

SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto, Ontario

May 27 to 30
ENERCARE CENTRE
EVENT RECAP



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ENERGY



SKILLS
COMPETENCES
CANADA.COM
#SCNC2026



Ontario



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Canada 



"The United Association of Canada was proud to support the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026 and witness the exceptional talent, dedication, and professionalism of Competitors from across the country. As Canada continues to invest in strengthening its skilled trades workforce, events like SCNC play a vital role in inspiring the next generation of apprentices and skilled professionals. Our longstanding commitment to apprenticeship and workforce development aligns with SCC's mission to showcase opportunities in the trades and help build the highly skilled workforce Canada needs for the future."

Mike Gordon, Director of Canadian Training,
UA Canada



"Air Canada was proud to participate in the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) and engage with industry partners, educators, and future skilled trade professionals from across Canada. Events like SCNC play a vital role in inspiring the next generation of talent and strengthening the skilled workforce that supports our industry. As Canada's largest airline, we recognize the importance of investing in technical excellence, innovation, and career development. We thank Skills/Compétences Canada for bringing together organizations committed to advancing skilled trades and helping build a strong and sustainable future for aviation and beyond."

Michael Perucho, Director, ACM Occupational
Health Safety, Environment & Training
Programs at Air Canada



"The Skills Canada National Competition 2026 was an inspiring opportunity to connect with the next generation of skilled trade professionals. As the Title Sponsor, Home Hardware was proud to support a competition that showcased the hard work, dedication and talent of students from across the country. Throughout the week, we saw firsthand how these future tradespeople are developing the skills that help create, build, innovate, and strengthen communities. As a proudly Canadian company, we recognize the important role skilled tradespeople play from coast to coast, and we remain committed to supporting young Canadians as they explore rewarding careers and seize the opportunities ahead in the growing skilled trades sector."

Clare Little, Public Relations,
Assistant Manager, Home Hardware Stores Limited



THE POWER OF NUMBERS: OUR IMPACT REVEALED

50+

TRY-A-TRADE®
AND TECHNOLOGY
ACTIVITIES

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT
OF SCNC TORONTO 2026
ON THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO WAS

\$12 M

\$5 M

WORTH OF IN-KIND
CONTRIBUTIONS
FOR MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT
USED FOR THE 45 SKILLED TRADE
AND TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIONS

THERE WERE

100

PARTNER AND EXHIBITOR
BOOTHS ONSITE

OVER

175

SPONSORS AND IN-KIND SUPPLIERS
CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE EVENT

OVER

7,500

VISITORS AT SCNC
TORONTO 2026

OVER

550

COMPETITORS IN

45

SKILLED TRADE
AND TECHNOLOGY
COMPETITIONS

THE EVENT WAS HELD
ON MORE THAN

300,000

SQUARE FEET OF
SPACE AT THE
ENERCARE CENTRE

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS

Mission

To advance the engagement of youth and their communities in skilled trade and technology careers using a pan-Canadian approach.

Vision

Canada leads the world in skill development.

Values

Safety – We integrate safety into everything we do.

Accountability – We apply the highest standards of integrity, transparency and fairness.

Inclusivity – We embrace diversity and equitable opportunities for all.

Excellence – We do our best with passion and commitment.

Collaboration – We work together to achieve shared goals.

Environmental Sustainability – We demonstrate through our actions our commitment to a greener planet.

Who we are

Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) is a national, not for profit organization with Member Organizations in each province/territory. We work with employers, educators, labour groups and governments to engage youth and their communities to discover skilled trade and technology careers.

What we do

Each year, Skills/Compétences Canada and its Member Organizations offer a variety of programs and activities across Canada that engages over 350,000 youth. The main events are skilled trade and technology competitions, beginning at the regional level, followed by provincial/territorial, national, and lastly the international level. All of these programs highlight the importance of the nine Skills for Success, which are crucial in today's careers.

Why we are needed

SCC wants youth to be aware of the many opportunities, benefits and rewards of skilled trade and technology careers. We also want our country to have a strong skilled workforce so that Canada will continue to prosper and remain at the forefront of the global economy.



CREATING POSSIBILITIES THROUGH THE SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION

- 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 the national champion in their respective discipline.
- SCNC 2026 was held at the Enercare Center, in Toronto, on May 28 and 29. This included more than 550 Competitors from all regions of Canada who participated in 45 skilled trade and technology competitions. The complete list of medalists is available at: https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/SCNC26-Results_FINAL_web.pdf under the results tab.
- SCNC Toronto 2026 was attended by thousands of visiting students from the province of Ontario along with stakeholders representing industry, labour, government, education and not-for-profit organizations. Visitors had the opportunity to participate in over 50 Try-A-Trade and Technology activities, which provided hands-on experience, and showed them what skilled trade and technology careers are all about.
- Through these competitions and Try-A-Trade and Technology activities, Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) engages Canadian youth, including equity denied groups such as 2SLGBTQIA+, women, newcomers, First Nations, Inuit and Métis, persons with disabilities, and visible minorities, and promotes skilled trade and technology careers as a rewarding option.
- At SCNC 2026, *Communication*, one of the nine Skills for Success, was highlighted throughout the event.
- The Skills Showcase: Featuring First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Skills, featured many artists who introduced attendees to the world of Indigenous skills.
- The Empowering Women in Trades initiative showed young women the incredible careers that are available in the skilled trades.
- SCC live streamed the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and the two days of competition.
- Through the Skills Canada National Competition, we are **#CreatingPossibilities** for youth, our future skilled workforce.



"The Skills Canada National Competition 2026 was incredibly inspiring. Seeing so many young people passionate about the skilled trades gives me a lot of hope for the future. The talent, creativity, and determination on display were amazing to witness. It's a reminder that trade careers are not just important — they're exciting, innovative, and full of opportunity. I loved meeting Competitors from across the country and hearing their stories. I also loved meeting the teachers, mentors and volunteers who made this incredible event happen. It's a village of passionate, talented and dedicated people who love what they do and understand the importance and value of believing in and supporting the next generation."

Sherry Holmes, Contractor and TV Host

"Each time I attend the Skills Canada National Competition, I leave more inspired than the last. From the Opening Ceremony to the competition floor, the energy, talent, and determination on display are incredible. Seeing the skill level and passion of these young Competitors gives me tremendous confidence in the future of the skilled trades. As the demand for skilled professionals continues to grow, it's clear the next generation is ready to lead. I'm proud to be a Skills ambassador and witness that future being built firsthand."

Michael Holmes, Custom Home Builder, Carpenter, President of Point Load Media and Host: TV, Podcast and YouTube

IGNITING PASSION FOR SKILLS: STUDENTS TRY TRADES AND TECHNOLOGIES FIRSTHAND

Student visitors had the opportunity to experience over 50 Try-A-Trade® and Technology activities at the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto.

Some popular ones included:

Air Canada: Students performed tasks on an aircraft using Virtual Reality Technology.

Canadian Woodworker: Visitors made a Kazoo using a series of equipment to build a small musical instrument.

