



The Inspire Program

May 2019

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Executive Summary

Skills Canada BC increased its Regional student and apprenticeship competitor participation by 59% percent since 2017. In 2019 alone, an additional 1,000 students entered into Skills Canada BC's Regional competitions than in 2018.

This significant increase in Skills Canada BC's competitor participation can be linked to the growth and development of Skills Canada BC's competition feeder program -- the *Inspire Program*.

The *Inspire Program* -- a 1-hour, in-school, interactive workshop, teaches students in Grades 6 to 10, about trade and technology careers, through hands-on activities and compelling video footage. The *Inspire Program* was introduced by Skills Canada BC in 2014.

Since 2014, the *Inspire Program* has taught more than 90,000 students, in Grades 6 to 10 about trade and technology apprenticeships and career opportunities.

Educators today recognize that in order to effectively persuade students to pursue a trade or technology apprenticeship program, that students and their parents need to learn about these opportunities well in advance of completing of Secondary School.

The *Inspire Program* is delivered in classrooms to students and teachers who would otherwise have little or no knowledge about skilled trade and technology apprenticeships or careers.

A spin off benefit of the *Inspire Program* is that it generates onwards of 600 unique teacher contacts each year with educators who are not familiar with the skilled trade and technology fields. The *Inspire Program* offers teachers follow up lesson plans they can use to continue the dialogue on skilled trades and apprenticeship opportunities with their students after the completion of an *Inspire* workshop.

In 2017, the *Inspire Program* was revamped to include content on Skills Canada BC's Regional, Provincial, National and WorldSkills competitions.

Positioning the *Inspire Program* as its feeder program for Skills Canada BC's competitions has resulted in a 59% increase in competitor participation in its Regional competitions over the last two years.

The *Inspire Program*'s messaging and content are aligned with the deliverables outlined in the Ministry's Mandate Letter.

In fact, each year the *Inspire Program* reaches thousands of underrepresented groups including women, Indigenous populations, ESL learners, new immigrants and at-risk youth in the alternative program schools.

INSPIRE CURRICULUM

Student Activities

Several team challenges and activities were developed to enhance the experience of students while engaging them in active skills learning.

The Skills Challenges

Tool Box Challenge - Teams of students complete an electrical circuit using simple hand tools. The purpose of the Skills Challenge is to provide students with a hands-on experience that integrates trades and technology related components, as well as provides connections between school subjects, foundation skills (communication, literacy, numeracy, problem solving skills) and trade/technology careers.

Pipefitting Challenge - Teams of students build a piping design that will allow a marble to flow through and drop out the bottom of the structure. The first team to build the piping line according to the directions, and whose marble reaches the bottom first – wins.

Connections between school subjects, careers (plumbing, pipefitting) and Essential skills (communications, team work, literacy, problem solving and numeracy) are enhanced as a result of the activity.

Stanley DeWalt (hand tool company) has been the official hand tool supplier for InSPIRE – providing in-kind support with tool boxes, tools and prizes for the Skills Challenges.

Teacher Resources

Teachers who participate in the program are emailed a ‘Teacher Preparation Package’, which provides them with an overview of the presentation and with links to online resources, and lesson plans that can be used to prepare classes for the presentation. The links provide information about skilled trades and technology career support for students.

Website

The InSPIRE page includes easy to use registration for educators. Please follow this link to view the website: <http://skillscanada.bc.ca/programs/inspire/>

