Skills Compétences Canada











CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Landscape Gardening

POST-SECONDARY

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1 THE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS FOR CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY

The Government of Canada has updated the previous Essential Skills framework to the new Skills for Success model in response to the evolving labour market and changing skill requirements. This model outlines nine fundamental skills Canadians need to thrive in work, education, training, and daily life.

Skills/Compétences Canada aims to highlight the importance of these skills, vital for success in trade and technology careers. Competitors can see how Skills for Success are integrated into contest descriptions, projects, and project documents. Recognizing these skills during the competition helps competitors match tasks with specific skills necessary for success and understand how these skills apply within their trade or technology programs and future careers.

The nine key Skills for Success, validated for workplace success, are:

1. Numeracy
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Adaptability
5. Reading
6. Writing
7. Problem Solving
8. Creativity and Innovation
9. Digital

These Skills for Success are detailed in sections 2.4 and/or 3.2 (to be completed by SCC) of your Contest Description and, if relevant, in your Project and supporting documents.

2 CONTEST INTRODUCTION

2.1 Description of the associated work role(s) or occupation(s)

https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/skill_area/landscape-gardening/

2.2 Purpose of the Challenge:

To evaluate the expertise of future landscape horticulturists in layout, construction and installation of hardscape and softscape elements.

2.3 Duration of contest:

12 hours of construction time

2.4 Skills and Knowledge to be tested.

- Reading plans[5]
- Accurately scaling measurements and setting dimensions on site and using vertical measurement techniques[1]

- Teamwork is essential.[2,3]
- Competitors may also cut, shape and set natural or manufactured materials such as stone, concrete pavers and wood materials to build walls, screens, fences, patios, walkways, and steps.[7]
- 8 Additional skills to be tested include cutting, filling, and leveling aggregate material and planting media; installing trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals or sod, and other elements.[7]

Skills for Success - [1]Numeracy, [2]Communication, [3]Collaboration, [5]Reading, [7]Problem Solving

3 CONTEST DESCRIPTION

3.1 List of documents produced and timeline for when competitors have access to the documents on the Skills/Compétences Canada website.

DOCUMENT	DATE OF DISTRIBUTION
Project	December 2026

3.2 Tasks that may be performed during the contest.

Elements to be included in the construction plans:

- Paving Units
- Natural Stone
- Walls or Retaining Walls
- Wood Construction
- Accent Elements (water feature and/or lighting)
- Planting – trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals

The planting and paving elements are compulsory components. Planting must occupy at least 30% of the total construction site surface. Any combination of the 6 components listed above can be chosen for the test project.

4 EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

4.1 Equipment and material provided by Skills/Compétences Canada

Workspace Installation:
Each competition team will have a workspace and storage space. The construction area must have a clearly defined benchmark for vertical measurements.

Each team's construction area will have been previously filled and compacted with granular materials and/or planting media, as much as possible within 100 mm of finished grade perimeter.

Each team will have equal, fair access to their site.

- Dustless concrete saw with blade and stand or wet concrete saw with blade and stand
- 12" compound sliding miter saw, with blade and stand

- Circular saw 7.25" (20v) c/w blade
- Impact driver (20v)
- Impact driver bits
- Cordless Drill (20v)
- 48" carpenters' level
- 18" x 24" carpenter's square
- Orbital Palm sander and sanding discs
- Rotary laser with receiver
- Metric construction grade rod
- Utility knife and extra blades
- Shovels, rakes, and other hand tools
- Wheelbarrows
- 5-gallon buckets
- Water hose, nozzle and shutoff

COMPETITORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE THE MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY SCC. ALL OTHER MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE SKILL AREA.

4.2 Equipment and material provided by the competitor:

- Rubber mallet or deadblow hammer - 2 per team
- Sledgehammer, 3 or 4 lb - 2 per team
- Masonry hammer-stone working - 2 per team
- Carpenters hammer - 'straight claw' - 2 per team
- Wood and stone Chisels, assorted - 6 per team
- Saw-hand saw - 2 per team
- Combination Square/Speed Square 12–16-inch combination - 2 per team
- Chalk Line and chalk
- Marking utensils - 10 per team
- Masonry string - 50 ft. roll-2 per team
- Torpedo level - 2 per team
- Carpenters level (2 ft.) -2 per team
- Post level
- String Level - 2 per team
- Wood clamps (6"-10")
- Tape measures-metric & imperial (25 feet) - 2 per team
- Sandpaper with block or holder 6 sheets per team
- Masonry Trowels - 2 per team
- Drill bits - assorted
- Driver bits assorted
- Hand broom
- Wire cutters/wire strippers
- Pruning saw, pruning shears, 2 pairs handheld secateurs

- Handheld calculator – no cell phones allowed

Note: Any tool not listed must be approved for use by the National Technical Committee (NTC). A written application (or email) to Skills/Compétences Canada national secretariat must be submitted at least 1 month before the competition start date. Teams are not required to bring all listed tools but may choose to bring what they feel is appropriate for the competition.