George Brown Polytechnic: Participants tried an interactive plumbing bicycle race using authentic plumbing materials to creatively showcase this trade through fun, innovative, hands-on experiences that highlighted real world skills.

Home Hardware Stores Limited: Visitors put their painting skills to the test to help create a community mural with BeautiTone paint. This was followed by a skill development exercise with the Home Hardware team.

Komatsu: Student visitors got hands-on experience with a Komatsu excavator.

Lincoln Electric Canada: Participants learned about welding by trying virtual welding.

Schneider Electric Canada Inc.: Students checked out the Cobot robotic arm and wireless push buttons.

Sirco Machinery: Visitors checked out the CNC Machine and learned more what it can do with hands on demonstrations.

Skills Ontario Trades and Tech Truck: Attendees visited the Trades & Tech Truck which offered hands-on, interactive learning through mobile units featuring simulators and activities in trades like welding, electrical, and hairstyling. Guided by expert staff, participants explored tools, equipment, and career pathways in a safe environment. Launched in 2022, it inspires thousands across Ontario through school visits.

UA Canada: Students interacted with piping professionals and experienced hands-on trade related activities including simulated welding opportunities and pipe joining methods such as soldering copper.

Skills Showcase: Featuring First Nations, Inuit and Métis Skills: Cynthia McDermott lead an interactive activity which allowed students to create feather smudging wands using wood, leather, and crystals. They also crafted healing rattles and handcrafted jewelry, incorporating these locally sourced crystals into each piece.



SKILL AREAS AT SCNC 2026

CONSTRUCTION

- 10 Welding / Soudage
- 15 Plumbing / Plomberie
- 18 Electrical Installations / Installations électriques
- 19 Industrial Control / Contrôle industriel
- 20 Bricklaying / Briquetage
- 24 Cabinetmaking / Ébénisterie
- 26 Carpentry / Charpenterie
- 37 Landscape Gardening / Aménagement paysager
- 38 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning / Réfrigération et climatisation
- 43 Sheet Metal Work / Tôlerie
- 52 Architectural Technology & Design / Dessin et technologie architecturale
- 55 Sprinkler Fitter / Mécanicien/Mécanicienne en protection-incendie
- 81 Steamfitter/Pipefitter / Tuyauterie et montage de conduites de vapeur

MANUFACTURING / FABRICATION

- 01 Industrial Mechanics / Mécanique industrielle
- 03 Precision Machining / Techniques d'usinage
- 04 Mechatronics / Mécatronique
- 05 Mechanical Engineering CAD / Dessin industriel DAO
- 06 CNC Machining / Usinage CNC
- 23 Mobile Robotics / Robotique mobile

EMPLOYMENT / EMPLOYABILITÉ

- 83 Job Search / Recherche d'emploi
- 84 Job Skill Demonstration / Démonstration : aptitudes professionnelles
- 85 Public Speaking / Communication orale
- 92 Workplace Safety / Sécurité sur le lieu de travail

SERVICE / SERVICES

- 29 Hairstyling / Coiffure
- 30 Aesthetics / Esthétique
- 31 Fashion Technology / Mode et création
- 32 Baking / Pâtisserie
- 34 Cooking / Cuisine

TRANSPORTATION / TRANSPORT

- 13 Autobody Repair / Carrosserie
- 14 Aerospace Technology / Technologie aérospatiale
- 33 Automobile Technology / Technologie de l'automobile
- 36 Car Painting / Peinture automobile
- 49 Heavy Vehicle Technology / Technologie de véhicules lourds
- 53 Outdoor Power and Recreation Equipment / Mécanique de véhicules légers et d'équipement

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY / TECHNOLOGIE DE L'INFORMATION

- 08 IT Office Software Applications / TI – Applications de logiciels bureautiques
- 16 Electronics / Électronique
- 17 Web Technologies / Technologies du Web
- 39 IT – Network Systems Administration / TI – Administration de systèmes de réseaux
- 40 Graphic Design Technology / Infographie
- 50 3D Digital Game Art / Conception de jeux numériques 3D
- 54 Photography / Photographie
- 82 Video Production / Production vidéo
- 87 3D Character Computer Animation / Animation informatisée 3D
- 88 2D Character Computer Animation / Animation informatisée 2D
- D1 Cloud Computing / Services infonuagiques
- P1 Game Development / Développement de jeux vidéos



RELIVE THE EXCITEMENT OF SCNC THROUGH SCC'S LIVE STREAM!

Missed the action, or want to experience it all again? With more than **19,000 views**, the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) live stream has become a must-watch for anyone passionate about skilled trades and technologies!

Available on SCC's **YouTube channel**, the live stream captured the energy and excitement of SCNC Toronto 2026, from the inspiring Opening and Closing Ceremonies to the two action-packed days of competition. Viewers were given a front-row seat to Canada's largest skilled trades and technologies event. Hosted by dynamic bilingual broadcast personalities, the live stream featured coverage from 20 Skill Areas and included more than 50 on-site interviews with Competitors, alumni, industry partners, National Technical Committee members, the National Board of Directors, and industry celebrities Sherry Holmes and Mike Holmes Jr.

Designed to engage students across Canada, many of whom tuned in from their classrooms, the live stream showcased the wide range of opportunities available in skilled trades and technologies. It highlighted these careers as exciting, rewarding, and in-demand pathways for the next generation. Viewers had the opportunity to explore different Skill Areas, get an inside look at the impressive projects being completed by Competitors, and cheer them on throughout the competition. They also gained valuable insights into career opportunities, learning firsthand what it takes to succeed in these dynamic fields.

Watch the highlights and discover how SCNC is inspiring the future workforce and **#CreatingPossibilities** for youth across Canada.



MEMORABLE HIGHLIGHTS

DeWalt Tool Enhancement Program

For the 14th consecutive year, the DeWalt Tool Enhancement Program continues to leave a legacy in the communities hosting the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC). As part of this year’s initiative, several high schools and Habitat for Humanity received a donation of Stanley and DeWalt tools used throughout the competition. The contribution of 60K included a wide range of high-quality hand tools, power tools, and accessories, helping to support hands-on learning and skilled trades training. By equipping students and community partners with professional-grade tools, the program strengthens access to practical skills development while extending the impact of SCNC well beyond the competition floor. The DeWalt Tool Enhancement Program remains a powerful example of industry support for the next generation of skilled trade professionals, ensuring that its legacy continues to grow in each host province.

UA Canada Soaring Skills Program

This program brought together eight Indigenous students for a memorable and inspiring experience during the Skills Canada National Competition. This year’s group included two students from Nunavut and six students from the Kitigan Zibi community, in Québec. Throughout the event, students had the opportunity to explore career pathways in skilled trades and technologies. Their experience included attending the Welcome Reception and participating in a wide range of hands-on Try-A-Trade® and Technology activities designed to spark interest in future careers. Students also took part in a dynamic



treasure hunt alongside the National Alumni Committee and the Skills for Success Youth Assembly, as well as a creative workshop with the Soaring Circle artists. Beyond the competition floor, participants had the chance to experience some of Toronto’s most iconic attractions, including the CN Tower and Ripley’s Aquarium, and even enjoyed a Toronto Blue Jays game. The program offered a meaningful balance of career exploration, cultural connection, and unforgettable experiences—highlighting the importance of creating opportunities for the next generation.