Total Inspire Presentations & Regionals Skills Competitors by Region 2018-19

Region	School Districts	Inspire presentations	Inspire Details	Total Jr. Skills	Total Regional Competitors
Cariboo	27,58,73,74,83	3	SD58 – 3 (“New”) Merritt <i>*SD73 year prior 47 presentations. SD83 Prev.</i>	74	120
Central Interior	28,57,91	2+ NEW TBD #'s coming soon SD57	New this year within SD57 PG district TBD#'s coming.	151	259
Central Okanagan	19,22,23,53,67	PREV years	Inspire at Regionals Prev Years Ok College	44	94
Fraser Valley, Lower	36,37	271	SD37 – 19 new this year SD35 – 252** (large #'s at Provincials). Eg) Bus subsidy	70	163
Fraser Valley, Upper	33,34,35,75,78	57	SD34 – 13 SD35 – 41 SD75 – 3 (new)	46	116
Island, North	49,69,70,71,72,84,85	Not done yet.	Not done yet. Need to explore options.	8	247
Island Central	47,68,79	PREV – Large #'s	<i>Previous Year Trades Training Trailer & Inspire combined –</i>	530	870
Island, South	61,62,63,64	107	This year SD61 - 46 SD62 - 35 SD63 – 20 SD64 - 6 Previous year 91	354	465
Kootenay	5, 6, 8, 10, 20, 51	TBD 4+... Next year...	New This year	53	114
Lower Mainland, Central	38,40,41,42,43	20	SD38 – 6 SD 41 - 4 SD42 – 10 SD40,43 – last year. working on SD40	191	288
Lower Mainland, North West	39,44,45,46,48	34+	SD46 Sechelt -8	19	97
North West	50,52,54,82,87,92	PREV	New presenters	8	57
Peace River	59,60,81	10	SD59 – 3+ SD60- 7+	193	193
TRADEX	ALL (100 female students)	3	TTCW		
Total	Approx. 15,000 students through Inspire	507 approx. Final TBD June		1741	3083

2019 REGIONAL COMPETITIONS
Total # of Competitors by Region

Region	Total
Cariboo	120
Central Interior	259
Central Okanagan	94
Fraser Valley, Lower	163
Fraser Valley, Upper	116
Island, North	247
Island, Central	870
Island, South	465
Kootenay	114
Lower Mainland, Central	288
Lower Mainland, North West	97
North West	57
Peace River	193
Total	3083

Jr. Skills Student Participation by Region

Region	Total
Cariboo	74
Central Interior	151
Central Okanagan	44
Fraser Valley, Lower	70
Fraser Valley, Upper	46
Island, North	8
Island, Central	530
Island, South	354
Kootenay	53
Lower Mainland, Central	191
Lower Mainland, North West	19
North West	8
Peace River	193
Total	1741

Jr. Skills Student Participation by Contest Area

Contest Area	Cariboo	Central Interior	Central Okanagan	Fraser Valley, Lower	Fraser Valley, Upper	Island, North	Island, Central	Island, South	Kootenays	Lower Mainland, Central	Lower Mainland, North West	North West	Peace	Total
Jr. Skills - Carpentry			21			8								29
Jr. Skills - Gr 7 Crane (LD)									26					26
Jr. Skills - Gearbots							115	58					16	189
Jr. Skills - Gr 6 Catapult (LD)									27					27
Jr. Skills - Gravity Vehicle Race	25		23		25		199	88		49			59	468
Jr. Skills - Potential Energy Vehicle	2													2
Jr. Skills - Robotics											19			19
Jr. Skills - Spaghetti Bridge	47	39		45	21		126	145		99		8	71	601
Jr. Skills - Sumo Robot				25			16	49					14	104
Jr. Skills - Tugboat								14						14
Jr. Skills - Wind Turbine		112					74			43			33	262
TOTAL	74	151	44	70	46	8	530	354	53	191	19	8	193	1741

INSPIRE - AUDIENCE REACH

Fiscal Year Projections	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
# of Students Served	12,540	14,000	17,970	15,270	15,000 projected
# of Schools Served	418	489	599	509	507+
# of Teachers involved	418	489+	600+	600+	Projected 600+
# of School Districts Served	18	24	22	16	19
# of presenters	9	12	10	10	15

Impact of the Inspire Program

1. Youth

- a. Reaches grades 6-10 students
- b. Hands on activities are engaging and impactful
- c. Both Teachers and students are learning about trades and technology
- d. Encouraging students to attend Skills events and enter skills competitions – over 50% of regional competitions are Junior competitions and competitors
- e. Regional coordinators report the Inspire program is encouraging more youth to consider/register for Secondary and Post-Secondary trades and technology programs

2. Industry

- a. Opportunity to promote skills development and specific industries
- b. Provides access to key youth demographic (grades 6-10 students) who are developing perceptions and attitudes about careers

3. Educators

- a. Indicate career education is most effective when delivered by experts/champions face to face (versus online methods)
- b. Feedback is very positive regarding student engagement during the presentations
- c. The Inspire presentations provide an opportunity to profile regional trades and technology programs

4. Skills Canada BC

- a. An increase in Regional and Provincial competitors and spectators – 50% of regional competitors were in the Junior Skills areas and age groupings
- b. Building relationships with teachers, schools and industry