4.2.1 Toolboxes Guidelines:

One of the objectives of SCC is the sustainability of the Competition. As a result, the toolboxes brought by Competitors will be restricted to the following maximum specifications.
The Competitor toolbox must not exceed 1.25 meters^3 in volume. It can be multiple toolboxes, but the total of all toolboxes must not exceed the maximum volume indicated.

There is no exception to this rule.

If the Competitor toolbox is larger than what is indicated, the Competitor, with the guidance of the NTC, will need to remove items from the toolbox and those items will not be used during the competition. All tools must fit inside one or more toolboxes. Tools outside of a toolbox will not be permitted.

4.3 Required clothing provided by the competitor:

- Full-length work pants
- Short-sleeved work shirt
- Long sleeved shirts are suggested for cutting.
- Tank-tops or sleeveless shirts are not allowed.
- Loose clothing not permitted (i.e., Hoodies with strings)
- No loose jewellery or rings
- No long loose hair

Note: Your skill area for SCNC 2027 may be hosted outside. Come prepared for any weather conditions and dress accordingly.

5 HEALTH AND SAFETY

5.1 Safety Program

SCC has implemented a comprehensive safety program as health and safety is an integral part of our competitions. Our safety program includes guidelines and procedures to make the work environment in each skill area safer.

5.1.1 Safety Manual

As part of our program, a safety manual has been created to monitor and document health and safety within each skill area. It includes a definite plan of action designed to prevent accidents. The safety manual will be provided for every skill and these

instructions must be followed and respected by all participants and officials at the SCNC.

5.1.2 Safety Workshop

During orientation, Competitors will participate in a Safety workshop, and they will be expected to work and maintain a safe working area during the competition. Any Competitor breaking any health, safety, and environmental rules, may be required to undertake a second safety workshop, this will not affect the Competitor's competition time.

5.2 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by Skills/Compétences Canada

- n/a

5.3 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the competitor and worn at all times:

- Safety Glasses - worn at all times
- Hi-vis safety vest or straps - worn at all times
- Hearing protection (ear plug or overear) - worn at all times
- Knee pads worn when working in kneeling positions
- CSA approved Safety boots (above ankle) - worn at all times
- N100 or P100 Dust Mask/respirator (worn when cutting materials and handling dust-generating particulate)
- Appropriate gloves - worn when handling precast concrete products, stone and wood
- Hard Hat (construction of overhead structure)
- Sunscreen, water bottle, snacks

Note: Competitors who do not have the required protective equipment will not be allowed to participate in the competition

6 ASSESSMENT

6.1 Point breakdown:

Note: This list is subject to change.

Aspect	Points
Work Process – Day 1	10
Work Process – Day 2	10
Safety	10
Wall Feature	10
Patio Feature	10
Softscape Feature	10
Plants and Trees	10

Wood Feature	10
Special Feature	10
General impression (G)	10

7 CONTEST SPECIFIC RULES

Contest specific rules cannot contradict or take priority over the Competition Rules. They do provide specific details and clarity in areas that may vary from contest to contest. Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the competitor orientation.

TOPIC/TASK	CONTEST SPECIFIC RULE
Work Area	All work to take place inside competitor's designated area
Coach Time	Up to 30 minutes of time allowed to review the challenge with the coach, separate from the competition time
Personal Technology	No electronic devices are allowed during competition time. Devices will be confiscated at beginning and returned at the end of each competition day. **Exception:** devices used for personal medical.
Equipment Use	NTC members will operate the equipment. Competitors are not permitted to operate equipment
Random Placement	Teams will draw lots for placement in the competition area. Locations will not be pre-selected
Audio Ear Protection	All forms of audio ear protection devices are banned (ISO Tunes, etc.)
Extra Materials	Materials above what was issued will be split equally between all participating teams, if available

8 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

8.1 Interpreter:

If a competitor requires the help of an interpreter once onsite during the competition, the Skills/Compétences Canada Provincial/Territorial offices must advise Skills/Compétences Canada National Secretariat a minimum of 1 month prior to the competition or this service may not be guaranteed.

8.2 Ties:

- Tiebreaker #1: The team with the highest score in the criteria's A to F will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #2: The team with the highest score in the criteria A will be declared the winners.
- Tiebreaker #3: The team with the highest score in the criteria B will be declared the winners.

8.3 Test Project Change at the Competition:

Where the Test Project has been circulated to Competitors in advance, NTC shall change a maximum of 30% of the work content. Please refer to the Competition Rules.

8.4 Competition Rules:

Refer to the full competition rules of the Skills Canada National Competition which can be found on our website.

9 NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER ORGANIZATION	NAME
Alberta	Stephen Carlton
British Columbia	Victor Kulla (Chair)
Manitoba	Kayla Wieler
New Brunswick	James Swindell
Ontario	Terry Childs (Co-Chair)
Quebec	Alain Harvey

Contact the Skills/Compétences Canada national secretariat for any questions or concerns: Olga Malvine Rwemera (olgamr@skillscanada.com).