



SKILLS/COMPÉTENCES CANADA SPOKESPEOPLE AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Please visit the Media Centre, on Level 1, beside entrance D, at the Centre de foires d'ExpoCité, or contact Michèle Rogerson, micheler@skillscanada.com, 613-266-4771 to arrange for an interview or photo opportunity.

SELECT SPOKESPEOPLE ARE AVAILABLE TO TAKE PART IN FRENCH INTERVIEWS.



Dr. Patrick Rouble

President, Skills/Compétences Canada

Dr. Patrick Rouble lives in Whitehorse, Yukon and is the Principal Consultant with Transom Frame Consulting. He has a diverse background with experience in education, research, business management and government. Patrick served two terms in the Yukon Legislative Assembly and was a Member of Cabinet for five years. He held the portfolios for Education, Energy, Mines & Resources, and the Public Service Commission. Upon his retirement from office, Patrick continued his passion for lifelong learning and completed a Doctorate in Education at the University of Calgary.

Patrick believes strongly that we need to encourage more Canadian youth to consider rewarding and meaningful careers in traditional trades and emerging technologies. He believes in helping Canadian youth develop the skills and abilities to lead meaningful and rewarding careers and that having a gratifying career will not only help build stronger individuals but will also help to build a stronger Canada.



Sue Lefort

Vice-President, Skills/Compétences Canada

Sue Lefort has volunteered for Skills/Compétences Canada for over twenty years, in a variety of roles including on the Board of Directors and as a member of the National Technical Committee. She has also volunteered for WorldSkills as Workshop Manager, Chief Expert and most recently she was appointed as a WorldSkills Advisor.

Sue is a proud tradesperson and has done her training as a welder and Red Seal machinist. She has 35 years of experience where she worked from the shop floor to senior management before transitioning from the private sector to the government where she works closely with industry.

“Skills Canada aligns with both my personal and professional interests and allows me to continue to inform and engage youth through volunteering,” said Sue.



Shaun Thorson

Chief Executive Officer, Skills/Compétences Canada

Shaun Thorson, Chief Executive Officer of Skills/Compétences Canada, is a tireless champion of skilled trade and technology careers for Canadian youth. The CEO since 2006, Shaun has held various positions within the Skills/Compétences Canada (SCC) organization at the provincial and national levels for over 35 years.

Shaun recognizes the vital role of a strong and vibrant skilled trade and technology workforce in maintaining Canada's global economic leadership and fosters engagement with thought-leaders to ensure best practices and positioning.

Known for the annual Skills Canada National Competition, Skills Canada is also member of WorldSkills. Within this international body, Shaun has chaired the Sustainability Initiatives, Quality Assurance Management Council, the WorldSkills Americas Technical Committee and was Canada's WorldSkills Technical Delegate from 2006 to 2013 and in 2017.

Shaun is the Past President of the CWB Welding Foundation and Chairs the CEO-National Skills Organization Council for WorldSkills.

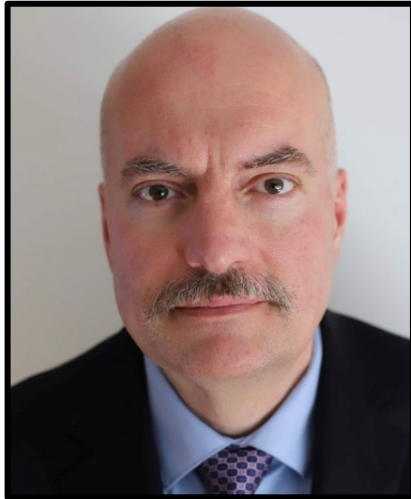


Dominique Bousquet

*Member of Skills/Compétences Canada's
National Board of Directors*

Dominique has been a certified auto mechanic for 25 years. He was also a teacher for eight years at the École des métiers de l'équipement motorisé de Montréal (EMEMM). In addition, he has held the position of Assistant Director for 11 years, including seven years at EMEMM and four years at the École des métiers de la construction de Montréal (EMCM).

Dominique has also served on various committees and participated in the validation of various vocational training programs at the Quebec Ministry of Education. He is currently the President of the Comité éducation travail en équipement motorisé de Montréal métropolitain (CETEMM) and the President of Compétences Québec.



Jean-Rock Gaudreault

General Manager of Compétences Québec

Jean-Rock Gaudreault has been with Compétences Québec since 1997.

