



**Skills Canada BC
Annual Report
January – August 2021**

Table of Contents

1. SKILLS CANADA BC3

2. THE YEAR IN REVIEW3

3. REGIONALS 2021.....3

4. PROVINCIALS 20214

5. NATIONALS 2021.....4

6. WORLDSKILLS4

7. ONLINE CHALLENGES 2021.....4

8. ONGOING INDUSTRY & EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT5

9. EDUCATION PARTNERS.....5

10. INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH5

11. DATA COLLECTION & ANALYTICS5

12. SUSTAINABILITY PLAN.....5

Annual Report 2021

1. Skills Canada BC

Skills Canada BC (SCBC) helps to prepare British Columbia's youth for the highly skilled economy of tomorrow through competitions, in-school programs, online challenges, and young women's conferences.

Started in 1994, Skills Canada BC is a provincial organization with deep community roots across the province. SCBC is committed to providing opportunities for all youth to explore careers in the skilled trades and technology sectors that will contribute towards building a diverse and highly skilled workforce in the province.

2. The Year in Review

Due to the pandemic, on March 13, 2020, SCBC announced it was cancelling its Provincial competition scheduled to be held on April 13, 2020. As infection rates were rising quickly, health authorities began mandating the shutdown of events. In the months that followed, schools opened and closed, and uncertainty prevailed.

Throughout 2020 and 2021 SCBC continued to work closely with its partners to plan Regional, Provincial, National and WorldSkills competitions. In 2021, most SCBC competitions were held virtually or remotely. Those who held in-person events did so within the confines of school cohorts and socially distanced spaces.

Despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, Skills Canada BC continues to engage with communities across British Columbia. These actions have facilitated the continuation of its regional, provincial, and national competitions, online challenges, in-school programming, and young women's conferences.

3. Regionals 2021

After the cancellation of its Provincials 2020 competition new ways of delivering competitions that could meet everchanging safety standards were explored and reimaged through ongoing consultations with multi-tiered stakeholder groups. SCBC's advisors were comprised of industry, education, and labour partners as well as SCBC alumni, regional coordinators, and provincial and national tech chairs.

Hosting monthly zoom calls with its regional coordinators allowed SCBC to work with educators and host partners that resulted in the highest number of competitors ever put through SCBC competitions in its 27-year history. In total, 10,750 competitors competed in SCBC's Regional 2021 competitions. This high number of competitor engagement was achieved by implementing a mixture of remote, virtual, in-person and classroom cohorts to host competitions as well as allowing for flexible and extended competition dates and times.

Annual Report 2021

4. Provincials 2021

SCBC's Provincial 2021 competitions were held in remote and virtual settings to accommodate safety orders that varied from region to region. The first provincial competition was "Crane Operations" held in February 2021, at the Operating Engineers School (Maple Ridge).

The remaining competitions were held in April and May. Over 200 competitors competed province wide. Working with Provincial Tech Chairs, SCBC developed new protocols for judging virtual competitions, proctor engagement, competitor readiness, and technology-use for live streaming competitions.

SCBC's Provincial 2021 competition schedule was developed with continuous input from its Provincial Tech Chairs. SCBC was flexible on scheduling competition dates, times, and locations to accommodate the highest participation in these virtual, remote, and in-person events. Prior to the pandemic, the SCBC Provincial competition was held as a one-day event that drew in thousands of students, educators, and industry partners at the Tradex, in Abbotsford, each April. In total Skills BC put through 211 provincial competitors.

5. Nationals 2021

On March 16, 2020, Skills Competence Canada announced it was cancelling its National 2020 competition scheduled for the end of May in Vancouver. After the summer, the decision was made to cancel the Nationals 2021 in Quebec City.

The Nationals 2021 was a virtual event. Most of the Member Organizations participated but competitor numbers were lower than normal. SCBC had 25 competitors who competed in the Nationals (Virtuals) 2021 won a total of 18 medals. (In 2019, in Halifax, SCBC had 60 National competitors.)

6. WorldSkills

As the pandemic persisted worldwide, WorldSkills International announced in November 2020 that the WorldSkills 2021 competition, scheduled to be held in Shanghai, China, would be postponed until 2022. Early into 2021, WorldSkills International announced it had rescheduled WorldSkills 2021 for October 12 – 17, 2022. The Team Canada run event will be held concurrently to the Nationals 2022 at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

7. Online Challenges 2021

On April 2020 SCBC launched its first *Online Challenge* that students could do from home. These online challenges provided opportunities for SCBC to engage stakeholder groups during the pandemic in new roles and helped the organization build capacity and grow its audience. By 2021 Skills Canada BC's Online Challenges have become part of the organization's regular programming. In 2021, Essential Skills were introduced into

Annual Report 2021

each online challenge to highlight the skills needed to complete challenges. Additionally, 2-year funding from ESDC was secured for the online challenges to update Essential Skills tools into the new Skills for Success programming.

8. Ongoing Industry & Employer Engagement

Industry and employment partners continued to play an important role in advising Skills Canada BC on emerging trends in the skilled trades and apprenticeship programs. Many of Skills Canada BC's Provincial and National Technical Chairs come from the industry and employment sectors.

9. Education Partners

SCBC works with secondary and post-secondary as well as labour and independent schools. SCBC's education partners introduce the competitions to their students, host competitions, liaise with supply partners, develop scope documents. They also provide the valuable manpower required to develop and design competitions, judge competitor submissions, and provide proctor and chaperone services whenever necessary.

10. Indigenous Engagement & Outreach

SCBC's Indigenous engagement and outreach initiatives has facilitated an increased Indigenous participation in its competitions and programs. This work will continue into 2022.

11. Data Collection & Analytics

SCBC collects data and analytic information each time it hosts competitions, online programs, and in-school programming. This information helps SCBC understand emerging trends, identify opportunities for growth, and plan for the future.

12. Sustainability Plan

Revenue streams for SCBC in 2021 included the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia (AEST), sponsorships, registration fees and interest revenue. During the pandemic revenue generation was down in all categories. Proportional breakdown of SCBC revenue is approximately:

- 1/3 ESDC Funding (Federal)
- 1/3 Provincial Funding
- 1/3 Sponsorships & Registration Fee