

Skills Canada BC
Executive Director's Report
Michelle Skelly

Skills Canada Board Meeting – September 3, 2025

Staff Update:

- Jamie Maxwell has now retired.
- Mike Ford is now Director of Competitions and Sponsorships

Competitions:

Regionals:

- New: Regional Coordinator Reporting sent after Regionals. Created a jotform with data and relevant information for SCBC.
- Continuing to work on updating the roles and responsibilities document.
- Sent eblasts re seeking a Regional Coordinator for Central Lower Mainland (Richmond, New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam)
- Looking at testing new registration system on jotform for Regionals but will leave Provincials and Nationals “as is” for this year pending the outcome of the Regionals registration.

Provincials:

- **Next Provincials is set for April 15, 2026**
- PTC (Provincial Technical Chairs) new onboarding document for new PTC's including the philosophy statements for SCBC.
- PTC welcome meetings set up for September. Numerous dates.
- Provincials costs were below budget due to various reasons including additional funding provided by Skills Canada/ESDC and decreased spending and materials and supplies sponsorship.
- For 2026, we have had preliminary meetings with Tradex. Contract to be sent shortly.

Nationals 2026:

- Dates: May 28 and 29, 2026
- Location: Toronto, Ontario
- Hotel secured
- Working on conference room, team meeting and team activity locations

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:

- Skills BC partnered with UFV to run a summer Baking Camp from July 21 to 25. Shoshawna Blair, SkillsBC staff facilitated the Baking camp at UFV. This was a very successful event and UFV is interested in discussing potential future camps in collaboration with SkillsBC.
- We have also been in discussions with Adam Drake, PTC Electronics, regarding piloting a virtual electronics camp or program. The pilot would focus on Northern Region such as Fort Nelson, Fort St. John or just outside Terrace (the Indigenous Learning Village). Supplies and materials (re-usable) would be provided to the regions with instructional videos.

Inspire (classroom presentations):

- Plan to continue presentations in the South Island/Vancouver Island, Fort Nelson and Fort St. John. These northern regions have a high indigenous population.

Upcoming Presentations, Conferences and Committee Participation:

- Vancouver Island's 2025 Education Expo, September 12 and 13. Victoria, BC.
- MEND organization (indigenous) workshop/presentations at Tsleil-Waututh Nation, October and Nanaimo in the spring. MEND's purpose is to provide careers and direction through sport to indigenous students but also to include career direction. <https://www.mendcanada.org>
- BCTEA, BC Tech Educator's Conference, October, 2025 at Piping Industry College.
- Welder Educators Conference, October, 2025.
- CES (Career Education Society) , November, 2026 . Both workshop and exhibitor space.
- South Fraser Trades Advisory Committee Meetings will resume in the fall, 2025.
- Ongoing committee participation with Skills Canada, including Operations, MarComm, Programs, Business Development.
- GW Graham Career Day- Full day of presentations. Chilliwack, BC. Approximately 100 students. To be confirmed.

Sponsorship:

- Sponsorship will be discussed in Business Development Committee report.
- Secured some early bird sponsors for 2026 and working with Mike Ford on sponsorship chart.
- Sponsorship proposal sent to Home Hardware.
- Sponsorship Guide for 2026 will be sent to Board so they can distribute to potential sponsors/contacts. Follow up with Mike Ford or myself.

- **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 3rd week of September in Yellowknife, NWT.
- Marks Program – working on a promotion to develop Try-A-Trade kits and a top 50 list programming. Will be discussed in Sept Operations meeting. Funding would be provided for this.
- New branding: Skilled Futures. Provided by Skills Canada to potentially implement into any new programming. We are following up with Skills Canada to see if any potential additional funding around this.

Board Committees:

- Ongoing meetings and follow up 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.

Government:

- **Ministry of Future Skills and Training**
 - Meeting with our liaison Adam Skulsky, July, 2025 and next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025.
 - Adam noted not much to report at this time regarding any potential for funding. Noted to continue relationship with Skilled Trades BC under that umbrella.
 - New Minister Honourable Jessie Sunner, MLA for Surrey-Newton
 - Will connect with Dennis Innes regarding outreach.
- **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
 - Final Contract just provided for final review and signature.
- **Government of Canada – ESDC funding through Skills Canada**
 - Mona Soleimani and I are preparing and submitting ongoing quarterly reporting to Skills Canada. July 15 last report due and next quarterly report due is Oct 15.
 - Further details will be provided in Treasurer's Report and draft budget.

Current Indigenous involvement

- MEND <https://www.mendcanada.org/>, MEND invitation to present on behalf of SCBC regarding trades and technology careers, October 2025 (North Vancouver, Nation and Spring 2026 (Nanaimo).
- Connected with Terry Sedgewick, founder of MEND regarding involvement.
- Al Roadburg Foundation partnership potential focus on indigenous outreach. Mike Ford to follow up with this.
- Inspire presentations will have indigenous focus in Fort Nelson and Fort St. John.
- Programming including unused tools being sent to Indigenous Learning Village near Terrace.
- Discussions with Mike Ford regarding Provincials indigenous ideas.

Alumni

- Rosa Donaire Champagne (National Alumni Rep) BC term is up.
- Jordan Mae-Friedland stepped 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.
- Shoshawna Blair is following up to do some additional podcasts with our alumni.

Contractor update:

- New web editor through our network, Provincial Tech Chair from Camosun. Camosun graduate. Working out well. Started over the summer.
- Connecting with Sylvia Peary, volunteer coordinator in the fall for status update.