

Contest Description

Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton

May 6 & 7, 2026

EVENT: PUBLIC SPEAKING	LEVEL: Secondary
COMPETITION START TIMES: May 6: 8:30 a.m. May 7: 8:30 a.m.	LOCATION: Gallery E, Edmonton EXPO Centre, Edmonton
DURATION: Up to 12 hours (over two days)	REGIONALIZED: No
WORLD SKILLS TRADE #: 85	

Please Note: This document is subject to change as competition information is updated. Competitors are responsible for staying up to date with the most recent information. Check the footer for last updated date. Changes will be highlighted in yellow.

CONTEST INTRODUCTION

The public speaking competition is designed for competitors to develop and enhance the skills of oral communication, reading texts, writing, and thinking. The challenge provides the opportunity for competitors to prepare and present a speech, conduct research and to construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED

- Present thoughts in a clear, coherent, well-constructed format on the assigned topics.
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the designated timeframes.
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position).
- Speak easily, with confidence.
- Use non-verbal skills (body language and gestures) to assist in expression.
- Be expressive by varying voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly.
- Reflect upon research, make observations, and share experiences through prompted response.

CONTEST DESCRIPTION

Tasks that may be performed during the competition:

1. Each competitor will speak on the following prompt:

Apprenticeship is an essential component of, and a pathway to, a successful career in the Skilled Trades and Technologies.

With this in mind, answer the following question:

How can we attract and encourage more students to consider this option?

2. Competitors will also speak on an Impromptu topic (on Day 1) that will be revealed to each student 2 minutes before speaking.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Each competitor must submit their prepared speech **before 4:00pm on WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22nd**, and follow the specified format below:
 - Double spaced
 - Justified
 - Arial 14-point font
 - PDF format
 - **Emailed to the following address: sjhayward@cbe.ab.ca**
- If you have not received confirmation within 24 hours that the speech has been received, please email the PTC Chair and resubmit.

SUBMISSIONS – NEW!

- **Competitors submitting between 4:00pm to 11:00pm on the due date will receive a deduction as indicated in the Assessment section of this Contest Description.**
- **Competitors who do not submit speeches by the above date before 11:00pm are DISQUALIFIED FROM THE COMPETITION.**

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Day 1

- Students will report to the competition room at **8:30am** for a mandatory orientation session.
- On Day 1 (morning), competitors will observe the "on-site" Skills Canada Alberta competitions to gather information about skilled trades and technology careers. The intent of these observations is to support and inform the response to the impromptu topic (afternoon).
- Students will report to the Impromptu "holding room" at **1:00pm** to draw for speaker order.
- The impromptu speech is intended to be an original speech. **No materials from any previously written speeches should be included.**
- Video and/or audio recording is only permitted if the student submits the Media Release Form, (which is found with the Contest Description on the Skills website), prior to the competition.

Day 2

- Students will report to the competition room at **8:30am** for a mandatory orientation session.
- On Day 2, each competitor will present a prepared speech in a formal public setting and answer one (1) question based upon the submitted speech.
- Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process prior to Day 2 and will be posted on the door of the competition room.
- Video and/or audio recording is only permitted if the student submits the Media Release Form, (which is found with the Contest Description on the Skills website), prior to the competition.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

Day 1	Impromptu Speech
Preparation	2 minutes
Minimum time	N/A
Maximum time	3 minutes
Time Cues	Cues will be provided 3 times: at 2 minutes, 1 minute and 15 seconds to indicate time remaining

Day 2	Prepared Speech	Prepared Speech Question
Minimum	5 Minutes	N/A
Maximum	7 Minutes	1 minute 30 seconds
Time Cues	There will not be a warning light, sound, or timecards to indicate time allotment	Cue will be provided to indicate 15 seconds remaining.

EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS, CLOTHING

Equipment and Materials Competitors Must Supply:

- Optional: Use of cue cards/notes
- ****No electronic equipment or other props will be permitted**

Equipment and Materials Supplied by the Committee:

- Lectern (optional use for each competitor)
- Blank paper, pen or pencil (for Impromptu competition)

Required Clothing:

- Clothing should be appropriate for a business presentation.
- School team shirts, jackets or identifiers may **not** be worn during the competition.