Thank you to our partners for making this impactful experience possible.



SKILLS SHOWCASE FEATURING FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND MÉTIS SKILLS

In partnership with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis organizations from Toronto, the Skills Showcase welcomed thousands of visitors to explore Indigenous skills and traditions while discovering their connections to multiple Skill Areas at the Skills Canada National Competition. This interactive showcase highlighted the intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge, offering hands-on opportunities for visitors to experience craftsmanship rooted in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis cultures. Through hands-on activities, participants engaged with both tradition and creativity, gaining a deeper appreciation for the skills and teachings passed down through generations.

Interactive experiences included crafting feather smudging wands using wood, leather, and crystals sourced from Thunder Bay, as well as creating healing rattles and jewelry that incorporated locally sourced crystals. Visitors also took part in a collaborative finger-weaving activity, contributing to the creation of a sash that reflected cultural connection. Additional activities featured the construction of traditional wooden bows and arrows using natural materials and time-honored techniques, along with the creation of ribbon skirts that celebrate Indigenous culture through a blend of tradition and contemporary expression.

The Skills Showcase featured talented artists and facilitators including Cynthia McDermott, entrepreneur; David Borsellin, owner of Red Hill Archery; Billy Parrel, workshop facilitator with Michif Stitch; Jenny Ambrose, program coordinator with Soaring Circle; and fashion designer Keenan Tsanni.

Thank you to all Skills Showcase partners for their invaluable support.



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN TRADES

The Empowering Women in Trades (EWiT) hub was a vibrant space dedicated to showcasing the wide range of career opportunities available to young women in the skilled trades. Visitors had the opportunity to take part in interactive activities and connect directly with industry pros who are passionate about their work. Through these conversations, participants learned what inspired their career paths and discovered firsthand the rewards of working in the trades. Industry celebrities included Sherry Holmes, contractor, TV host, and DIY enthusiast, and Mike Holmes Jr., licensed contractor, woodworker, and TV host. Alongside other industry leaders, they were onsite to encourage and support young women as they explored fulfilling and diverse career pathways in the skilled trades.

The EWiT space featured a variety of engaging, hands-on experiences designed to build curiosity and confidence. Activities included assembling a miniaturized scaffold demonstration kit to test hand



tool skills and problem-solving abilities, trying “The GRID” virtual reality railway training simulation, and spinning the wheel for prizes. Participants also took part in a nail-driving challenge, a hands-on piping activity, and a fast-paced nut and bolt competition, each offering a fun and accessible introduction to these skills. The EWiT hub inspired students to explore and discover the skilled trades, reinforcing that there is a place for everyone in these dynamic industries.

Thank you to all EWiT partners for their continued support in empowering the next generation of tradeswomen.



NETWORKING, CELEBRATION, AND CONNECTION KICKS OFF SCNC 2026

On May 27, the Enercare Centre was buzzing with excitement as Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) proudly hosted both its Networking Reception and Welcome Reception, marking an energizing kickoff to the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC).

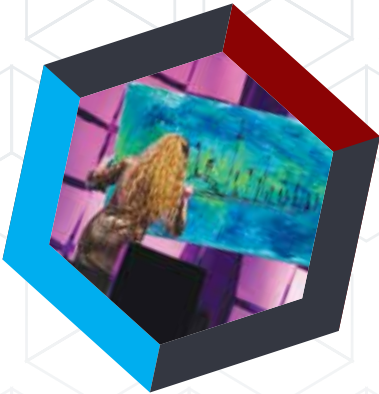
The **Networking Reception**, generously sponsored by UA Canada, brought together the Skills community, including educators, industry leaders, government representatives, association partners, and SCC alumni. The evening was a true celebration of collaboration and mentorship, as guests shared their Skills journeys, exchanged ideas, and formed meaningful connections. Inspiring remarks from SCC's President Ray Massey and Mike Gordon, Director of Canadian Training at UA Canada, set the tone for the days to come.



The celebration continued with the **Welcome Reception**, proudly hosted by DeWalt for the 10th consecutive year. This high-energy gathering offered Competitors from across the country an opportunity to come together and prepare for the intense two days of competition ahead. Filled with pride, excitement, and team spirit, it provided the perfect launch to the competition experience.

In addition, there was a dedicated **Hospitality Suite** at the Enercare Center, which was generously sponsored by UA Local 46 and offered delegates a welcoming space to relax, recharge, and enjoy refreshments and snacks throughout the event.

Together, these moments set the stage for an unforgettable SCNC 2026, in Toronto, where passion meets opportunity and the future of skilled trades and technologies continues to shine brightly.



THE OPENING CEREMONY SETS THE STAGE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE SCNC TORONTO 2026

The excitement was palpable at the Enercare Centre as over 1,900 people including Competitors, Experts, Trainers, industry partners, educators, parents, and supporters gathered to kick off the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto. The Opening Ceremony celebrated the talent and determination of the Competitors, and the bright future of skilled trades and technologies in Canada.

Highlights included:

- A spirited parade of provinces and territories, where Competitors proudly entered the arena to enthusiastic cheers from the crowd.
- A territorial welcome and opening remarks from Councillor Jai King-Green, Pillar 5 Lead: Cultural Awareness, Communications and Outreach for The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.
- A powerful performance of the national anthem by Natalie Morris, the official anthem singer of the Toronto Maple Leafs.
- This year's dynamic emcees were Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) alumni Kassandra Bilodeau, WorldSkills Team Canada 2015 Competitor in Car Painting from La Beauce, Québec, and Amy Pike, WorldSkills Team Canada 2022 Competitor in Hairstyling from Conception Bay South, Newfoundland and Labrador.

- Inspiring messages from SCC President Ray Massey and Chief Executive Officer Shaun Thorson, along with remarks from The Honourable David Piccini, Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development.
- A special video message from Ian White, President and CEO of Home Hardware Stores.
- Words of encouragement and personal reflections from SCC National Alumni Committee members Sam Turgeon-Brabazon and Sierrah Bennett.
- A warm welcome from skilled trade advocates and television personalities Sherry Holmes and Michael Holmes, who officially declared the competition open.
- An energetic dance performance by In Tha Groove Productions, showcasing Toronto's vibrant culture and spirit.
- A unique artistic collaboration by Jessgo and Dr. Draw, who brought the city's diversity, creativity, and energy to life through a captivating fusion of music, movement, and live art.
- A national audience of over 19,000 people joined the celebration through SCC's YouTube livestream, allowing viewers from across Canada to experience the excitement of the Opening Ceremony.



Communication

COMMUNICATION TAKES CENTRE STAGE AT SCNC TORONTO 2026

The Skills for Success (SFS) are the skills needed to succeed at school, work and life. Each year, one of these important skills is put in the spotlight and highlighted throughout the SFS activities at SCNC. This year's focus was *Communication*.

