

Executive Director's Report

May 27, 2021

12:00 – 1:00 PM

Online Meeting

Ministry of Advanced Education & Skills Training

On March 31, 2021 Skills Canada BC was informed that AEST will be providing \$150,000 and not the \$250,000 amount originally budgeted for. This reduction in funding is due to government spending cutbacks resulting from the pandemic.

Online Challenges

Skills Canada BC's Online Challenges continue to grow in popularity and now incorporate aspects of Regional and Provincial competition scope documents. This allows SCBC to market its competitions to a wider audience than ever before.

<https://skillscanada.bc.ca/trades-and-tech-digital-challenges/>

Inspire Program

The Inspire Program was delivered to approximately 1,150 students (in-person delivery) since September 2020. Most of these sessions were delivered in collaboration with the South Island Partnership.

Skills Canada BC continues to expand the learning tools in the Inspire Program's Open Source Learning Portal. <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/inspire-information-portal/>

Competitions 2021

Starting in May 2020 Skills Canada BC staff began hosting monthly meetings with its Regional Coordinators and Provincial Tech Chairs to discuss the logistics of hosting Regional and Provincial competitions in 2021. With each passing month safety standards changed and plans that had been put in place were adjusted accordingly, to meet the needs of an everchanging landscape.

These monthly conversations with the Regional Coordinators and Provincial Tech Chairs continue to provide Skills Canada BC with valuable insights and input.

Regionals

Despite great challenges and barriers during the disruption caused by the pandemic, Skills Canada BC experienced its highest numbers ever delivering its Regional competitions. In 2021 Skills Canada BC hosted more than 7,000 competitors in its Regional competitions between February and March.

In 2021, new technology competitions were launched such as Vex Robotics that were held online throughout the province. 480 competitors signed up for this new online competition.

The Jr. Skills "Gearbots" competition was also able to expand its Regional reach in 2021. This was accomplished by sending multiple school districts around the province the old competition mats with instructions on how to host this Regional competition.

Provincials 2021

Skills Canada BC's Provincial competitions were held in remote/virtual settings to accommodate safety orders that varied from region to region. The first provincial competition was Crane Operations, held in February in Maple Ridge at the Operating Engineers school. The remaining Provincials were held over April and May. Over 200 competitors were able to compete in the Provincials 2021.

Nationals 2021

The National Office coordinated the sending out of materials and supplies to competitors and/or competition sites for use in the National Virtual 2021 competitions.

SCBC requested that the National Office record orientation sessions for proctor so that proctors who are unable to attend the live session can review the recorded presentations and save on TOC charges.

All the documents for the National Virtual 2021 competitions have been uploaded to the SCBC website. <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/national-competitions/>

BC Youth Week

On May 5, 2021 Skills Canada BC teamed up with Alumni, Sonia Khurana 2019 (TV/Video Gold Medalist) and WorkSafeBC to deliver a live, online presentation on "Workplace Safety" for BC Youth Week. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1C4WN9SswVk>

Provincials 2021

SCBC's Provincial 2021 competition schedule was developed with ongoing input from its Provincial Tech Chairs. Flexibility on dates/times/locations was necessary to accommodate virtual/remote/in-person competitions. In total more than 200 competitors will complete in SCBC Provincials 2021 competitions.

Provincials 2022

Skills Canada BC has booked the Tradex for April 13, 2022 to host its Provincials 2022.

Nationals 2021

The Nationals 2021 will consist entirely of virtual competitions. Some events will have low attendance. The National Office decided it will host competitions with even 1 or 2 competitors. Competitors can compete from home if safety standards are met.

For dates/times of the National Virtual Competitions please visit: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/national-competitions/>

The awards ceremony is scheduled to be held at the June 15, 2021 during an online event that the National Office will be hosting.

Member Organizations (staff but not the public) will be able to access the competitions via an "Inventors" platform.

Nationals 2022, 2023 & 2024

The National board approved rescheduling the National competitions for the next three years as follows:

- Vancouver 2022
- Winnipeg 2023
- Toronto 2024

Team Canada Qualifying Event

Skills Canada is planning to host qualifying events, concurrent to the National competition at the Vancouver Convention Center in 2022. Each Skills Canada Member Organization will be able to self-select the competitor that will compete to get onto Team Canada in this event.

Shanghai 2022

At this time, WorldSkills 2022 is planned for Shanghai (October 12- 17, 2022).

Alumni & Partner Series

Skills Canada BC has been working with its Alumni and partners to create video content for its Inspire Program, YouTube Channel, social media feeds and newsletters. These videos tell inspiring stories about SCBC's Alumni and their journeys into the skilled trades and technology fields.