



January 2023 Issue 1, Volume 1

Welcome to our Inaugural Skills Canada Saskatchewan Newsletter!

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New Executive Director: Jayden Leister

Jayden is ecstatic to take on the role as new Executive Director. He originally participated as Mobile Robotics competitor, Secondary, 2009-2013. The robotics team he was on won the Saskatchewan Provincial competition in 2012 and went on to win the Skills Canada National competition in Edmonton – which was a qualifying year for the WorldSkills competition Leipzig 2013. Since competing at WorldSkills, Jayden has continued his involvement with multiple Skills organizations over the last 10 years. These include roles as a PTC member for Mobile Robotics in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia, NTC member at SCNC Saskatoon 2015, International Ambassador at WorldSkills General Assembly Niagara Falls 2016, and most recently Hall Manager at SCNC Halifax 2019 and SCNC Vancouver 2022 for Skills Competences Canada.



His plethora of experience – competing, volunteering, and working in the Skills organizations - has tailored a unique perspective that will be vital in leading Skills Canada

Saskatchewan. His passion for seeing young people be exposed to technical skills comes from his own experience and success as a Skills competitor. He truly understands how Skills Canada can change a young person's life and desires for others to experience it.

He is transitioning out of his role as a Weapons Engineering Technician, serving the past 5 years in the Royal Canadian Navy. His experience as a robotics competitor set the foundation of his technical skills that has allowed him to be a successful technician in the Navy. Returning to Saskatchewan as the Executive Director, he looks forward to serving in the organization that gave him the best opportunities he's ever experienced.

Alumni Corner: **Leah Lucyshyn**

Skills Canada Saskatchewan provided me with the opportunity to grow while completing my Graphic Communications diploma and in my first few years of employment as a Graphic Designer. When I started training for the 2019 Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition in December 2018, I had no idea how my efforts would pay off. I've always enjoyed a challenge and the opportunity to master a skill. The competitions gave me a goal to work towards, practicing the many skills required to succeed at Skills competitions and in my industry. With the guidance and support of Skills Canada Saskatchewan alumni, I was able to go from last place in the 2019 Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition to 10th in the world at the 2022 World Skills Special Edit





From top down, left to right.

Vancouver 2022 Skills Canada National Competition

Leah Lucyshyn and Cody Peterson (Skills Canada Saskatchewan Alumni, World Skills Canada Graphic Design Technology Expert, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic Instructor) at Leah's competitor workstation in Aarau, Switzerland at the 2022 World Skills Special Edition Graphic Design Technology Competition.

Vancouver 2022 Skills Canada National Competition, Team Saskatchewan

Leah Lucyshyn and Cody Peterson (Skills Canada Saskatchewan Alumni, World Skills Canada Graphic Design Technology Expert, and Saskatchewan Polytechnic Instructor) at Leah's competitor workstation in Aarau, Switzerland at the 2022 World Skills Special Edition Graphic Design Technology Competition.

Leah with Cody Peterson and Kyla Henry (both Skills Canada Saskatchewan Alumni and Saskatchewan Polytechnic Instructors) in Vancouver at the 2022 Skills Canada National Competition



Come visit our **NEW** website!

Spotlight on Volunteers: **Nicole Hills**

Nicole Hills is a Graphic Arts and Photography teacher as well as a Learning Coordinator at Aden Bowman in Saskatoon. Her journey with Skills Canada Saskatchewan started 10 years ago while she was teaching at Centennial Collegiate. She and her mentor, Jill



Konkin, would actively seek out students to participate in as many skill areas as possible in the annual Skills Canada competition.

When Nicole transferred to Aden Bowman, she brought her passion for the Skills Canada Saskatchewan Provincial Competition (SCSPC) with her. Every year she manages a Skills Club to prepare students for the competition. Nicole says she sees immense value in the event, as students must work through tasks on their own, gaining experience with time management and creative problem-solving. This practical life experience is only one of the benefits; she also sees value in the opportunities for networking with new friends and potential employers alike.

As a teacher, Nicole loves seeing students learn new skills and grow in confidence: this, she says, is amplified at the competition, as there is always an infectious energy from all involved. She especially loves the students' immense self-pride when they see what they can achieve using their own well-practiced skills.

This year Nicole made the leap to join our Provincial Technical Committee for skill area #40, Graphic Design Technology. She will be involved with preparing students, preparing scopes, and being an all-round cheerleader for the SCSPC.

Thank you, Nicole, for all you have done and continue to do for Skills Canada Saskatchewan!

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Emphasis on Education: **SaskPolytech School of Information & Communications Technology**



The Graphic Communications program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic is a comprehensive and dynamic program that equips students with the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to excel in the graphic design industry. What sets us apart is our commitment to training excellence. Our instructors bring real-world experience and knowledge to the classroom, providing students with valuable insights and guidance on the latest trends and techniques used in the industry. Additionally, our program delivery methods are designed to be engaging and interactive, allowing students to learn through hands-on experiences and active participation.

Graphic Communications program faculty at Saskatchewan Polytechnic have been involved in the Graphic Design Technology competition with Skills Canada at the provincial and national level since 2011, and at the international level since 2015. Our students have had continued success at the Skills Canada National Competition due to their hard work, dedication, and training. The Graphic Communications program has had students placing in the top three every year since 2013.

Our PTC member, Cody Peterson, who is an instructor in the Graphic Communications program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic has been the Expert for Team Canada at WorldSkills since 2018 where he has been responsible for the delivery and assessment of WorldSkills Team Canada Selection Event projects. WorldSkills Experts are chosen to represent their countries as Judges at the WorldSkills competition.



Skills Camps with SIEC

Throughout the year, Skills Canada Saskatchewan works closely with SIEC to host [Skill Bootcamps](#) for High School students in and around Saskatoon.

Partner Appreciation: **RBC Foundation**



RBC Foundation

On July 6, 2020, RBC announced actions to address the inequity and systemic bias that have disadvantaged Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals and youth. As a result, RBC Foundation is providing funding to Skills Canada enabling us to offer BIPOC-

focused programming relating to the skilled trades and technologies across Canada. These impactful programs and initiatives would not be possible without the support of the RBC Foundation.

Here at Skills Canada Saskatchewan, the RBC Foundation has helped fund many of our initiatives. This includes our In-Class Challenge kits that Saskatchewan teachers can order, free of charge, for their students. If you are an educator interested in our skills kits, please click "Order Here" below.

Kits that we currently have available:

- Log Cabin, Birdhouse, Beading, Drum, Tikinaagan, Tipi, Hydraulics



Upcoming Events: **Northern Regional Skills Competition**

Northern Skills Regionals is an event hosted by the Meadow Lake Tribal Council in connection with Skills Canada Saskatchewan!

Each year youth at the Meadow Lake First Nations schools and schools in the surrounding area have a chance to compete in traditional indigenous skills or indigenized skills. We love seeing events like Fashion Technology, where students create ribbon skirts and shirts - or Canoe Paddle Making where they are encouraged to shape, carve, and create canoe paddles. We host a Photography competition that highlights the land, language, relationship, and culture of the north. It's an exciting time to see indigenous skills taught, promoted, and honoured by our young people. This year's competitions will once again commence at Carpenter High School-Northwest Regional College, a shared facility, hosting 13 regional events. While some of these events are northern-specific, we see a time soon coming when these skills will be celebrated and competed at a provincial and national level. We hope this event inspires other regions of the province to show off and compete in skills that represent their land, language, relationships, and culture!

Northern Regionals are set to take place at Carpenter High School in Meadow Lake on March 22nd, 2023.