Youth Perspectives Drive Meaningful Discussions on Skilled Careers

The Skills for Success Youth Assembly (SFSYA) meet once a year during the Skills Canada National Competition. This program provides an opportunity for young adults, aged 18 to 22, to discuss Skills/Compétences Canada's (SCC) activities and initiatives. Each year, the SFSYA work on a specific project pertaining to the SFS theme and exchange on important industry issues that directly affect them as they enter the workforce as young Canadians. The SFSYA 2026 theme was *Communication* and was woven into every activity, from creating social media content to their Skills story. This theme empowered participants to express themselves clearly, confidently, and creatively. It is a key Skill for Success in any career.

The SFSYA members included:

Rachel Antwi (Alberta)
Atticus Brummitt (British Columbia)
Eleanor Wainio (Manitoba)
Abigail Taylor (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Tamara Thomas (Saskatchewan)

Kryssa Hearn (Nova Scotia)
Summyr Sheridan (Yukon)
Saxon Buchanan (New Brunswick)
Autumn Wartman (Ontario)



The National Alumni Committee Members Make Their Mark at SCNC Toronto 2026

Who better to inspire future skilled workers than those who have already walked in their shoes? The National Alumni Committee (NAC) is made up of former Skills/Compétences Canada



Competitors from every province and territory who have transformed their competition experience into successful careers in the skilled trades and technologies. As passionate ambassadors for the Skills movement, they use their firsthand experience to encourage young Canadians to explore rewarding career pathways and discover the opportunities available through Skills.

At the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto, NAC members played a vital role in bringing the event to life. Throughout the week, they shared their expertise, connected with visitors, and showcased the impact that Skills programs can have on a young person's future.

Their contributions included:

- Creating engaging video and photo content to capture and share the excitement of SCNC across social media platforms;
- Leading tours for partners, stakeholders, and industry celebrities, offering an insider's perspective on the competition;
- Welcoming and motivating Competitors before the Opening Ceremony, where NAC members Sam Turgeon-Brabazon and Sierrah Bennett shared inspiring stories about their Skills journeys;
- Speaking with sponsors, educators, and industry leaders during the Networking Reception;
- Participating in meaningful discussions at the Skills for Success Forum;
- Connecting with youth at the Skills for Success booth, answering questions and encouraging career exploration;
- Promoting diversity and inclusion through conversations with visitors at the Empowering Women in Trades booth;
- Sharing their career journeys during SCC's live stream coverage;
- Celebrating the accomplishments of Competitors at the Closing Ceremony and Winner's Circle; and
- Engaging with visitors throughout the competition floor, helping them discover the exciting world of skilled trades and technologies.

Through their enthusiasm, leadership, and lived experience, NAC members continue to play an important role in strengthening the Skills movement and inspiring Canada's future workforce.

The NAC members included:

Hayley Totalik (Nunavut)
Benjamin Lavoie (Québec)
Nick Galloway (New Brunswick)
Shane Clennett (Yukon)
Curtis Pettipas (Nova Scotia)
Sierrah Bennett (Alberta)
Jack MacPhail (Prince Edward Island)
Sam Turgeon-Brabazon (Ontario)
Jacob Murphy (Saskatchewan)
Elwood Innis (Manitoba)
Jordan Friedland (British Columbia)
Chelsie Cake (Newfoundland and Labrador)
Rufta Tesfamichael (Northwest Territories)

Check out the NAC by following Skills/Compétences Canada's social media on X, Instagram, and/or Facebook. Hear their success stories and learn about the rewarding careers that exist in skilled trades and technologies!

Students Explore Skilled Trades Through Try-A-Trade® and Technology Activities

At the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, approximately 6,000 student visitors from across Toronto rolled up their sleeves and experienced the world of skilled trades and technologies firsthand through more than 50 interactive Try-A-Trade® and Technology activities. Students had the opportunity to explore these careers, in a fun, hands-on environment.

Each activity allowed participants to complete a project and take home a unique creation—a tangible reminder of their experience and a source of pride in what they accomplished.

To make the experience even more engaging, every student received a green drawstring bag containing a Skills for Success passport. As they explored the competition floor, students collected stamps in their passport by participating in the various Try-A-Trade® and Technology activities. Those who visited at least five booths and collected the corresponding stamps were entered for a chance to win a \$50 gift card from Amazon, Apple, or Cineplex. The passport challenge encouraged students to discover new interests, and explore a variety of skilled career pathways.

Visitors Tested their Skills on the SFS App

Student visitors had the chance to try out the Skills/Compétences Canada Mobile App, which was available at the SFS booth. Using this app, they learned about the nine Skills for Success needed for work and life.

They could also evaluate and improve their skills, discover over 40 trade and technology career profiles, and check out a directory of schools in Canada. Check out the app using the QR code above.



The Skills for Success Forum: Speak the Skill

The Skills for Success Forum was held on May 28, at SCNC, and was sponsored by the Schulich School of Business, Futureworx and Aerotek. This was an opportunity to bring education and industry representatives together to discuss the importance of educating youth on the nine Skills for Success, and how they relate to skilled trade and technology occupations. This half-day conference enabled attendees to participate in interactive sessions that encouraged open dialogue amongst participants.



TOP COMPETITORS HONORED AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY

- Held at the Enercare Centre, the Closing Ceremony was attended by over 2,000 people including Competitors, alumni, Experts, Trainers, partners, educators, parents, government officials and other stakeholders.
- Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to competitors in 45 Skill Areas. Check out the results [here](#).
- Address from John Pierce, Chief Retail Operations Officer, Home Hardware; Mike Gordon, Director of Training, UA Canada; Heather Sazdov, Vice-President, Canadian Downstream Manufacturing at Cenovus Energy, and Benoit Lecours, Senior Director, Regulatory Compliance, Training and Safety, Air Canada.
- The **highlight video** capturing memories from SCNC Toronto 2026 was shared.
- The medal winners posed for an **official photo** and had their reactions captured on video at the Winner's Circle, which were shared on SCC's social media platforms.
- The entire Closing Ceremony was live streamed and posted on SCC's **YouTube channel**.

Excellence in Skills Recognized

- The Achievement Award was given to a National Technical Committee member in Cooking, Chef Steve Bennis, from Peterborough, Ontario, for going the extra mile to ensure SCNC's success and sharing his passion for his trade by supporting the Competitors at the provincial, national and international levels.
- The Contest Safety Award was given to Outdoor Power and Recreation Equipment for high risk, and Mechanical Engineering CAD for low risk, for their recognition of the importance of safety in the workplace.

- The **RBC Best of Region Awards** were presented to the individual from each province or territory with the highest score.
- The Canadian Council of Directors (CCDA) Award for Darryl Cruickshank Red Seal Industry, named in his lasting legacy for his profound impact on the Read Seal program, was awarded to Mike Gordon, Director of Canadian Training at UA Canada, who exemplifies leadership and excellence in the trades. As a Red Seal Journeyman in both Plumbing and Steamfitting-Pipefitting, he brings a high-level expertise and credibility to his work. He has played a pivotal role in shaping training and supporting the next generation of skilled tradespeople across the country.

