

Skills Canada BC
Executive Director's Report
Michelle Skelly

Skills Canada Board Meeting – June 12, 2025

Staff Update:

- Jamie Maxwell retiring in June.
- Skills Canada funding for Mike Ford until end of September.
- Transition plan is for Mike to continue in same capacity, in full time role.

Competitions:

Regionals:

- Regionals wrapped up early April. Competitor numbers this year- 1890 registrations.
- New to website: Detailed Regionals information and Competitions calendar is available here:
 - <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/regional-competitions/2025-regional/>
- New to this year: Regional Coordinator Reporting after Regionals. Creating a jotform with data and relevant information for SCBC.
- Working on updating the roles and responsibilities document.
- Seeking a Regional Coordinator for Central Lower Mainland (Richmond, New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam)

Provincials:

- 47 Trades/Technologies, 62 Competitions when counting Secondary and Post Secondary separately.
- The pathways to Careers Showcase included 60 booths.
- Over 70 buses confirmed the bus subsidy with over 90 buses booked.
- Tradex confirmed 7700 in attendance with door clickers.
- De-brief meetings to review what worked, ways to improve for next year.
- Working with Tradex and Tradex contractors, managed to reduce costs in various areas such as F&B, volunteer parking fees, electrical, staging and sound, pipe and drape/exhibitor set up as well.
- Working with Mike Ford on a PTC (Provincial Technical Chairs) onboarding document for new PTC's including the philosophy statements for SCBC.
- **Next Provincials is set for April 15, 2026**

Nationals 2025:

- Dates: May 29 and 30, 2025
- Location: Regina, Saskatchewan

- The results are in:
 - <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-Nationals-Results.pdf>
 - 29 out of 60 competitors received medals:
 - 6 Gold: 3 Secondary, 2 Post Secondary
 - 11 Silver: 6 Secondary, 5 Post Secondary
 - 12 Bronze: 8 Secondary, 4 Post Secondary
 - Total of 17 Secondary medals and 12 Post Secondary medals
- De-briefing best practices and ideas for next year.

Nationals 2026:

- Dates: May 28 and 29, 2026
- Location: Toronto, Ontario

Next WorldSkills:

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

Programs and Presentations Update:

Inspire:

- Numbers include:
- South Island Partnership: 104 INSPIRE Presentations, 2600 students
 - School Districts: Victoria, Saanich, Sooke
- Fort Nelson: 11 presentations, 275 students, high indigenous population, indigenous presenter
- Fort St. John: 17 presentations, 455 students, 119 indigenous students.
- **Total: 127 presentations, 3330 students.**
- Various other presentations per below.

Additional Events and Presentations:

- Indspire – Indigenous conference, April 9 and 10. Skilled Trades BC invited SCBC to participate at the booth at no cost. As this was the week prior to Provincials, had alumni attending on behalf of SCBC.
- GW Graham Career Day – April 30. Shoshawna provided presentations – 4 -45min presentations- About SCBC and Careers in Trades and Baking.
- Presented at Tsleil-Waututh Nation, North Vancouver, on May 5 through MEND organization. MEND purpose is to provide careers and direction through sport but they also wanted to include career direction. Other presentations included CapU, CanadianTire Kick Start.

Board Committees:

- Ongoing meetings with various Board members for committee work for Governance, Business Development, Finance, and Executive.
- Committees to provide updates.
- Ongoing meetings are continuing with Dennis Innes, Board President. Letter to Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Minister, Anne Kang was sent by Dennis Innes, April 3, 2025. No response to date.

Sponsorship:

- Business Development meeting held May 21, 2025.
- Sponsorships for 2025 total is \$327,250.
- This did not include the \$55,000 from Skilled TradesBC.
- Target in budget was 220k.
- Further details will be provided in the Business Development Committee update.
- Ongoing with some sponsors regarding sponsorship fulfillment: CN, WorkSafeBC, Coast Capital
- Outreach sent with thank you from Board in addition to survey from Mike Ford asking for interest in early confirmation eg same booth space etc.
- Will work on Sponsorship Guide for 2026 shortly.
- **Supplies and materials** chart for Provincials has been developed as well as follow up for sponsorship. Saving significant funds through the added supplies and materials being donated this year.

