

Skills Canada BC
Executive Director's Report
Michelle Skelly

Skills Canada Board Meeting – January 15, 2025

Competitions:

- Organization is well under way for all competition levels – Regionals, Provincials and Nationals.

Regionals:

- Regional Coordinator meetings are ongoing. Next meeting is Jan. 22, 2025.
- Registration is underway for some regions. Shoshawna has taken over the registration from Jamie this year.
- Working to develop those regions that are underrepresented, particularly Central Interior and Northwest (Terrace). Connections through CES secured a new Regional Coordinator for Central Interior. Slow uptake but progress is being made in Central Interior.
- New to website: Detailed Regionals information and Competitions calendar is available here:
 - <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/regional-competitions/2025-regional/>
- Skills BC Team will be attending some Regionals events that weren't attended last year in addition to the ones in close proximity to our staff.

Provincials:

- The SCBC team is working diligently on various aspects of the operations.
- Tradex meetings have been ongoing. We are working to reduce costs with Tradex, particularly F&B.
- Tradex contract signed and sent to Dennis Innes and Nicola Priestley. Nothing significantly different than previous years.
- Working with Jamie Maxwell and Mike Ford regarding the Provincials budgets and ways to reduce fees and seek additional sponsorship.
- Shoshawna working on the promotional materials, eblasts and website updates.
- Media promotions list available upon request.
- Provincials bus subsidies registration and information has been sent to the educators. We currently have over 60 buses booked for the subsidy and a total of 90 buses so far expected to attend.
- Sylvia Peary overseeing volunteers for another year and will continue to communicate re contingency planning for future.

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, transportation, busing, 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.

Programs:

- Inspire presentations completed in Fort Nelson and some Victoria school districts.
- Construction Foundation of BC provided presenter again to deliver Fort Nelson presentations in November.
- Working with South Island Partnership (SIP) for Inspire island presentations. Mike Ford potentially stepping in for a few of these presentations.
- Date set for Women in Trades Conference (Peace Region, Dawson Creek) at Regionals in conjunction with Skilled Trades BC, Feb 16, 2025.
- Skills for Success - Beading Kits provided by Skills Canada. Working on completing final distribution of this to SD42 in Jan. Sent to Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Vancouver Island and recently Vernon. Focus on remote regions and indigenous communities. SD42 to provide the indigenous data and photos.
- Shoshawna Blair developed educator resources and podcasts for National Skilled Trades and Technology Week in November, coordinated with Skills Canada. This is ongoing as online resources, in newsletter, social media etc.

Board Committees:

- Have met with various Board members for committee work for Governance, Business Development, Finance and other details.
- Governance to discuss the topic of membership fees.
- Policies and Procedures and Board handbook finalized. Will review HR Handbook after these other documents finalized.
- Follow up meeting January 16, with lawyer, Rhys Volkenant regarding quote for fees. Review of bylaws specific to Protection of Children and Youth, per Governance Committee. Contact provided by Abigail Fulton.
- Ongoing meetings are continuing with Dennis Innes, Board President. Dennis and I to send follow up letter with Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Minister, Anne Kang. In addition, Ken Armour, CEO with Trade Training BC, regarding meeting in the spring (May) with the consortium for potential further funding. <https://www.tradetrainingbc.ca/>

Audit:

- The yearly audit is complete.

- No issues were reported
- Financials meeting held Jan 6 and Special Board meeting was held on Jan 8, 2025.
- Nicola to provide further details from Finance Committee.

Sponsorship:

- Subsequent Business Development meeting held December 4 and next meeting will be held January 22, 2025.
- Continued work on existing and new potential sponsorships for 2025.
- As of January 10, 2024- \$115,500 has been invoiced in sponsorship payments however \$143,000 is confirmed and in the follow up stages.
- \$63,000 has been received to date. There is \$52,500 in receivables.
- The sponsors spreadsheet can be shared for further details and detailed updates will be provided in the Business Development committee meeting in January.
- Coast Capital is the largest sponsor secured at Elite \$25,000 sponsorship so far. Meeting with Coast Capital regarding sponsorship fulfillment on Jan 15.
- **Pending:**
- Al Roadburg Foundation has also confirmed they will partner for \$25,000 as part of indigenous outreach and we are just waiting for proposal. Mike is following up with this. The Ronald S. Roadburg Foundation is a private charitable foundation, established in 2021 through the estate of the late Vancouver businessman Ronald Roadburg.
- CN is still looking at \$25,000 sponsorship however waiting for template and further updates.
- WorksafeBC grant proposal and online submission for 2025 for \$25,000 has been completed and was submitted on January 10.
- **Supplies and materials** chart for Provincials has been developed as well as follow up for sponsorship. Working with staff follow up regarding this.
- Canadian Tire (Maximum Tools) is providing tools for the carpentry competition.
- In discussions with Stanley Dewalt. They are interested in renewing sponsorship for tool support.

Skills Canada Operations Meetings:

- Virtual and in Person Operations Meetings are ongoing.
- Next in person Operations meetings will be in February.
- Discussions around implementing “Skilled Futures” branding to use across the country for brand consistency and as an umbrella for programs. Eg Skilled Futures – Career Presentations, Skilled Futures for Indigenous Youth. This is still in the planning/implementation stages.

Conferences and Committee Participation:

- South Fraser Trades Advisory Meeting – Dec 13, Zoom (Virtual).
- Ongoing committee participation with Skills Canada, including Operations, MarComm, Programs, Business Development.

Government:

- **Ministry of Future Skills and Training**
 - Met with our liaison Adam Skulsky, November 20 and January 9, 2025
 - Adam noted that nothing required from us at this point. All reports are up to date.
 - Sent invite to Minister Anne Kang for Provincials in December and follow up again in Jan. Waiting for response.
 - Adam noted with things just starting up, things might be a bit slow.
 - Skills BC Regionals press release approved from the Ministry last week and will be sent shortly.
- **Skilled Trades BC**
 - Nothing new to date. Per previous report:
 - 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 in November. Will advise if any RFP's come up. Nothing to date.
 - Will follow up with invite for new Minister Lisa Beare and Daniel Tones to Provincials and Partner's lunch
- **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 was 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

- Confirmed COFI and First Nations Forestry Council for Pathway Sponsorship.
- Follow up with Capacity Crane re Metis Nation (booth space last year)
- SASET (contact through UFV event).
- 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. Reached out further a couple of times for a meeting but haven't had a response.

- Met with ACCESS (Jiovanni Beltran) regarding potential involvement. Will be following up further. Potential booth space.
- Al Roadburg Foundation partnership will focus on indigenous outreach (to be confirmed). Mike Ford following up with this.
- Final distribution of Skills Canada indigenous beading kits to SD42 and Indigenous audience – photos will be provided. Vernon provided positive feedback/testimonial and photos.

Alumni:

- Rosa Donaire Champagne (National Alumni Rep) BC representative for another year.
- Plans to continue alumni follow up with Provincials involvement, medals ceremonies etc.
- Shoshawna has secured 2017 Cooking Alumni, Siobhan Detkavich as a cooking judge and potential medal presenter. Siobhan was on Top Chef Canada.
- Shoshawna has been doing continued work on podcasts and promoting alumni on social media and newsletters: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/educators-guide/podcasts-interviews/>
- Will continue to gather more testimonials to add to website and for reporting purposes:
 - <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/testimonials/>