SCC Honours John Oates, an Inspiring Advocate of the Skills Movement

For the fifth year, Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) gave a special award in honour of John Oates, the former President of SCC who sadly passed away in 2021. John served as President, both provincially and nationally, and made a lasting impact on Canadian youth. SCC is committed to ensuring his legacy lives on. The John Oates memorial award is given annually at SCNC. The award recipient must demonstrate the kind of volunteer contribution exemplified by John. They will have: a long history of volunteerism; given generously of their time and effort; been a strong advocate of the skills movement; have a firmly established record of selfless commitment; and be seen as a caring and giving individual that others look up to and admire.

This prestigious award was given to Joel Foster, from Ontario. SCC is proud to award this valuable volunteer. As a passionate educator, competition leader, and technical chair in Architectural Design and Technology, Joel has made a significant impact at both the provincial and national levels – elevating competition standards and aligning education with industry. He is also a former silver medalist and brings a unique perspective as a mentor. Congratulations!

TIKTOK CANADA PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS SKILLED TRADE AWARENESS

The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto marked the launch of an exciting new partnership between TikTok Canada and Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC), aimed at inspiring more young Canadians to explore careers in the skilled trades and technologies. This partnership supports a shared goal of addressing Canada's growing skilled trades workforce shortage by reaching young people where they already spend their time, on the TikTok platform. By leveraging social media as a tool for career exploration, SCC and TikTok Canada are helping introduce a new generation of Canadians to the diverse and rewarding opportunities available in the skilled trades.

This partnership provides SCC with resources to develop innovative initiatives that extend beyond onsite branding and event visibility. Through this collaboration, SCC received support to feature five skilled trade creators who attended SCNC 2026, in Toronto. These five creators produced engaging content that showcased their careers, shared their experiences in the trades, and highlighted the opportunities available to young Canadians considering a skilled trade pathway.

The partnership also included advertising credits to amplify the reach of the campaign content, helping SCC connect with an even broader audience across Canada. In addition, TikTok Canada has committed to sharing platform expertise and insights, enabling SCC to better understand how to effectively engage young audiences through digital content.

The skilled trade creators featured in the campaign included:

- **@theblondewelder** (British Columbia and Alberta) – Welding
- **@chefthomson** (Moncton, New Brunswick) – Culinary Arts
- **@daimeecharisma_rosales** (Toronto, Ontario) – Automotive Mechanics
- **@proeraplumbing** (Toronto, Ontario) – Plumbing
- **@votremenuisierprefere** (Les Laurentides, Quebec) – Carpentry and Construction Trades

By sharing authentic, behind-the-scenes perspectives on life in the trades, these creators are helping students and job seekers envision themselves in skilled trade careers. Together, SCC and TikTok Canada are demonstrating how digital platforms can play an important role in career awareness, workforce development, and inspiring Canada's future skilled workforce.



@theblondewelder



@proeraplumbing



@daimeecharisma_rosales



@votremenuisierprefere



@chefthomson

SCNC TORONTO 2026 CAPTURES NATIONAL ATTENTION

To promote the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto, Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) engaged with various media companies to launch digital, radio and print campaigns.

Digital Campaign: The four-week digital campaign launched on May 4 in Toronto, with a focus around the Enercare Centre. The campaign targeted youth aged 15 to 35, as well as parents and educators aged 35 to 55. It featured digital billboards on roads, shopping malls, colleges, restaurants, and movie theatres. In addition, a social media promotion ran on Facebook and Instagram, which included a 30-second SCNC video ad and digital display placements.

Radio Campaign: The radio campaign kicked off on May 4, with BOOM 97.3 FM (one of Toronto's top 5 radio stations) and New Country 93.5 FM, reaching a wide audience across Toronto to promote SCNC 2026.

SCC e-newsletter:

- SCC promoted SCNC Toronto 2026 in their May e-newsletter edition.
- SCC also created materials for partners to promote SCNC in their e-newsletters.

Live Stream Direct Email Campaign:

- Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) developed a targeted direct email campaign shared with Member Organizations to promote SCNC Toronto 2026's live stream to schools across Canada. Three one-page flyers, including the live stream schedule, were created to encourage participation.
- SCC's Member Organizations led the outreach, distributing the materials to their school and teacher networks to boost nationwide viewership during the competition days.
- To further engage educators, teachers who signed up for the live stream were entered for a chance to win a Skills for Success kit for their classroom.

Social Media:

- SCC created banners for social media channels and an activation guide for Member Organizations and partners with graphics and key messaging.

Promo Video:

- SCC created an SCNC Toronto 2026 promo video.

IN THE MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) took centre stage during SCNC Toronto 2026, with several major media outlets showcasing the excitement and talent at the event:

