

Winnipeg to Welcome the Skills Canada National Competition

Celebrities on hand to demonstrate their skills to Winnipeg's youth

Winnipeg, MB, May 30, 2017 – On Thursday and Friday, Winnipeg's RBC Convention Centre will be host to Canada's only national, multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices.

During the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC), 550 youth from across Canada will compete in over 40 skilled trade and technology competitions, including robotics, cabinetmaking, landscape gardening, cooking, graphic design, welding, autobody repair, hairstyling, fashion technology, mechanical CADD, and a variety of others.

SCNC brings together industry, government and education representatives and approximately 10,000 student visitors who will participate in Try-a-Trade® and Technology activities and interactive demonstrations on our Essential Skills Stage. Admission is free for the public.

Skilled trade celebrities participating in SCNC 2017 include Kate Campbell, Mike Holmes Jr., Sherry Holmes, Paul LaFrance and Jeremy Senaris.

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Official Launch (Recommended Media Event)

WHO + WHAT

John Oates, Skills/Compétences Canada National Board President and **Shaun Thorson**, CEO, Skills/Compétences Canada, will officially launch SCNC 2017.

TV Celebrity Contractors **Kate Campbell & Paul LaFrance**, owners of renovation companies KateBuilds Inc. and Paul LaFrance Design, will test their skills in an exciting and fun paver challenge against SCNC's presenting partners, **UA** and **TransCanada**. MasterChef Canada, Runner-up **Jeremy Senaris** will be judging this challenge.

The official launch will include photo opportunities, Q&A session, interviews and tours of the competition floor follow immediately.

The tour includes introductions to SCC alumni, celebrities, government officials, designated spokespeople, industry experts and key event sponsor representatives.

WHEN

Thursday, June 1, 2017

8:30 a.m. Official SCNC Launch & Paver Challenge

9:15 a.m. Media briefing with short Q&A opportunity and interview scheduling

WHERE

RBC Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Launch Location: Essential Skills Stage, 2nd Level

INTERVIEWS

The following celebrities will be available for media interviews on the following dates:

- Mike Holmes Jr. and Sherry Holmes will be available June 2nd and 3rd.
- Paul LaFrance and Kate Campbell will be available May 31st and June 1st.
- Jeremy Senaris will be available May 31st and June 1st.

Media are also invited to check out the following:

- Our celebrities along with thousands of youth will try the wildly popular **Try-a-Trade®** and **Technology** activities, where career choices are often sparked.
- Interactive and entertaining demonstrations on the Essential Skills Stage, where you can find out why the identified nine Essential Skills are indeed essential to learning and training.
- Live webcasts featuring celebrity guests.
- The Opening Ceremony, May 31, 7:30 p.m., and the Closing Ceremony, June 3, 12:00 p.m., in the York Ballroom, located on the ground level of the RBC Convention Centre.

SCNC Media Center Information

Reporters, videographers and photographers are welcome to tour the competition floor over the course of the two days of competition, but must first visit the Media Centre for proper accreditation.

Media Centre hours:

May 30 - 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

June 1 & 2 - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 3 – 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

About Skills/Compétences Canada

Skills/Compétences Canada was founded in 1989 as a national, not-for-profit organization that works with employers, educators, labour groups and governments to promote skilled trades and technology careers among Canadian youth. For information on Skills Canada's programs and competitions visit www.skillscanada.com.
