Skills Compétences Canada











CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Public Speaking

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/public-speaking/

2.2 Purpose of the Challenge

The Conference Board of Canada has identified the skills needed to enter and progress in the world of work, whether it is self-employment or working as a part of a team. One such skill area is effective oral and written communication including the ability to do the following:

- Write and speak so others pay attention and understand
- Listen and respond to questions
- Share information
- Use technological knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas

The public speaking competition is designed to encourage and enhance the development of these skills in making career choices. The challenge provides the opportunity for competitors to prepare and present speeches, conduct research and to construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

2.3 Duration of contest

12 hours

2.4 Skills and Knowledge to be tested.

- Present original thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on the assigned topics.2,8
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the designated timeframes.2
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position).2
- Speak easily, with confidence.2
- Use non-verbal skills (body language and gestures) to assist in expression.2
- Be expressive by varying voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.2
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly.7
- Reflect upon research, make observations, and share experiences through prompted response.2,4

2.4.1 Competitors are expected to write with integrity and originality. Submitted speeches that demonstrate usage of external resources will result in additional review.

Skills for Success – [2]Communication, [4]Adaptability, [7]Problem Solving, [8]Creativity & Innovation

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
No other documents will be posted prior to the competition	

3.2 Tasks that may be performed during the contest.

Competitors will speak twice (2 times) during the competition: Day 1 & Day 2.

- Each competitor will speak on the following prompt

Artificial intelligence and automation are reshaping careers in the skilled trades and technology. With this in mind,

How can we best prepare students to adapt and succeed in the evolving workplace?

- Competitors will also speak on an impromptu topic that will be revealed before the designated time[2]

Submission Requirements

- Competitor will write original speeches that reflect creatively on the topics, ensuring they maintain a focus and consider the content implied by the topics. Competitors are expected to express themselves clearly while capturing the attention of their listening audience2,6,8.
- Each competitor must submit 1 copy of their prepared speech, with a header that contains your full name and province/territory, before 4:00 PM (in their time zone) on Friday May 14, 2027, following the specified format:
    - Double spaced
    - Justified
    - Arial 14
    - Header that contains your full name, and your province or territory
    - PDF Format

Emailed to following addresses:

ntirefitness@gmail.com and alexlionelmichaud@gmail.com

- If you have not received confirmation within 24 hours that your speech has been received, please email the Skills/Compétences Canada national secretariat.
- **Competitors submitting between 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM, in their time zone, will be permitted to compete, however will not earn points as indicated in the "Speech submitted on time" section in the Conventions Assessment section of this Content Description.**
- **Competitors who do not submit their speech by the above date before 11:00 PM (in their time zone) are disqualified from the competition.**

Competition Overview

- Pre-Competition
    - Competitors will attend a mandatory orientation session prior to the opening ceremonies.
- Day 1

  - On Day 1, each competitor will present a prepared speech in a formal public setting and answer one (1) question based upon the submitted speech2,4.
  - Competitors will receive an oral and written copy of their question.
  - Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.
  - Video and/or audio recording of speeches by spectators is permitted.
  - Please be aware that Skills/Compétences Canada Media representative may be present during your speech. The NTC will endeavour to reduce distractions, however, be aware they may enter, leave or be present during your speech to record or photograph.

- Competitors will observe the on-site Skills/Compétences Canada competitions to gather information about skills trades & technology careers. The intent of these observations is to support and inform the responses to the impromptu topic.
- Day 2
  - The impromptu speech is intended to be an original speech. No materials from previously written speeches should be included.
  - Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.
  - Video and/or audio recording of speeches by spectators is **not permitted.**
  - Please be aware that Skills/Compétences Canada Media representative may be present during your speech. The NTC will endeavour to reduce distractions, however, be aware they may enter, leave or be present during your speech to record or photograph.

Code and Conduct

Competitors are expected to be respectful and courteous towards all other competitors throughout the competition.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

Day 1	Prepared Speech	Prepared Speech Question
Minimum	5 minutes	N/A

Maximum	7 minutes	1 minute 30 seconds
Visual and/or Verbal Cues	The timekeeper will indicate when to begin their speech. There will not be a warning light, sound, or timecards to indicate time allotment.	The timekeeper will indicate after 5 seconds when to begin their response. Cue will be provided to indicate 15 seconds remaining.

Day 2	**Impromptu Speech**
Preparation	2 minutes
Minimum	N/A
Maximum	3 minutes
Visual and/or Verbal Cues	Cues will be provided 3 times: at 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 15 seconds to indicate time remaining.

