the competition, including fascinating interviews, and much more.
- Exclusive networking events and conferences.
- Industry celebrity participation.

#SCNC2025

A unique opportunity to explore careers in skilled trades and technologies!



WORLD SKILLS TEAM CANADA 2026 COMPETITOR PATHWAY

- 1 IN-SCHOOL COMPETITIONS**

It begins with in-school competitions, supported by teacher encouragement.
- 2 REGIONAL COMPETITIONS**

Progress to regional competitions.
- 3 PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL COMPETITIONS**

Approximately 5,000 youth advance to the provincial/territorial competitions.
- 4 SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION 2025**

Over 500 students compete at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC). The highest-ranking age eligible participant or team in identified Skill Areas at SCNC are selected to participate in the next stage of WorldSkills Team Canada.
- 5 WORLD SKILLS TEAM CANADA TRAINING MAY 2025-AUGUST 2026**

The competitor or team in each identified Skill Area will participate in various training activities and a mental preparation program.
- 6 WORLD SKILLS TEAM CANADA COMPETE AT WORLD SKILLS SHANGHAI 2026 IN SEPTEMBER**

WorldSkills Team Canada members represent Canada at the WorldSkills Competition.



ABOUT THE 48th WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION, IN SHANGHAI, CHINA

September 22 to 27, 2026, at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC) in Shanghai

WHAT IS IT?

The WorldSkills Competition is the largest and most influential skills competition in the world. It represents the best of international excellence in skilled trades and technologies. Every two years, young competitors from around the globe gather at the WorldSkills Competition, with the goal of earning the title of world champion in their Skill Area. These competitors represent the best of their peers and have earned a spot on their country's team through dedication and hard work. At the WorldSkills Competition, competitors will participate in simulated real work challenges, and will be judged against international quality standards.

WHY IS IT HAPPENING?

The WorldSkills Competition inspires youth to discover the many careers that are available in the skilled trade and technology sectors. With an increasing demand for skilled workers, the trade and technology sectors represent a lucrative and exciting career path for youth around the world. Throughout the Competition, stakeholders from industry, government, and education are provided with the opportunity to exchange information and best practices regarding industry and professional education at networking events and thought-provoking conferences.

ABOUT WORLDSKILLS SHANGHAI 2026

Approximately 1,500 competitors from over 70 Member countries and regions compete in front of an incredible 250,000 visitors, in 62 Skill Areas representing these six sectors: Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Construction and Building Technology, Transportation and Logistics, Creative Arts and Fashion and Social and Personal Services.

The event slogan for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is:
Master Skills, Change Your Future. #WSTC2026

For more information, visit: worldskills2026.com



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About Skills/ Compétences Canada

WHO WE ARE

Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) was founded in 1989 as a national, not-for-profit organization with Skills Canada Member Organizations in each of the provinces/territories that work with employers, educators, labour groups and governments to promote skilled trade and technology careers to Canadian youth. Based in Ottawa, Ontario, SCC is the Canadian Member Organization of WorldSkills. Its unique position among private and public sector partners enables us to work toward securing Canada's future skilled labour needs while helping young people discover rewarding careers.

WHAT WE DO

SCC offers experiential learning opportunities including skilled trade and technology competitions for hundreds of thousands of young Canadians through regional, provincial/territorial, national and international events, as well as skilled trades awareness programs such as the Skills Canada National Competition and National Skilled Trade and Technology Week. A lack of information regarding the opportunities in trades and technologies currently prohibits many young Canadians from considering a career in the skilled trades and technologies. SCC brings these occupations to the forefront to make them more visible for teachers, students, parents and the general public. Many programs highlight the 9+1 Skills for Success, which are crucial skills in careers today.

WHY WE ARE NEEDED

Over the next decade, employers in Canada will find it difficult to hire and retain skilled workers. According to RBC, over 700,000 skilled tradespeople are expected to retire by 2028. As our country is preparing for a post-pandemic economy, we want to help Canada's industries find well-trained, well-prepared young people to fill these positions. SCC wants youth to understand the many opportunities, benefits and rewards of skilled trade and technology careers. Improving the expertise and confidence of individuals pursuing technical careers will benefit us all.