Skills Canada Operations Meetings:

- Virtual Meetings are ongoing and next in person Operations meetings will be end of June in Ottawa.
- Marks Program – working on a promotion to develop Try-A-Trade kits and top 50 list programming.

Conferences and Committee Participation:

- South Fraser Trades Advisory Committee Meeting – May 15. Provided SCBC update.
- Ongoing committee participation with Skills Canada, including Operations, MarComm, Programs, Business Development.
- Registered for the CES (Career Education Society) for November, 2026 for potential workshop and exhibitor space.

Government:

- **Ministry of Future Skills and Training**
 - Meeting with our liaison Adam Skulsky, May 15, 2025.
 - Adam noted not much to report at this time however if we get a response from the Minister for a meeting, Adam would help us to prepare for this.

- Letter to Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, and Minister, Anne Kang was sent by Dennis Innes, April 3, 2025. No response to date.
- **Skilled Trades BC**
 - Discussions with Maureen Phung regarding next year and funding
 - Agreement for 2026 will be the same as previous year
 - One year agreement - \$55,000
 - Maureen will provide draft contract for review.
- **Government of Canada – ESDC funding through Skills Canada**
 - Mona Soleimani and I are preparing and submitting ongoing quarterly reporting to Skills Canada. April 15 last report due and next quarterly report due is July 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

- Attended the Indspire Indigenous Conference in Vancouver April 9 and 10. Alumni representative attended on behalf of SCBC. STBC offered SCBC the opportunity to share the booth space so there was no cost to attend this event.
- First Nations Forestry Council, Exhibitor at Provincials.
- John Williams provided welcome again this year at Partner's Luncheon at Provincials. John is the Knowledge keeper in residence at UFV, from Skwah First Nations.
- Tsleil-Waututh Nation, North Vancouver, May 5 – Presentation in conjunction with MEND <https://www.mendcanada.org/>, Capilano University, and CanadianTire Jump Start Program. MEND invited me to present on behalf of SCBC regarding trades and technology careers.
- Connected with Terry Sedgewick, founder of MEND regarding possible involvement with fall programs. Potential follow up meeting shortly.
- Reached out to Amber Gregory (contact through Board members, Kerry Vital and Courtenay Kearney) regarding attending this June Board meeting.
- Al Roadburg Foundation partnership will focus on indigenous outreach. Mike Ford to follow up further with this after Nationals.
- Inspire presentations: per section above presented to 200+ indigenous students

Alumni:

Below are some examples of alumni involvement:

- Rosa Donaire Champagne (National Alumni Rep) BC term is coming up.
- Jordan Mae-Friedland will step up as next Alumni Rep. Jordan volunteered at closing ceremonies in addition to helping us at the Indigenous conference. Jordan was a Silver Medalist at Nationals last year in Job Skills Demo and also volunteered as a judge at the 2025 skill demo competition.
- Provincials medals ceremonies included alumni involvement. 3 alumni presented medals to the winners.
- 2017 Cooking Alumni, Siobhan Detkavich was a cooking judge. Siobhan was on Top Chef Canada.
- Continued additions to podcasts and promoting alumni on social media and newsletters: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/educators-guide/podcasts-interviews/>
- Continuing to gather more testimonials to add to website and for reporting purposes: <https://skillscanada.bc.ca/testimonials/>
- Matthew Simpson, 2023 and 2024 post-secondary cabinetmaking Provincial gold medalist volunteered as a judge at the 2025 Provincial cabinetmaking competition, as well as spoke at the Partner's Luncheon.
- Leah Patitucci, Skills BC Alumna (I can't remember what years... 2018 and 19 maybe, but she did both cooking and baking and has volunteered for a few years now) volunteered in the 2025 Provincial cooking competition
- Ayden Meinhardt, 2023 Provincial gold medalist and 2024 National gold medalist in electronics post-secondary returned as a judge at Provincials this year
- Benjamin Hako, 2023 Provincial gold medalist and National Bronze medalist in IT network system administration judged at the Provincial competition this year and assisted with handing out medals at the closing ceremony
- 2017 Provincial gold medalist and National Bronze medalist, Andreas Roth, is returning as a coach for the autobody repair competitors and joining us on Team BC at Nationals. He is now an instructor at Okanagan College.
- Jireh Dunol, 2022 Provincial and National gold baking medalist volunteered at the Provincial competition and is now a part of the baking tech committee