

**Skills Canada BC**  
**Executive Director's Report**  
**Michelle Skelly**

**Skills Canada Board Meeting – February 4, 2026**

- Since the December Board meeting our team has been focusing on all aspects of the competitions, sponsorship/partnerships, programs and various other details as outlined below.

**Competitions:**

- Organization is well underway for all competitions.

**Regionals:**

- Regional Coordinator meetings were held in January
- Shoshawna Blair has been meeting individually with all RC's on the new registration system.
- Lower Mainland hosted the first Regionals last week in Vancouver at Eric Hamber and John Oliver.
- Staff and I will be attending many of the Regionals.
- See schedule for dates and locations:  
<https://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/regional-competitions/2026-regional-schedule-2/>
- Final competitor numbers will be provided after Regionals wraps up and data will be provided to SkilledTradesBC.

**Provincials:**

- **Next Provincials is set for April 15, 2026 at the Tradex, Abbotsford. Mark your calendars!**
- The SCBC team is working diligently on various aspects of the operations and logistics.
- Parking sponsor has been secured for the Tradex – BC Building Trades so parking will be complimentary. No barriers.
- Met with InclusionBC regarding accessibility around the Provincials.
- Meetings with Sylvia Peary in January, SCBC Volunteer Coordinator who will continue in the role for this year.
- Partner's Luncheon potentially will be located in the loft area. Looking into logistics for this including accessibility.
- Meetings with various contractors in addition to Tradex.
- Further Provincials information will be provided to the Board in the coming months.
- At this point, approximately 50 school buses have registered.

**Nationals 2026:**

- Dates: May 28 and 29, 2026
- Location: Toronto, Ontario
- Ongoing with Skills Canada re securing Member Organization roles, transportation logistics with SkillsCanada.
- We are already working in advance on various aspects including the information package for competitors, hotel and conference room logistics, transportation, busing, team attire, team meetings on zoom and registration details and subsidies.

### **WorldSkills:**

- World Skills Sept 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 – Training at LaSalle College
  - 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, and Fort St. John in March. 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 has been contracted to facilitate the island presentations.
- Completed a grant application to the Ministry of Education in January for some potential funding.

#### **Next Hands Program:**

- Will continue to deliver tools no longer needed by SkillsBC or other organizations to schools/districts that can utilize them.
- In the fall delivered a Miller Welding machine to Mission Secondary in addition to tools to the Indigenous Learning Village in Terrace.

#### **Electronics Pilot Project:**

- In collaboration with Adam Drake, the SkillsBC Provincial Tech Chair for Electronics, we are piloting a virtual electronics program. The pilot will focus on Northern Regions such as Fort Nelson, Fort St. John or just outside Terrace (the Indigenous Learning Village).
- Supplies and materials (re-usable) will be provided to the regions with instructional videos.

- We are starting the pilot in Fort Nelson and have connected with the school district there to start the pilot in the spring.

### **Classroom Kits:**

- Skills Canada will reimburse \$30,000 in funding for the purchase of classroom kits.
- We are collaborating with the Regional coordinators to distribute these kits across the province.
- The SkillsBC logo will be included for brand awareness and photos and data will be required to be collected for Skills Canada.

### **Sponsorship:**

- Sponsorship will be further discussed in the Business Development Committee report.
- The Master Sponsors chart for Provincials is available for review upon request, a shared document Mike Ford and I are working on.
- New this year was the creation of a jotform to streamline all information for exhibitors for contact information, logos, invoicing etc. This is working well.
- Currently confirmed approximately \$220,000 with the budgeted goal of \$325,000.
- In addition, \$16,000 has been raised for Inspire presentations.
- Materials and Supplies are also being donated by for various competition areas which Mike Ford is working on.

### **Presentations, Conferences and Committee Participation:**

- SFTA (South Fraser Trades Advisory Committee) meeting attended on December 4, 2025
- Regionals Competition development: Gravity car track set up at Journey Middle School, Sooke. Jan, 2026
- Maple Ridge SD42 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.
- Mission Secondary Career Day, February 19, 2026

### **Skills Canada Operations Meetings:**

- Last meeting in the fall included the Nationals Board with a focus on reviewing the Strategic plan and vision/mission statements.
- Next meetings will be next week in Toronto.

### **Board Committees:**

- Ongoing meetings and follow up with various Board members for committee work include Governance, Business Development, Finance, Executive and the Risk Committee (sub-committee to Governance).

- The first Risk Committee meeting will be Feb 5 with Cory Williams, Tara Fong and myself.
- 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, Jan 22 and next meeting is scheduled for Feb 26, 2025.
  - Adam noted there will be more information to report after April and to continue relationship with Skilled Trades BC under that umbrella.
  - Adam is working on getting a group from the Ministry to attend Regionals at Camosun.
  - Connected with Dennis Innes and a letter was drafted and sent to Minister Jessie Sunner.
  - Invitation was also sent to the Minister for Provincials as well.
- **Skilled Trades BC**
  - Additional funding of \$95,000 (one time only) was provided from Skilled Trades BC for a total of \$150,000 for Regionals and Provincials.
- **Government of Canada** – ESDC funding through Skills Canada new agreement as previously discussed.
- **Ministry of Education-** Sent an application to the Ministry of Education in January with regards to a potential grant for \$50,000 for Inspire presentations, ProDDay attendance and an Educator Guide. ***No response yet.***

### **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 St. John.
- The Electronics Pilot will focus on an indigenous region (Fort Nelson).
- “Next Hands” programming including unused tools are being sent to the Indigenous Learning Village near Terrace.
- Feb 4: SASET: Sto:lo Aboriginal Skills & Employment Training. Will be attending/exhibiting at this career fair in Chilliwack and sent exhibitor information for Provincials.
- Connected with Tsleil-waututh Nation School regarding potential Inspire presentations in the spring.

### **Alumni Representative for BC**

- 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.

- We are currently reaching out to alumni for Provincials and medal ceremonies volunteers again this year.
- Continued outreach for podcasts and testimonials.