

Skills Canada BC

Executive Director's Report – Michelle Skelly

Skills Canada Board Meeting – June 12, 2026

Competitions:

Nationals 2026:

- Competitions ran in Toronto on May 28 and 29, 2026.
- Team BC consisted of 61 competitors and additional registered delegates for a total of 104.
- Team BC took home a total of 27 medals, out of 61 competitors, this Nationals! 9 gold, 10 silver and 8 bronze.
- Team BC's Nationals results can be found here:
<https://skillscanada.bc.ca/competitions/national-competitions/medalist-results-2026/>
- Photos can be found here:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skillscanadabc/albums/72177720334009698/>

Nationals 2027:

- Dates: May 28 and 29
- Location: Calgary, Alberta
- 2028 and 2029 - Nationals potentially Winnipeg and Quebec City
- 2030 to be discussed in Skills Canada Operations meetings. Vancouver?

Provincials:

2026 Provincial Highlight Video

Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/skillscanadabc/albums/72177720333517677/>

- 475 competitors
- 65 Competitions including Secondary, Post Secondary and Junior Skills competitions.
- The Pathways to Careers Showcase included over 80 booths.
- Over 90 spectator/school buses confirmed.
- Tradex confirmed over 7000 in attendance. Potentially close to 8000.
- Jotform surveys sent to the exhibitors, provincial tech chairs and will also be sent to competitors shortly to provide feedback on Provincials.
- 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 however some expenses have increased as well. Will work with Tradex on contract over the summer.
- **Next Provincials is set for April 14, 2027. SAVE THE DATE!**

- Provincials discussions will be discussed further in this Board meeting.

Regionals:

- Regionals wrapped up early April. Competitor numbers this year
- 2026 -1537 registrations.
- Added Regional Coordinator Reporting after Regionals. Newly created jotform with data and relevant information for SCBC. The feedback was positive. New registration system is much better. Some of the constraints are school district budgets, transportation costs, releasing TOC (Teacher on call) and scheduling conflicts.
- Seeking a Regional Coordinator for Central Lower Mainland (Richmond, New Westminster, Burnaby, Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam and for the Kootenays this year as our Regional Coordinator is moving to Asia.

Next WorldSkills:

- World Skills 2026 – China
- World Skills competitors: Eric Wu, Automation and Control, Dhefen Goh, Fahion Technology & Veljko Stevanovic, IT Network Systems Admin.
- World Skills 2028 – Japan
- World Skills 2030 – tbd

Programs and Presentations Update:

- Try-A-Trade kits were distributed in February/March to our Regional Coordinators throughout the Province. These kits were targeted to middle school students and funding was provided through Skills Canada.
- Inspire Classroom presentations:
- South Island Partnership: 100 INSPIRE Presentations, approximately 2500 students. School Districts: Victoria, Saanich, Sooke
- Fort St. John: 25 presentations, 645 students, high indigenous population
- **Total: 125 presentations, over 3000 students.**
- Various other presentations per below.

Additional Events and Presentations:

- SASET Indigenous Career Fair – Feb.
- Attended and presented at various Career Day presentations throughout the Province and year in Terrace, Chilliwack, Mission, North Van, Maple Ridge and other locations.
- Power in Connection, Teen youth empowerment program, presented - North Vancouver, April.
- Western Canada Career Development Conference on April 24 with Skilled Trades BC.
- Electronics pilot in remote regions being implemented in Fort Nelson, BC (Northern BC) – distribution of electronics kits and corresponding training videos.

Working with Adam Drake, Provincial and National Technical Chair for Electronics.

- Additional alumni podcasts coming this summer.
- Summer baking camp. Mid-July. Week camp in partnership with University of the Fraser Valley.

Upcoming Fall Conferences:

- BCTEA, BC Technology Education Conference - October, 2026
- CWB Welder Educator's Conference – October, 2026
- CES, Career Education Society Conference - November, 2026

Board Committees:

- Ongoing meetings with various Board members for committee work for Governance, Business Development, Finance, and Executive.
- Committees to provide updates.
- Sub-Committees now will include Board Composition and Risk Registry.
- Ongoing meetings are continuing with Dennis Innes, Board President
- Committees to provide updates in this meeting.

Sponsorship:

- Business Development Committee meeting held on May 13, 2026.
- Sponsorship total for 2026 was \$362,250.
- This did not include the funding from Skilled TradesBC or the BC Hydro grant or South Island Partnership which was allocated to Inspire.
- The target in the budget this year was \$325,000 and the year prior was \$220,000.
- Ongoing projects now with sponsors regarding sponsorship fulfillment: WorkSafeBC, Coast Capital and Enbridge for fall classroom presentations.
- Will work on the Sponsorship Guide for 2027 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 such as DeWalt and Milwaukee tools.
- Other donations included Ballcaps for Nationals. The Nationals uniform was heavily discounted and the competition shirt was donated by Genumark.
- Further details will be discussed in the Fundraising section of the Board meeting.

Grant Recipient:

- Recipient/Winner of the BCAB, BC Association of Broadcasters for up to \$300,00 in advertising for next year. <https://www.bcab.ca/awards/humanitarian/>
- (Dec 2026-Jan/Feb 2027).
- Will be working on a promotional plan over the coming months.

Skills Canada Operations Meetings:

- Virtual Meetings are ongoing and next in person Operations meetings will be next week in person in Ottawa.

- Some of the key topics will include competitor eligibility, Nationals debrief, discussion of future areas of competition and a spring economic update.
- The joint Operations and Board meeting will be held in October, 2026.

Committee Participation:

- South Fraser Trades Advisory Committee – quarterly meetings.
- Ongoing committee participation with Skills Canada, including Operations, MarComm, Programs, Business Development.
- CES (Career Education Society)
- BCTEA Conference (BC Technology Education Association)
- Potential new committee

Government:

- **Ministry of Future Skills and Training**
 - Meeting with our liaison Adam Skulsky, June 10.
 - Adam noted the avenue for our funding will be through Skilled Trades BC and to continue the communication with them.
 - The Ministry provided 500 BC pins for trading with other provinces and territories at Nationals.
- **Skilled Trades BC**
 - Have followed up with Maureen Phung regarding next year and funding
 - Agreement for 2027 not confirmed to date but it has been indicated we are included in the discussions and will be informed when ready to be discussed.
- **Government of Canada – ESDC funding through Skills Canada**
 - Mona Soleimani and I continue to preparing the quarterly reporting to Skills Canada. April 15 last report due and next quarterly report due is July 15.

Alumni:

Below are some examples of alumni involvement:

- Jordan Mae-Friedland is our Nationals Alumni Rep. Jordan volunteered at closing ceremonies in addition to helping us at a previous Indigenous conference. Jordan was a previous Silver Medalist at Nationals in Job Skills Demo and also volunteered as a judge at the 2025 skill demo competition.
- Atticus Brummitt, former competitor, came back this year as our Skills for Success representative and attended the Conference in Toronto. Atticus is interested in further alumni involvement including potential classroom presentations.
- Provincials medals ceremonies included alumni involvement. Four alumni presented medals to the winners, including our World Skills competitor Veljko Stevanovic, and former World Skills competitor Zachary Van Boeyen.
- Two medalists spoke at the Partner's luncheon, including Dhefen Goh our World Skills Competitor in Fashion Technology.

- Planning to add another podcast this summer 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/>
- Will be sending out a new jotform created for the competitors to provide feedback and whether they would be interested in being involved as alumni.
- Numerous alumni have come back to volunteer on committees and in various aspects.