Competition Specific Rules

The following Competition Specific rules along with SCA's overall Policies and Procedures provide specific details in competition areas that may vary from one another. Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the Competitor Orientation.

Topic/Task	Contest Specific Rule
Speech Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitors will write original speeches that reflect creatively on the topic, ensuring they maintain a focus and consider the content implied by the topic. In Impromptu, no material from previous speeches should be used.• Students are expected to express themselves clearly while capturing the attention of their listening audience.• Competitor's school should not be identified in either speech
Use of Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitors are not allowed laptops, tablets, cameras, cell phones, ear buds, calculators or other personal electronics in the competition area unless specifically permitted by the committee. Phones and ear buds may be taken into the Impromptu holding room during the waiting period but cannot be taken into the competition room.
Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitors cannot use AI to develop/generate any of the submitted work for any aspects of the Public Speaking competition, including brainstorming, outlining, or drafting/editing of the prepared speech, and the observation period on Day 1. Competitors are expected to write with integrity and originality. Submitted speeches that demonstrate usage of external resources will result in additional review.

ASSESSMENT

Point Breakdown – Students will be assessed by external judges as follows:

DAY 1 – IMPROMPTU SPEECH	DAY 1 TOTAL	/15
CONTENT		/5
• Response addresses the prompt		/2
• Chooses ideas that demonstrate understanding of the prompt		/2
• Adequately develops ideas connected to the prompt		/1
ORGANIZATION		/4
• Uses an effective introduction for the prompt		/1
• Focuses and presents ideas about the prompt in a logical order		/1
• Links ideas coherently		/1
• Concludes effectively		/1
DELIVERY		/6
• Uses convincing, coherent language appropriate for the prompt		/2
• Voice : expression, tempo, volume, phrasing		/2
• Eye contact: engages with audience		/1
• Non-Verbal: gestures, mannerisms, body language		/1

DAY 2 – PREPARED SPEECH	DAY 2 TOTAL	/75
CONTENT / ORGANIZATION – this subcategory will be assessed by external judges, based on written submission, prior to the prepared speech presentations		/20
• Response develops the content contained in the first section of the prompt		/2
• Response develops the content contained in the second section of the prompt		/2
• Content in the second section of prompt is the primary focus of the speech		/2
• Introduction is coherent and shaped		/2
• Introduction contains the assigned topic		/2
• Supporting ideas are focused on assigned topic		/2
• Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent discussion of assigned topic		/2
• Transitions link ideas coherently		/2
• Conclusion is connected to assigned topic		/2

• Conclusion is relevant	/2
DELIVERY	/50
• Captures interest at the beginning of the speech	/2
• Introduction previews main ideas	/2
• Introduction gains audience attention	/2
• Supporting ideas are connected to assigned topic	/2
• Supporting ideas develop assigned topic	/2
• Supporting ideas are precise	/1
• Presents ideas in a logical order	/2
• Effective word choice	/2
• Correct use of conventions: diction, grammar, pronunciation	/1
• Effective phrasing (use of pauses)	/2
• Appropriate tempo (pacing)	/2
• Varies tone and pitch	/2
• Fluency: fluidity, smoothness	/2
• Expressive	/2
• Volume is appropriate	/2
• Volume used for effect	/1
• Eye contact is effective	/2
• Eye contact: engages with entire audience	/2
• Gestures: natural, not overdone	/2
• Mannerisms; body language	/2
• Convincing	/2
• Polished	/2
• Commands audience attention	/2
• Composed	/2
• Displays self confidence	/2
• Holds interest through to the end of the speech	/2
• Conclusion is appropriate and skillful	/1
QUESTION RESPONSE	/5
• Addresses the question	/1
• Demonstrates knowledge of given topic	/1
• Develops ideas adequately	/1
• Organizes ideas logically	/1
• Demonstrates clarity and conviction	/1
CONVENTIONS	SUBTOTAL
This subcategory will be assessed by the committee at the end of Day 2	/10

• Submitted speech demonstrates integrity and originality	/2
• Impromptu speech delivered within required time specifications	/1
• Prepared speech delivered within required time specifications	/2
• Prepared speech question response delivered within required time specifications	/1
• Speech submitted on time	/2
• Speech submitted in specified format	/2

TIES

In the event of a tie, the competitor with the highest score in the Delivery criteria of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner. If the tie remains, the competitor with the higher mark in the Content section of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, the student with the highest overall score in the Impromptu Speech will be declared the winner.

