

Minister of Employment
Workforce Development
And Disability Inclusion



Ministre de l'Emploi,
du Développement de la main-d'œuvre
et de l'inclusion des personnes handicapées

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9



As the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, it is my pleasure to welcome all of you to the Skills Canada British Columbia Provincial Competition.

The skilled trades offer rewarding, high quality and well-paying jobs that are critical to Canada's economic growth and are in high demand. Across the country, skilled tradespeople have been critical to essential sectors during this pandemic, and they will continue to play an important role as Canada moves towards economic recovery.

The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of ensuring that Canadians – including Canadians from key groups who face barriers, such as youth, women, newcomers, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and Black and racialized Canadians — get the opportunity to explore and prepare for good careers in the skilled trades. That is why supporting youth to go into the skilled trades is a longstanding priority for the Government.

We recently invested \$23 million over five years in an agreement with Skills/Compétences Canada to encourage youth to build careers in the trades through regional skills competitions as well as other promotional activities hosted by Skills/Compétences Canada's provincial and territorial Member Organizations.

This is in addition to our support for the Red Seal Program, as well as measures for apprentices such as: apprenticeship grants, the Canada Apprentice loan, tax credits and Employment Insurance benefits while attending full-time technical training. For more information on the Red Seal Program and supports for apprentices, I encourage you to visit [Red Seal](#) and [Supports for Apprentices](#).

I am proud to partner with Skills/Compétences Canada and support our country's youth to get the help they need to access training and work in their chosen trades. Being exposed to the skilled trades and technologies while engaging with your peers will surely be a memorable experience.

I wish you good luck in the virtual competitions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Carla Qualtrough".

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, P.C., M.P.

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