

Skills Canada BC
Executive Director's Report
Michelle Skelly

Skills Canada Board Meeting – December 3, 2025

- Since September Board meeting, the focus has been on sponsorship/partnership and fall conferences and events. (see below for list).
- The audit is in progress. Mona and I are working on providing information for this.
- Sent proposal to SkillsCanada for additional funding and was approved for up to \$50,000 for Regionals.
- Performance reviews and meetings for staff were completed in October.

Presentations, Conferences and Committee Participation:

- October 2 and 3: ICBA Conference Construction Summit, Vancouver BC. Connected with potential construction/employer sponsors.
- October 9, 2025: Youth Summit/Inclusion for Youth with Disabilities. Connected with organizations interested in attending Provincials such as InclusionBC. Also connected with regards to inclusive events we can attend. STBC is attending some of these. Connected with Maureen Phung regarding this.
- October 10: Mission Secondary, Welding Machine Delivery. Next Hands Program Drop off.
- October 16: UFV Opportunities Fair- Trades Campus in Chilliwack, BC
- October 17: 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>
- October 22 and 23: CWB -Welder Educators Conference, October, 2025.
- October 23: South Fraser Trades Advisory Committee Meeting, Oct 2025.
- October 24: BCTEA, BC Tech Educator's Conference, Piping Industry College, Delta.
- October 29: GW Graham Career Day- Full day of presentations. Chilliwack, BC. Approximately 100 students.
- November 13: North Vancouver Career Day. Seycove Secondary School. Exhibitor space.
- November 15: BCCCPAC Summit (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils) Virtual.
- November 17 and 18: CES (Career Education Society). Workshop and exhibitor space. Career Educators across the Province attend. Vancouver.
- Upcoming: Maple Ridge School District Career Fair, January 29.
- SASET Career Fair – Feb 4. Sto:Lo Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training, Chilliwack.
- Ongoing committee participation with Skills Canada, including Operations, MarComm, Programs, Business Development.

Competitions:

Regionals:

- Welcome meetings in October to meet all the RC's and introduce the staff.
- Shoshawna meeting with all RC's on the registration system.
- Added RC description- roles and responsibilities document to the RC dashboard.
- Still seeking a Regional Coordinator for Central Lower Mainland (Richmond, New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam. Shoshawna is currently filling this role.
- Central Interior (Prince George). Connected with College of New Caledonia, Kathleen Easton, at the CES Conference. Interested in further involvement again. Will meet with some of the CNC staff and the new Dean, Mark Pollard, in the coming weeks.
- Coast Mountain College initially said could not run Regionals. With the recent funding announcement they will now run Regionals, though less competitions. There is a potential opportunity to have the indigenous learning village involved as well with the NorthWest Regionals.

Provincials:

- **Next Provincials is set for April 15, 2026 at the Tradex, Abbotsford. Mark your calendars!**
- PTC (Provincial Tech Chair) welcome meetings ran in September. We ran about 5 online group meetings to accommodate everyone's schedules.
- The Tradex contract was negotiated and confirmed in September, much earlier than last year. There were some increases while other sections were re-negotiated.
- Mike Ford is continuing to work with Tradex on logistics such as the road closure, floor plan etc.
- Mike and I met with Tradex regarding potential cost cutting options such as F&B changes.
- Parking sponsor has been secured for the Tradex – BC Building Trades so parking will be complimentary. No barriers.
- Met with InclusionBC regarding accessibility around Provincials.
- Met with Sylvia Peary, Volunteer Coordinator who will continue in the role this year.

Nationals 2026:

- Dates: May 28 and 29, 2026
- Location: Toronto, Ontario
- Hotel confirmed. Working on conference room, team meeting and team activity locations and transportation logistics with SkillsCanada.

Next WorldSkills:

- World Skills 2026 - China

- World Skills 2028 – Japan
- World Skills 2030 – tbd – there is a possibility Canada will bid for this.
- 3 competitors are on Team Canada from BC for World Skills. We are working with Skills Canada to promote these competitors. Will attend BCIT during their training to get photos opportunities for promotions and to highlight these competitors.
 - Fashion Technology – Dhefen Goh, Eric Hamber graduate
 - Industrial Control – Eric Wu, BCIT
 - IT Network Systems Administration – Veljko Stevanovic, BCIT

Programs and Presentations Update:

Inspire (classroom presentations):

- Continuing presentations in the South Island/Vancouver Island, Fort Nelson and Fort St. John. These northern regions have a high indigenous population.
- Construction Foundation of BC and SIP is partnering with this initiative.
- Ben Haber, formerly SIP and Inspire presenter contracted to facilitate the island presentations.

Next Hands Program:

- October 10, 2025: Mission Secondary, Miller Welding machine delivered.
- Delivered tools to the Indigenous Learning Village in Terrace which were no longer being utilized in our competitions.

Pilot Project:

- Electronics update: 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.

NSTTW: (National Skilled Trades and Technology Week)

- November 2 to 8, 2025 – various activities included school presentations (Mission Secondary), World Skills highlights on social media and a podcast with Veljko Stevanoic, BC World Skills competitor in IT Network Systems Administration.

Skills Canada Programs:

- myBlueprint: Continuing to promote Skills Canada programs such as the Industry Immersion Series by myBlueprint. This Skilled Career Exploration Challenge which invites students to demonstrate how the Skills for Success apply to career paths within the world of skilled trades and technologies.
- **Chatterhigh:** Skills Canada is running a Nationals program again with Chatterhigh which comprises of questions which students answer by leading

them to websites such as SkillsBC and/or trades and technology career websites. Schools in BC have been winning this competition for numerous years and are highly engaged. We have promoted this competition to BC schools to become involved.

Sponsorship:

- Sponsorship will be further discussed in Business Development Committee report.
- Master Sponsors chart for Provincials is available for review upon request. Shared document Mike Ford and I are working on.
- Attended various conferences in the fall with potential new and existing partnerships to follow up with.
- Currently confirmed approximately \$130,000 with a goal of \$325,000.

Skills Canada Operations Meetings:

- Focus of September meeting was meeting with the Nationals Board. Focus on Strategic plan and vision/mission statements.
- Next meeting will be held in February, 2025 in Toronto.

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 Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills**
 - Meeting with our liaison Adam Skulsky, October 23 and next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 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 around this.
- **Skilled Trades BC**
 - Discussions with Maureen Phung regarding potential outreach SCBC could be involved with – eg Inclusive, indigenous conferences etc
 - Maureen was going to connect with the Apprenticeship advisors regarding this.
- **Government of Canada – ESDC funding through Skills Canada**
 - Ongoing quarterly reporting. Next due Jan 15, 2026.
 - Further details will be provided in the Treasurer's Report and draft budget.
- **Ministry of Education-** Met with Daniel Tones at the CES Conference. No potential funding at this point but will advise if anything comes available.

Current Indigenous involvement

- Oct 17: per above: 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)).
- Al Roadburg Foundation partnership potential focus on indigenous outreach. Mike Ford following up with this.
- Inspire presentations will have indigenous focus in Fort Nelson and Fort St. John.
- “Next Hands” programming including unused tools being sent to Indigenous Learning Village near Terrace.
- SASET – Feb 4. Will be attending/exhibiting at this career fair, Chilliwack and also sent exhibitor information for Provincials.
- Connected with Tsleil-waututh Nation School regarding Inspire presentations in the New Year.
- Discussions with Mike Ford regarding Provincials indigenous ideas. Eg last year CFBC activity was indigenous related.

Alumni

- 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.
- Will continue with podcasts with our alumni and gathering testimonials to add to the website and promote.