RELATED CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES COURSES

Information on the following courses can be found here

<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/cts.aspx>

CTR 1010

CALM 20

ICT STUDIES

SAFETY

The health, safety and welfare of all individuals involved with Skills Canada Alberta are of vital importance. Safety is a condition of participation with Skills Canada Alberta and shall not be sacrificed for the sake of expediency. At the discretion of the judges, technical committees, and/or Skills Canada Alberta any competitor can be denied the right to participate should they not have the required proper safety equipment and/or act in an unsafe manner that can cause harm to themselves or others.

RESOURCES

The very best resource you can use for this competition is the Points Breakdown chart shown above. It lists all the skills and techniques you should be considering when preparing your speech and gives you the mark value for each.

Other sources:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AykYR05d_ll

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNOXZumCXNM>

<https://albertadebate.com/adsa-resources> (ADSA website)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Skills Canada Alberta Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations

[Regional and Provincial Rules and Regulations](#)

Skillz & Thrillz Podcast

Check out our podcast – Skillz & Thrillz: Alberta’s Trade & Tech Youth Podcast. Our talented alumni share tips and tricks on how to succeed in competitions and your career! Their insights can help you prepare for your Skills journey, and who knows, you might just be a future guest! <https://skillsalberta.com/student-resources/skillz-thrillz-albertas-trade-tech-youth-podcast/>

Project Change at the Competition

Where a Test Project has been circulated to competitors in advance, the PTC can change the project up to a maximum of 30% of the work content for the competition.

Competitor Registration

Registration for the Provincial Skills Canada Competition (PSCC) will open online on January 14, 2026 @ 3:30 PM. Please refer to this competitions event page for additional registration and competition information: <https://skillsalberta.com/competition/>

Lunch

Lunch for accredited competitors will be provided by Skills Canada Alberta.

Parking & Venue Maps

Parking is FREE for all attendees.

Attendees **MUST** register for FREE parking by clicking the below link. Attendees can pre-register their vehicle at anytime prior to the PSCC or register onsite at the PSCC.

<https://www.offstreet.io/events/CBLHM7U1>

<http://edmontonexpocentre.com/attend/parking/>

Opening Ceremonies / Competitor Onsite Registration

Opening Ceremonies for the PSCC will take place on Tuesday May 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend. It is important to note that competitor registration will open immediately following the Opening Ceremonies.

Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday May 7, 2026, at 6:30 PM in Hall D of the Edmonton EXPO Centre. Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend. The Awards Ceremony will be shown live at <http://skillsalberta.com/>



2026 Provincial Skills Canada Competition

Team Alberta Information

Team Alberta will be selected at the PSCC Awards Ceremony. Gold medalists will then be eligible to participate at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC) on May 27- May 30, 2026, in Toronto, Ont. It is recommended that competitors review and become familiar with the SCNC contest description and project at <https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/event/skills-canada-national-competition-2026/>

During the PSCC Awards Ceremony on Thursday May 7, 2026, Gold medalists will be given their Team Alberta information package and will confirm their participation in the SCNC. Students must be present at the Awards Ceremony to claim their position on Team Alberta. If the Gold medalist is not able to attend SCNC, the next highest-ranking individual will be asked to participate. If a student is not able to attend the Awards Ceremony an email confirming the student's interest in Team Alberta participation must be emailed to javierad@skillsalberta.com prior to the start of competition on May 6, 2026.

Please prepare your students in advance to accept a position on Team Alberta and review how your school will support their participation.

Please see this link for additional Team Alberta information: <https://skillsalberta.com/team-alberta/>

Questions?

Please contact Mike Sury MikeS@SkillAlberta.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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