

SkillsBC Spring Newsletter 2016

2015/16 was another exciting and busy year for SkillsBC. Continued growth this year enabled approximately 30,000 students to explore the potential of trades and technology careers through competition, programs and activities. SkillsBC appreciates the continued support of the volunteers and valued partnerships.



Regional Competitions

This spring, SkillsBC's 13 Regional Competitions included approximately 5800 spectators and 1844 student competitors held in communities across the province. This is the highest number of competitors in SkillsBC's 22 year history! The Peace Region had over 300 competitors which is the first time any Regionals has had that many competitors.

Students in elementary, middle and secondary schools showcased their talents to their local audiences. Many regional competitions also offered the opportunity for spectators and students to try out some hands-on activities.

<http://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/regional-competitions/>

Regional competitions also support Junior Skills events for grade 6-9's such as Sumo Robotics, Gravity Car and Spaghetti Bridge Building. Check out the skills profiles page for information on these exciting events:

<http://skillscanada.bc.ca/resources/skills-profiles/>

View Regional Competition and contact information here:

<http://skillsbc.ca/NewRegionalComp.aspx>



Provincial Competitions

The 22nd Annual Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition, held on April 13, 2016 at the Tradex in Abbotsford was a huge success! Over 560 competitors registered for the competition with approximately 6000 attendees/visitors. BC students participated in various career development and hands on activities at the Pathways to Careers Showcase, in addition to watching the competitors vie for medals and a place on TeamBC! 220 students were successful in achieving medals at the provincial levels.

See Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skillscanadabc/sets/72157665073656704/>

Full list of provincial competition winners here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/22nd%20annual%20SkillsBC%20provincial%20comp>

[etition.pdf](#)

Ministers Shirley Bond and Amrik Virk, celebrated the winners of the 2016 SkillsCanada BC (SkillsBC) provincial competition. Full news release and further details here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2016JTST0053-000573>

View Provincial Competition videos here:

2016 SkillsBC Competitions Public Speaking Gold Medalist Video:

<http://skillscanada.bc.ca/resources/videos-photos/>

SkillsCanada BC volunteers and staff celebrating a job well done. Thanks so much for your support!



National Competitions

Team BC headed to the Nationals with 56 competitors to compete in Moncton, New Brunswick from June 5-8, 2016.

The 2016 National Competition was a record breaking year for SkillsBC. SkillsBC competitors took home 26 medals, the second highest medal count in all of Canada! TeamBC won 9 gold; 7 silver; 10 bronze.

Congratulations Team BC. Well done! Thanks to all the volunteers as well. This wouldn't be possible without your support.

Link to results: <http://skillsbc.ca/pdf2016/teambc2016results.pdf>

Check out the SkillsCanada website for further information regarding the Nationals: <http://skillscompetencescanada.com/en/>



Skilled Trades & Technology Conference for Women

The 2016 BC Trades and Technology Conference for Women was held in conjunction with the Provincial competitions at the Tradex , Abbotsford on April 13, 2016. Female high school students from grade 9-12 had a unique opportunity to network with female mentors from over 25 non-traditional trades and technology fields and learn about some amazing potential careers. Electricians, welders, ironworkers, ruby developers, careers in aviation, mining, safety and many more careers were represented at the conference.

After the morning conference and lunch, students were also able to check out the SkillsBC Provincial competitions and try out some hands on activities.

Click here for further information: <http://skillscanada.bc.ca/programs/trades-tech-for-women/>



Cardboard Boat Race, Burnaby

Students from Burnaby School District had a fun, challenging day competing in the SkillsBC Cardboard Boat Races on Wednesday, May 18 at Burnaby North Secondary.

Students, armed with duct tape and cardboard, constructed vessels after which the teams raced their boats across a pool.

The Cardboard Boat Races challenge students to use teamwork, numeracy, literacy and problem solving skills

creativity and problem solving skills.

The winning schools teams that placed were Lindhurst- Gold, Taylor Park - Silver, and Capital Hill Bronze.

See More Cardboard Boat Race Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skillscanadabc/sets/72157668605202455/>



InSPIRE - In School Presentations: Inform! Relate! Excite!

The InSPIRE program, a result of the partnership between SkillsBC and Trades Training BC, was introduced in 2013/14 as a pilot that reached 1600 BC students. In 2014/15 that number grew to over 12,000 and now for 2015/16 we have successfully reached over 15,000 students!

The InSPIRE program is a unique in-school presentation that provides teachers and students from grades 6 - 12 with a new perspective on skilled trades and technology careers through engaging , hands on and thought-provoking activities and relevant, career focused videos.

We encourage educators interested to register their classes early for the InSPIRE program in 2016/17 as spaces fill up quickly.

To learn more and to register:

<http://skillscanada.bc.ca/programs/inspire/>



Vancouver International AutoShow, March 28 - April 2, 2016

Student volunteers from Burnaby, Richmond and Vancouver helped SkillsBC run hands on activities at the Auto Show in Vancouver in March. During the five day event, SkillsBC had over 1000 people try the hands on activities including a welding simulator, tire changing and gravity car racing and at least that many watching or cheering on their children, siblings, partners or parents from the sidelines!

A huge thank you to the 15 volunteers who helped make it all happen.”

See website for more auto show details:

<http://vancouverinternationalautoshow.com/>