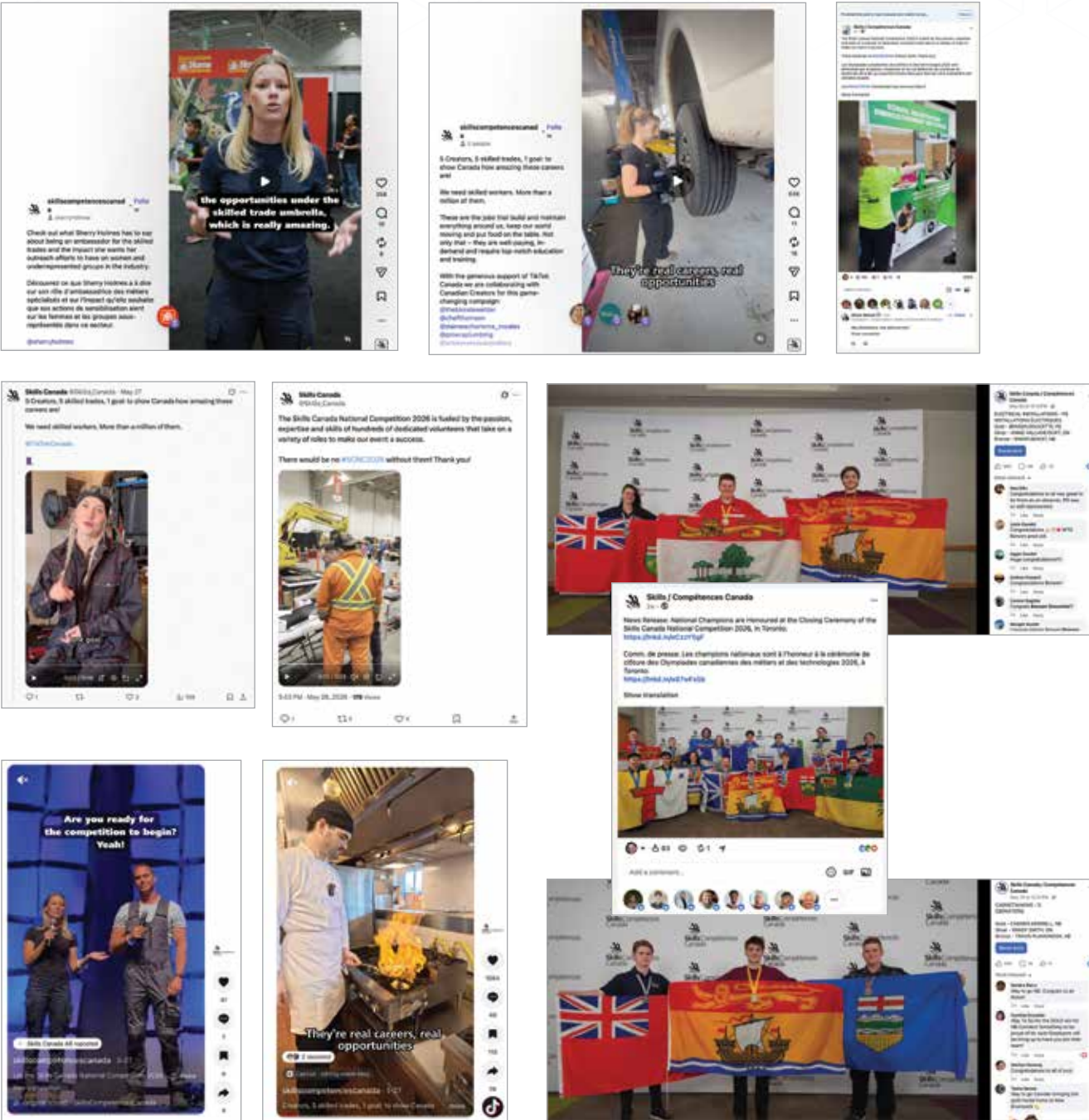
- **Au Rythme du Nord interviewed** Janie Giroux, Baking Competitor, about her competition experience (in French).
- **CBC News** was onsite to interview Competitors, Mike Gordon, Director of Training at UA Canada, and Michelle Bussey, CEO of the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency, about SCNC and the value of apprenticeships. Check out the article [here](#). In addition, CBC also conducted interviews with apprentice Competitors and industry representatives, highlighting the impact of skilled trade and apprenticeship pathways. Check out the video clip [here](#).
- **CBC Radio The Current** interviewed three WorldSkills Team Canada 2026 Competitors including Samuel Bolduc, Mechanical Engineering CAD, Sherbrooke, QC, Maximilian De Belle-Holowka, Bricklaying, Pointe-Claire, QC, and Cole Hunter, Mechatronics, Bolton, ON. Check it out in this news clip featuring inspirational graduates [here](#).
- **CHOQ FM** kicked things off with an **interview** (in French) featuring Shaun Thorson, CEO of Skills/Compétences Canada and two Ontario Competitors, in Cooking and Baking.
- **Collision Repair Magazine** was onsite to interview National Technical Committee Members and Competitors in the Autobody Repair and Car Painting competitions. Check out their [article](#).
- **Employment and Social Development Canada (EDSC)** attended SCNC and interviewed several partners and Competitors.
- **HVAC & Plumbing Magazine** was onsite and interviewed several participants including Shaun Thorson, CEO of Skills Canada, Jamie McPherson, Training Specialist at UA, and the gold medalists in Plumbing, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning and Sprinkler Fitter. Read the article [here](#).



CONNECTING WITH CANADA'S FUTURE WORKFORCE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Our official event hashtag **#SCNC2026** was used on Skills/Compétences Canada's (SCC) social media channels including Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn. There was a total of **721,842 impressions** across SCC's social media platforms from May 27 to May 30, during the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto.

Here are some of our top posts from SCNC Toronto 2026:



RECOGNIZING THE NATION'S TOP SKILLS TALENT

There were over **260 million people reached** or SCNC Toronto 2026 in May. Check out the **TOP TEN media hits from SCNC Toronto 2026!**

1. May 30, 2026, in Yahoo! Finance: National Champions are Honoured at the Closing Ceremony of the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto – <https://finance.yahoo.com/sectors/technology/articles/national-champions-honoured-closing-ceremony-221300063.html>
Reach: 42,495,963
2. May 30, 2026, in CBC.CA News: These young people see a bright future in the trades but say stigma is among the obstacles in their way – <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/apprenticeships-skills-canada-competition-9.7214363>
Reach: 16,358,765
3. May 29, 2026, in Yahoo! Finance: Watch Video Highlights from the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto – <https://finance.yahoo.com/sectors/technology/articles/watch-video-highlights-skills-canada-163300377.html>
Reach: 42,495,963
4. May 29, 2026, in Benzinga: Minister Hajdu promotes Team Canada Strong at Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto – <https://www.benzinga.com/pressreleases/26/05/n52881968/minister-hajdu-promotes-team-canada-strong-at-skills-canada-national-competition-in-toronto>
Reach: 2,196,950
5. May 29, 2026, in Ground News: Lakeland apprentice captures second straight gold at provincial skills competition in Alberta and qualifies for SCNC – <https://ground.news/article/lakeland-apprentice-captures-second-straight-gold-at-skills-alberta>
Reach: 2,066,757
6. May 27, 2026, in Yahoo! Finance: Skills/Compétences Canada Officially Launches the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto – <https://finance.yahoo.com/sectors/technology/articles/skills-comp-tences-canada-officially-012800398.html>
Reach: 42,495,963
7. May 18, 2026, in CTV News: Grade 11 baker wins gold at provincial skills competition in Ontario and heads to SCNC – <https://www.ctvnews.ca/northern-ontario/article/grade-11-baker-wins-gold-at-skills-ontario-competition/>
Reach: 7,503,913
8. May 18, 2026, in CTV News: CTV National News: New Brunswick teen heading to nation-wide cooking competition – <https://www.ctvnews.ca/video/2026/05/18/ctv-national-news-new-brunswick-teen-heading-to-nation-wide-cooking-competition/>
Reach: 7,503,913
9. May 12, 2026, in CTV News: Showing off the region's skilled trade students, one medal at a time – <https://www.ctvnews.ca/barrie/article/showing-off-the-regions-skilled-trade-students-one-medal-at-a-time/>
Reach: 7,503,913
10. May 5, 2026, in Markets Insider – Business Insider: Skills/Compétences Canada Thanks Presenting Sponsors of SCNC 2026 – <https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/skills-comp-tences-canada-thanks-presenting-sponsors-of-scnc-2026-1036107095>
Reach: 4,181,247



Medalists for RBC's Best of Region Award are recognized on stage during the Closing Ceremony of the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, at the Enercare Centre in Toronto, Ontario.



Current and past competitors attending the Skills Canada National Competition in Toronto this week each expressed excitement about a future in the skilled trades. Clockwise from bottom left, the 2026 competitors include Camden Morrell, Peyton Miller-Plante, Jerja Hanson-Lemaigne, Team Canada member Ethan Almeida and competitor alumni Jacob Murphy. (Craig Chivers/CBC)



A competitor takes part in the Fashion Technology competition at the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto.



Competitors get ready to compete at the Skills Canada National Competition 2026, in Toronto.



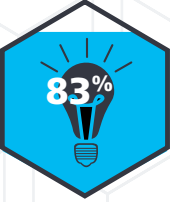
53 students and teachers attend 2026 Skills Ontario Competition in Toronto. PHOTO: SCOSB

MEASURING SUCCESS: THE IMPACT OF THE SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION (SCNC)

94% of spectators would recommend the competition to their friends.



