

Executive Director's Report
Michelle Skelly

Skills Canada Board Meeting – November 20, 2024

It has been a busy, productive fall. Fall conferences have provided great opportunities to connect with students, educators and existing and potential new sponsors.

Weekly staff meetings are ongoing and additional meetings to discuss sponsorships and operations.

Conferences and Committee Participation:

- UFV (University of the Fraser Valley) Opportunities Fair - October 17, 2024, Abbotsford.
 - Coast Capital was the primary sponsor for this event. Followed up with various exhibitors as potential sponsors for SCBC and connected with Coast Capital.
- BCTEA (BC Technology Education Association Conference) - October 25, 2025, Chilliwack.
- CES (Career Education Society Conference) - November 2024, Vancouver.
- CONNECTHER HUB -Nov 2, BCIT, Burnaby. Met with Anna Lary, BCIT ConnectHer Project Lead prior to this event to discuss how both organizations can collaborate on potential events or Provincials. This is a place for women and gender-diverse trades students, alumni, workers and prospective trades workers to connect. Shoshawna Blair attended.
- South Fraser Trades Advisory Meeting - October 31, Zoom (Virtual). It was noted that districts have lost staff and have decreased funding. This could potentially reflect less buses to Tradex and staff coverage for TOC, including those that volunteer with us in various capacities with the competitions.

Audit:

- The yearly audit is now in process. Mona Soleimani and I are working on providing various details and documents for the audit.
- This is expected to be completed by mid-December to ensure time to review prior to AGM in January.

Competitions:

- Organization is well under way for both Regionals and Provincials.

Regionals:

- Regional Coordinator meetings started up again this fall. Next meeting is Nov 27.
- Jamie Maxwell to work with Mike Ford to develop those regions that are underrepresented.

- Made great connections at the CES Conference including Central Interior (Prince George). In discussions to have competitions running again through CNC and in conjunction with SD57.

Provincials:

- Jamie Maxwell and Mike Ford are working on various aspects of the operations.
- Tradex meetings have been ongoing. We are working to reduce costs with Tradex, particularly F&B.
- Met with Sylvia Peary, Volunteer Coordinator for Provincials. Will join for at least another year. We will further discuss succession planning.
- Meetings with Myles Andrew as well, one of our key volunteers, former alumni that helps with various aspects at Tradex.
- Working on promotional materials, eblasts and website updates.
- Provincials bus subsidies registration and information has been sent to the educators. We currently have 50 buses booked.
- There has been some success with getting more TOC coverage for Provincials tech chairs covered by school districts and/or schools although it has been noted that school districts are also very tight with budgets so for some this is not possible.
- I am working with staff on shared documents with to do lists and deadlines for the competitions.

Programs:

- Inspire presentations are confirmed in Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and some Victoria school districts.
- Construction Foundation of BC providing presenter again to deliver Fort Nelson presentations. Connected with Fort Nelson school district at CES.
- Will be in discussions with South Island Partnership (SIP) regarding the school year rollout for Inspire. Mike Ford could potentially also step in for some of these presentations. We will be looking at Sechelt as well.
- Plan to continue to deliver Women in Trades Conference (Peace Region, Dawson Creek) at Regionals in conjunction with Skilled Trades BC.
- Skills for Success - Beading Kits provided by Skills Canada. Working on completing final distribution of this. Sent to Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Vancouver Island and recently Vernon. Focus on remote regions and indigenous communities.
- Shoshawna Blair developed educator resources and podcasts for National Skilled Trades and Technology Week in November, coordinating with Skills Canada.

Nationals:

- Dates: May 29 and 30, 2025
- Location: Regina, Saskatchewan
- Working in advance on various aspects including information package for competitors, hotel and conference room logistics, flights and team attire.

Next WorldSkills:

- World Skills 2026 - China
- World Skills 2028 – Japan
- World Skills 2030 – tbd – there is a possibility Canada will bid for this.

Sponsorship:

- First Business Development Meetings October 30, 2024
- Working on existing and new potential sponsorships for 2025.
- As of October 31, 2024, \$4,000 has been received in sponsorship payment however \$53,000 is confirmed and in the follow up stages.
- Sponsors spreadsheet can be shared for further details.
- Coast Capital is the largest sponsor secured at Elite \$25,000 sponsorship so far.
- CHBA and BCIT have confirmed Bronze sponsorships.
- Supplies and materials chart for Provincials has been developed as well as follow up for sponsorship. Working with staff follow up regarding this.
- Coordinating a meeting with Dewalt. They are interested in renewing sponsorship for tool support.

Board Committees:

- Have met with various Board members for committee work for Governance. Business Development, Finance and other details.
- Ongoing meetings with Dennis Innes, Board President.

Skills Canada Operations Meetings:

- Virtual and in Person Operations Meetings are ongoing.
- Next in person Operations meetings will be in February. Met with Nationals Board members in October for the first time.

Government:

- **Ministry of Future Skills and Training**
 - Met with our liaison Adam Skulsky, October 16. Next meeting with Adam November 20. No further updates from Adam at this point.
 - Adam noted that nothing required from us at this point. All reports are up to date.
- **Skilled Trades BC**
 - Confirmed 50% of last agreement for 1 year = \$55,000
 - Working with Maureen Phung regarding the deliverables for this.
 - STBC has not received any additional funding thereby impacting our agreement.
- **Ministry of Education**
 - Met with Daniel Tones at the CES Conference. Will advise if any RFP's come up. Nothing to date.
- **Government of Canada** – ESDC funding through Skills Canada

- Mona Soleimani and I are preparing and submitting ongoing quarterly reporting to Skills Canada. October 15 last report due and next quarterly report is due January 15.
- Renewal at this point will not include an increase and will be the same as previous years. Working on details with Skills Canada accountant and Mona Soleimani.

Indigenous involvement:

- Had a brief meeting with Amber Gregory (contact through Kerry Vital and Courtenay Kearney). Amber contracts with various organizations and will be able to provide further direction regarding indigenous involvement and ideas. Amber will confirm availability for a meeting shortly.
- Have touched base with Capacity Crane re Metis Nation (booth space last year) and SASSET (contact through UFV event).
- Firming up a meeting with ACCESS for next week regarding potential involvement.

Alumni:

- Rosa Donaire Champagne (National Alumni Rep) has confirmed will renew as BC representative for another year.
- Will continue to gather more testimonials to add to website and for reporting purposes:
 - <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/testimonials/>
- Plan to continue alumni follow up with Provincials involvement, medals ceremony, Skills Canada BC booth.
- Shoshawna has been doing continued work on podcasts. Promoted on social media and newsletters: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/educators-guide/podcasts-interviews/>