First, Director of Promotion and Partnerships, he is now General Manager as of 2015. He oversees a team of fifteen people whose mandate is to ensure the outreach of vocational and technical training programs and skilled trades in Quebec and internationally.

Working in close cooperation with the education network and labor market partners, this mandate is reflected in the organization of the Olympiades québécoises des métiers, the Défi des recrues, and the Challenge de la compétence. Compétences Québec partners with the Ministère de l'Éducation to develop Inforoute FPT and AdmissionFP, two reference sites for vocational and technical training programs.



Cynthia Gauthier

Monster Jam Truck Driver

Cynthia Gauthier started at a young age working on a farm close to home. Her dad, who was a mechanic, would frequently bring her to different dirt tracks to watch the races. Cynthia spent hours with him in the garage learning about all things mechanical. This gave Gauthier a passion for everything with an engine. Cynthia worked hard and saved up enough money to buy her first dirt bike at the age of 18. Before long she was racing on a regular basis. She graduated from college with a degree in accounting but her passion for racing was undeniable!

After three years of racing in the amateur class, she was able to move up to race in the Pro Women's Canadian National Series. Afterwards she started racing short course Buggies. She joined the racing team that went to the Monster Jam World FinalsSM in 2013 and 2014. After witnessing the event, she was hooked on Monster Jam trucks. In 2015, she got to do the Maple leaf tour with Monster Jam. In 2016, she started competing in the new Triple Threat Series Tour. In 2019, she competed in the Stadium championship and got three freestyles and one overall victory. She also won the first World finals victory in the high jump competition. During the Monster Jam World Finals in Las Vegas, she received the award for the Monster Jam Arena Donut of the year in 2016, and Monster Jam Rising Star in 2018. In 2017 Cynthia started a new venture hosting a French Tv show called Zone VL. The show highlights all types of different power sports in which the hosts get to test drive different machines in the power sports realm.

Cynthia wants to be a good role model for all the young girls who look up to her, and show them that with hard work and dedication, you can reach your goals as long as you never give up on your dreams.



Jacob Waldbillig

Chair, Skills Canada National Alumni Committee

I joined the National Alumni Committee (NAC) to give back to future competitors, and to further spread the word about the opportunities that exist in the skilled trades and technologies. My favourite part about being part of NAC is connecting with so many like-minded people from across Canada.

My Skill Area is Architectural Technology and Design. I competed at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) 2019, in Halifax and won the silver medal in my category. SCNC has enabled me to build confidence in myself and my skill set. It has also given me the opportunity to test my knowledge and time management skills in a competitive environment. To qualify for SCNC 2019, in Halifax, I had to compete at the provincial skills competition, in Alberta. I felt a lot of pressure to push myself to do better than the previous year where I won the silver medal. My hard work paid off; I won the gold medal at the 2019 provincial skills competition and qualified to compete at SCNC 2019, in Halifax. Without a doubt, my proudest moment so far has been getting on the podium at SCNC.



Laurie Breton

*WorldSkills Team Canada 2022 competitor in
Aerospace Technology*

I chose a career in a skilled trade because I've always enjoyed working with my hands and I have a passion for aerospace, therefore a career in aircraft maintenance was the perfect choice. Every day, I perform different tasks that are mentally and physically exciting. In the future, I'm considering getting my license to become an aircraft maintenance technician with Transport Canada. Then, I intend to continue working in the field of ex-military aircrafts and helicopters. I would like to work in remote areas, in isolated locations, in research projects.

I became involved with skills competitions when my college teacher told me about them and encouraged me to take part in them in 2019. Participating in the competitions allowed me to develop my skills and to meet extraordinary people.

I dream about owning a permaculture farm to explore the potential of a healthy and eco-friendly agriculture.

The aircraft maintenance technician career is largely based on problem-solving. I think that the most important Skill for Success to develop for me is Creativity and Innovation.



Skills Canada: National and International Competition Alumni

Many former Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) and WorldSkills Competition alumni volunteers will be in attendance to make the Skills Canada National Competition 2024, in Québec. As well as being on site, they are also on hand to speak about their competition experience and how it has helped them in their careers.

Technical Committee Members (Competition Experts)

Each of the competition projects are designed and judged by the National Technical Committee (NTC) made up of experts from education and industry across the country. These experts are on hand to discuss specifics about Skill Areas.

Industry Partners, Sponsors and Suppliers

Industry representatives working with Skills/Compétences Canada to make SCNC possible will be on hand to discuss skilled trade opportunities, needs and issues related to their sectors.