

**Executive Director's Report
September 2019**

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Regionals (2019)

Skills Canada BC's 2019 Regional competitions were well attended. **In total, 3,083 Secondary and Post-Secondary students** competed in over 18 competitions throughout the province. This is an increase of 1,053 student competitors (**34.16% growth rate**) from the 2018 competition year.

50% of the 2019 Regional competitors were **Junior Skills Students** which have been identified as a key demographic for introducing the skilled trades and technology careers.

Provincial (2019)

The 25 Annual Skills Canada BC Provincial competition was held on April 17, 2019. **Hon. Melanie Mark** attended both the Trade and Technology Conference for Women and the Partner's Luncheon. 658 competitors competed in 63 competition areas.

Nationals 2019

The 2019 Nationals in Halifax went very well. Skills Canada BC competitors won more medals than ever before. Click here to see the results. https://skillscanada.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Skills-Canada-BC_2019-National-Winners-3.pdf

Russia 2019

The Canadian finalists for the 2019 WorldSkills competition were announced on May 29, 2019 in Halifax prior to the medal ceremonies. BC had 7 competitors who competed for final spots on Team Canada, four BC competitors won spots.

Meet Skills Canada BC's Team Canada Members:

- [Rashad Ali](#) from BCIT
- [Leah Patitucci](#) from VCC
- [Clarrisa Roque](#) from VCC
- [Joseph Thoong](#) from VIU

Sponsorship 2019

Sponsorship packages are being redeveloped to attract/retain new/existing sponsors. New 2019 sponsors include: BC Dental Association, Harbour Air, BCIB, Wolseley, Alpha Educational and Technical, Visual College of Art and Design. SCBC can expect some sponsorship challenges ahead in 2020 with a shifting economy. Stanley Dewalt, a long time supplier/sponsor of the Inspire Program will not be able to continue its support of the Inspire Program in 2020 due to changing market conditions south of the border.

2020 Nationals

Bi-weekly discussions are ongoing to discuss funding for the 2020 Nationals. Skills Canada identified that SCBC should be looking for a financial contribution of \$250,000 or more from its provincial government to help cover costs. A meeting has been set for September 10, 2019 in Victoria for SCBC's provincial partners to meet with Shaun and Gail from the National office.

BC Gov't & the ITA

Funding from the BC Gov't (\$150,000) and the ITA (\$150,000) was received by SCBC in 2019. SCBC is hosting bi-weekly discussions with its provincial partners that has resulted in a commitment of an additional (\$100,000) in funding from the Ministry. Additionally, a face-to-face meeting has been set for September 4, 2019 for SCBC to meet with the ITA and the Ministry to discuss funding for the 2020 Nationals and the Inspire Program.

Inspire Program

The Inspire Program is continuing to grow and build momentum. In 2019 the Regional competitions experienced an increase of 1,000 students into the competitions. This growth (59% increase from 2017) can be linked to the Inspire Program performing strongly as a feeder program that promotes SCBC competitions to students, teachers and parents throughout the province. Discussions are ongoing with the **Inspire Task Force** on how best to update its curriculum. No industry sponsor has stepped up to fund Inspire but ongoing discussions with SCBC's government partners are ongoing to try and establish stable, long-term funding for this program.

Ongoing Projects

New data collection and reporting tools are being created on an ongoing basis to help identify emerging trends and measure program efficiencies.

Russia

SCBC board members, Abigail Fulton and Kelly Betts were invited to speak at the WorldSkills Conference in Kazan. These presentations provided regional content and perspectives to the conference curriculum which was well received by participants.