More than 9 in 10 competitors agree that SCNC has improved their Skills for Success including adaptability skills (92%), problem-solving skills (90%), and creativity and innovation skills (83%).



85% of spectators say they learned new sources of information about how to pursue a career in skilled trades and technologies.



91% of spectators feel that they learned about new career options in skilled trades and technologies.



95% of spectators who participated in a Try-A-Trade® and Technology activity rated their experience as excellent.



86% of spectators strongly agree that SCNC was a positive experience.



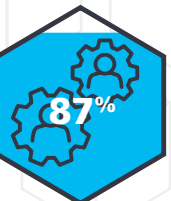
90% of competitors agree that SCNC has improved their soft skills including their motivation and self-confidence.



86% of competitors believe that the competition has increased their chances of getting a job.



87% of competitors that are currently pursuing an apprenticeship are doing so in a field related to their area of competition.



PLAN AHEAD FOR THE SKILLS CANADA NATIONAL COMPETITION 2027, IN CALGARY, ALBERTA!

Experience the energy of the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2027, in Calgary, on **May 27 and 28**, at the BMO Centre. As Skills/Compétences Canada's flagship event, SCNC brings together industry, educators, and youth to spotlight skilled trade and technology careers. Connect with the next generation of talent and help shape tomorrow's workforce by #CreatingPossibilities. The economic impact of SCNC 2027 on the province of Alberta will be 10.6 million dollars.

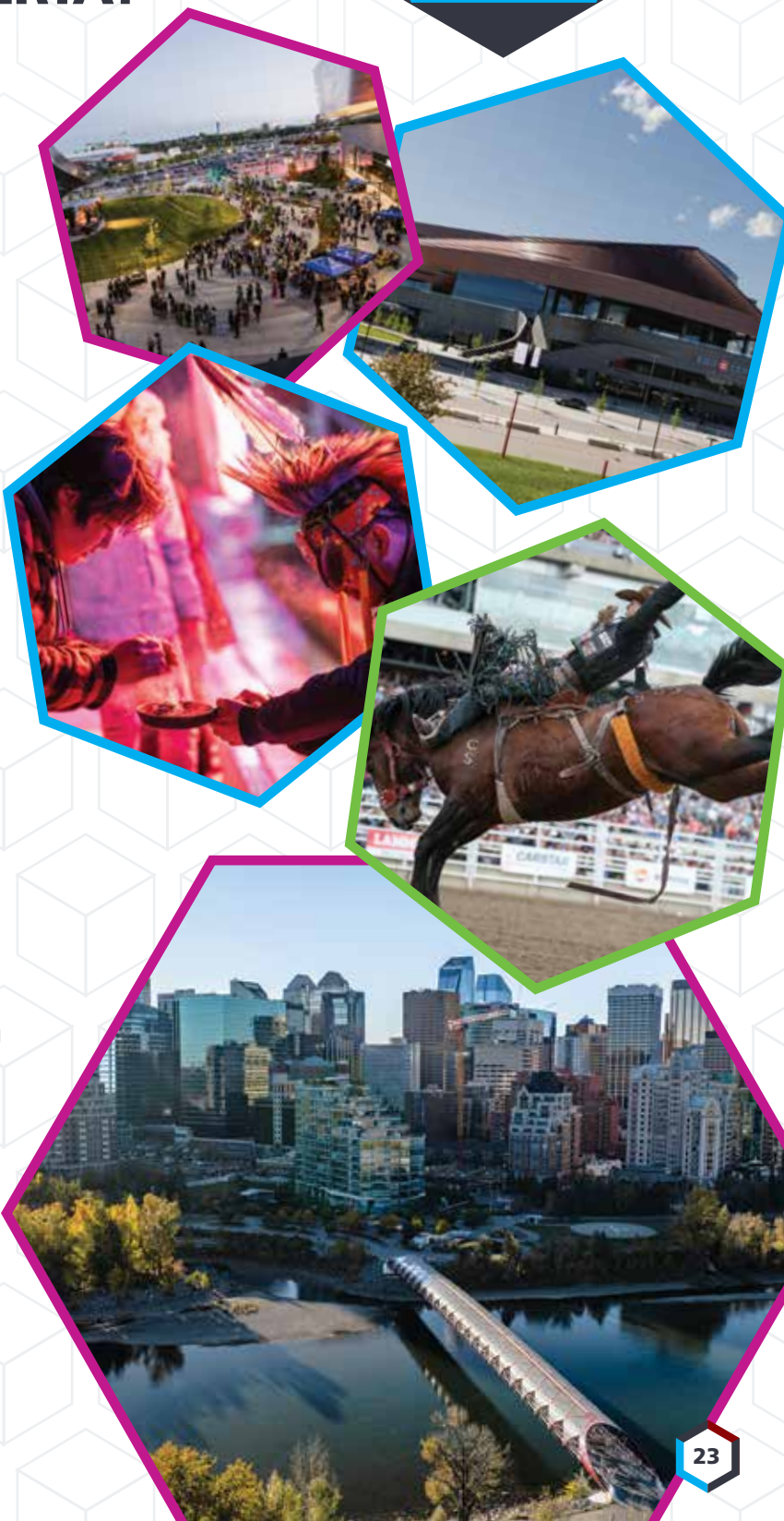
A few fun facts about this city:

- **One of Canada's fastest-growing cities**
Calgary's booming population makes it one of the country's most rapidly expanding urban centres.
- **Home to the world's biggest rodeo**
The legendary Calgary Stampede draws over one million visitors every year.
- **Incredibly diverse**
More than 120 languages are spoken across the city, reflecting its rich multicultural community.
- **Canada's sunshine capital**
With up to 333 sunny days each year, Calgary is one of the sunniest cities in the country.
- **Famous dish**
The iconic ginger beef dish was invented at Calgary's Silver Inn Restaurant.

We could not host an event of this magnitude without the support of our partners and stakeholders, including our Funding Partner the Government of Canada. To see the list of our partners, check out our website at www.skillscompetencescanada.com.

To discuss a sponsorship opportunity that best suits your organization, please contact Patrick LeClair, Director, Business Development, at 902-314-2180 or patrickl@skillscanada.com.

Stay tuned on Skills Canada's social media channels and website to stay up to date with SCNC Calgary 2027. **#SCNC2027**





WORLDSKILLS SHANGHAI 2026

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.