Skills for Success – [2]Communication, [4]Adaptability, [6]Writing, [8]Creativity & Innovation

EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING

3.3 Equipment and material provided by Skills/Compétences Canada

- Blank paper, pen/pencil
- Lectern
- Wireless microphone

3.4 Competitor dress code

- Business casual while on-site.
- Provincial/Territorial team shirts should **not** be worn during the competition.
- Any Provincial/Territorial identifiers should **not** be worn during the competition.

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 HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 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.

4.1.1 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.

4.1.2 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.

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

- N/A

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

- No PPE required

5 ASSESSMENT

5.1 Point breakdown

OVERALL SCORE		**/100**
DAY 1 – PREPARED SPEECH	**DAY 1 TOTAL**	**/75**

CONTENT / ORGANIZATION - the NTC will assess this subcategory, based on written submission, prior to the prepared speech presentations	**/20**
Response develops the content contained in the first section of the prompt	/2
Response addresses the content contained in the second section of the prompt	/2
Response develops the content contained in the second section of the prompt	/2
Introduction is coherent and shaped	/2
Introduction contains the assigned topic	/2
Supporting ideas are focused on the assigned topic	/2
Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent discussion of the assigned topic	/2
Transitions link ideas coherently	/2
Conclusion is connected to the assigned topic	/2
Conclusion is relevant	/2
DELIVERY	**/50**
Captures interest at the beginning of the speech	/2
Introduction previews main ideas	/2
Introduction gains audience attention	/2
Supporting ideas are connected to assigned topic	/2
Supporting ideas develop assigned topic	/2
Supporting ideas are precise	/1
Presents ideas in a logical order	/2
Effective word choice	/2
Correct use of conventions: diction, grammar, pronunciation	/1
Effective phrasing (use of pauses)	/2
Appropriate tempo (pacing)	/2
Varies tone and pitch	/2
Fluency: fluidity, smoothness	/2
Expressive	/2
Volume is appropriate	/2
Volume used for effect	/1
Eye contact is effective	/2
Eye contact: engages with entire audience	/2
Gestures: natural not overdone	/2
Mannerisms, body language	/2
Convincing	/2

Polished		/2
Commands audience attention		/2
Composed		/2
Displays self confidence		/2
Holds interest through to the end of the speech		/2
Conclusion is appropriate and skillful		/1
QUESTION RESPONSE		**/5**
Addresses the question		/1
Demonstrates knowledge of topic		/1
Develops ideas adequately		/1
Organizes ideas logically		/1
Demonstrates clarity and conviction		/1
DAY 2 – IMPROMPTU SPEECH	**DAY 2 TOTAL**	**/15**
CONTENT		**/5**
Response addresses the prompt		/2
Chooses ideas that demonstrate understanding of the prompt		/2
Adequately develops ideas connected to the prompt		/1
ORGANIZATION		**/4**
Uses effective introduction for the prompt		/1
Focuses and presents ideas about the prompt in a logical order		/1
Links ideas coherently		/1
Concludes effectively		/1
DELIVERY		**/6**
Uses convincing, coherent language appropriate for the prompt		/2
Voice: expression, tempo, volume, phrasing		/2
Eye contact: engages with audience		/1
Non-verbal: gestures, mannerisms, body language		/1
CONVENTIONS	**SUBTOTAL**	**/10**
Speech submitted demonstrates integrity and originality.		/2
Impromptu speech delivered within required time specifications		/1
Prepared speech delivered within time specifications		/2
Prepared speech question response delivered within time specifications		/1
Speech submitted on time		/2

Speech submitted in specified format	/2

6 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.

7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 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.

7.2 Ties

- Tiebreaker #1: The competitor with the highest score in the Delivery criteria of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #2: The competitor with the higher mark in the Content section of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #3: The student with the highest overall score in the Impromptu Speech will be declared the winner.

7.3 N.A.

7.4 Competition rules

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

NATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER ORGANIZATION	NAME
Newfoundland and Labrador	Jill Handrigan
Prince Edward Island	Victoria Roberts
Nova Scotia	Scott Furlotte
New Brunswick	Don Moore
Manitoba	Steve Proskurnik - Chair
Saskatchewan	James Hawn
Alberta	Sylvia Hayward
British Columbia	April Atkins
Nunavut	Alex Michaud – Co-Chair

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