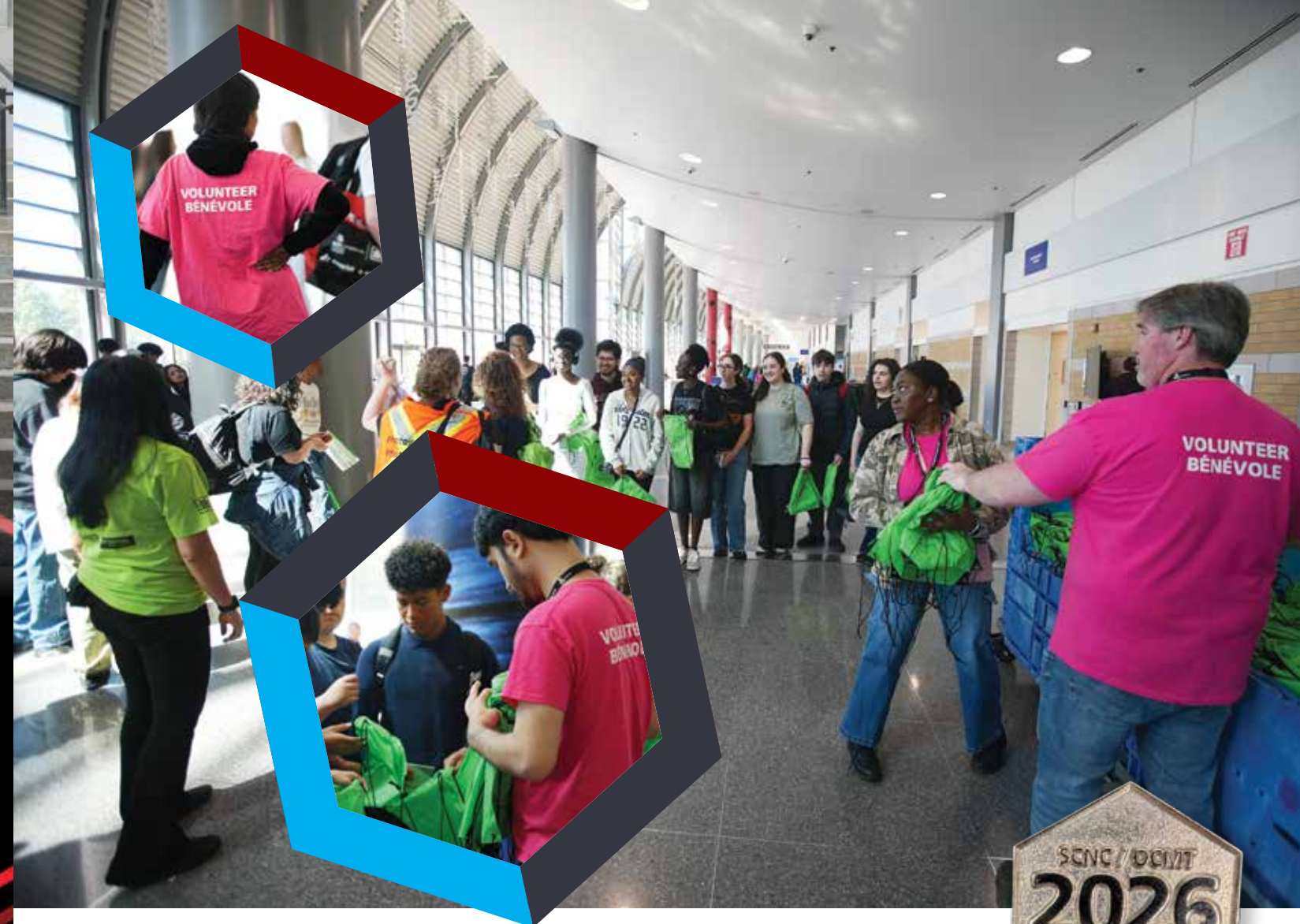
At WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, approximately 1,500 competitors from over 70 Member countries and regions compete in front of an incredible 250,000 visitors, in 62 Skill Areas representing these six sectors: Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Construction and Building Technology, Transportation and Logistics, Creative Arts and Fashion and Social and Personal Services. This will include the 31 official members of **WorldSkills Team Canada 2026**, who were announced at the Skills Canada National Competition 2025, in Regina, and have been training for this prestigious competition over the last year and a half.

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.

The 48th WorldSkills Competition, in Shanghai, China, will be held from September 22 to 27, 2026, at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC) in Shanghai. The event slogan for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is: **Master Skills, Change Your Future.** #WSTC2026

For more information, visit: worldskills2026.com.

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSOR!



THANK YOU TO OUR SKILLED VOLUNTEERS!

The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto was an extraordinary success, and it simply would not have been possible without the dedication, passion, and hard work of our volunteers. To our more than 400 National Secretariat volunteers, including the members of our National Technical Committee, thank you for your year-round commitment to developing, and overseeing 45 skilled trade and technology competitions. Your expertise and countless hours of preparation create the foundation for this national event. To our judges, thank you for sharing your knowledge and professionalism. Your careful evaluations and commitment to excellence ensure that Canada's top young skilled talent is recognized and celebrated. To our 100+ general and key volunteers, your enthusiasm and willingness to help wherever needed kept SCNC running smoothly. Whether you welcomed participants at registration, guided school groups, helped coordinate media interviews, supported our social media coverage, or helped with event setup and teardown, your contributions made a lasting impact.

As a small token of our appreciation, we were proud to present each volunteer with a commemorative pin. More than a keepsake, it represents the important role you play in inspiring the next generation of skilled professionals. You are the heart of SCNC. Your commitment helps shape the future of Canada's skilled workforce and make this event an unforgettable experience for thousands of young people. From everyone at Skills/Compétences Canada, thank you for making SCNC 2026 such a remarkable success. We couldn't have done it without you!



THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERS AND SUPPLIERS!

The Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2026, in Toronto was an incredible celebration of skilled trades and technologies, and its success was made possible by the outstanding support of our partners and suppliers. Your commitment helps us inspire the next generation of skilled professionals by connecting young people across Canada with the exciting career opportunities available in the skilled trades and technologies. Together, we are helping to build the workforce of tomorrow.

Each year, we are proud to work alongside hundreds of industry, education, and government partners who generously contribute their time, expertise, products, services, and resources. Your financial and in-kind support enabled us to reach thousands of youth, ignite new passions, and showcase the many rewarding pathways that skilled careers can offer. We are especially grateful for your presence and participation onsite. Whether you engaged with students, supported competitions, or helped create unforgettable experiences, your enthusiasm and expertise brought SCNC to life.

Together, we are doing more than delivering a national competition—we are **#CreatingPossibilities** for young Canadians, while strengthening the Skills movement, and helping build a stronger, more resilient Canadian economy. Thank you for your ongoing support and helping shape the future of Canada's skilled workforce.

PLATINUM SUPPLIERS



GOLD SUPPLIERS



SILVER SUPPLIERS



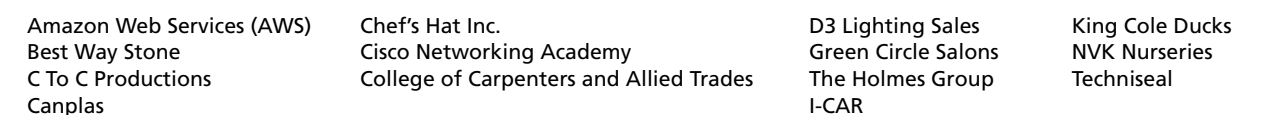
BRONZE SUPPLIERS



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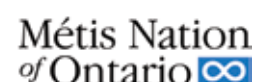
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