

DATE	LOCATION
Tues, March 30 2021	Virtual

## 1. Schedule

Time	Task
10:30 am	Orientation and device testing
12:15 pm	Competitor briefing
12:30 pm	Competition begins

## 2. Purpose of the Contest

The Conference Board of Canada has identified the skills needed to enter and progress in the world of work—whether it is self-employment or working as a part of a team. One such skill is effective oral and written communication including the ability to do the following:

- Write and speak so others pay attention and understand;
- Listen and respond to questions;
- Share information;
- Use technological knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas

The public speaking contest area is designed to encourage and enhance the development of these skills in making career choices. This challenge provides the opportunity for competitors to prepare and present a speech, conduct research and construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

## 3. Criteria

All competitors will speak during the same online virtual session at the assigned time.

## 4. Number of Stations / Allocations

There are ten (10) available spaces.

## 5. Skills & Knowledge to be Tested

- Present original thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on the assigned topic;
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position);

- Speak with ease and 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.

**Each competitor will speak on the following prompt:**

**Canada’s workforce wants to provide inclusive career-building leadership in the skilled trades and technology sector. This would enable all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity and/or ability, to share in bringing new ideas and innovative solutions to the workplace.**

**With that in mind construct and deliver a speech on the topic with emphasis on the following:**

**What needs to occur so underrepresented groups of people can confidently pursue careers in the skilled trades and technologies?**

Competitors will write original speeches that reflect creatively on the topic, ensuring they maintain a focus and consider the content implied by the topic. Students are expected to express themselves clearly while capturing the attention of their listening audience.

- Competitors will prepare a 5-to-7-minute presentation on the assigned topic.
- Competitors will attend an online virtual orientation session on the morning of the competition prior to the public speaking event during which time they will have an opportunity to ask questions and confirm the setup of their presentation equipment. A link with time-of-attendance to the Q & A session as well as the Competition link will be provided in advance. Contestants must submit a digital copy of their prepared speeches prior to or during the Q & A Session.
- Competitors will research the various Skills Canada - Nova Scotia competitions to gather information about skilled trades and technology careers.
  - The purpose of this observation/research component is to help students prepare for a general question that will be posed after the presentation of their prepared speech. The focus of this question will relate to what they have observed/researched about skilled trades and technology careers.
- Competitors will present their speeches in a virtual formal setting.
- Competitors will then respond to two questions. The first question will be based on the assigned topic. The second question will be based upon the required observation/research of the Skills Canada - Nova Scotia competitions component completed prior to the speech presentations

- Length of prepared speech:
- The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length and will not exceed seven (7) minutes. There will not be a warning light or sound to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentation.

Length of responses to questions:

- At the end of their speeches, competitors will be asked two questions. Competitors will have up to one minute to respond to each question. A timing signal will indicate 45 seconds.

## **6. Prerequisites**

### *SCNS Prerequisites*

- Attend a public or private secondary institute;
- Be between 13 and 21 years of age on January 1 of the year of the Competition;
- Have been earning junior or senior high school credits any time during the current academic year (September to June);
- Be registered as a competitor with Skills Canada – Nova Scotia;
- Possess a Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status and be a resident of Nova Scotia. Competitors are responsible for verifying this information if requested;
- Have completed and submitted a signed release form by a parent or guardian, if under the age of 19.

## **7. Equipment & Clothing**

### **a) What Will Be Supplied**

- Virtual Meeting Space with assigned judges and other officials

### **b) What Competitors Must Supply**

- Competitors should be dressed appropriately for an online business presentation;
- Clothing that identifies school, team or area may not be worn during the competition;
- Use of cue cards / notes are optional;
- Electronic equipment other than equipment necessary to facilitate the online competition may be used only at the prior discretion of the PTC;
- Recording of your speech is permitted.
- Competitors must not identify their home areas, schools, or names during the competition in the delivery of their speeches.

- Competitors are responsible for notifying the PTC in advance of any special requirements related to their presentation.

## 8. Evaluation & Judging Criteria

Speech Point Breakdown – out of 100 total points

Item	Point Value
<i>Content</i>	
• Introduction is effective in focusing attention on the assigned topic	5
• Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent, convincing presentation	11
• Ideas linked to effectively support points presented	4
• Conclusion is appropriate, convincing and skillful	5
<i>Delivery</i>	
• Captures and holds interest	10
• Convincing	5
• Coherent, uses descriptive and precise language	4
• Satisfactory volume	4
• Uses tempo (pacing) and phrasing effectively	5
• Expressive	5
• Displays self-confidence and composure	5
• Correct use of conventions – diction, grammar and pronunciation	4
• Eye contact – engages with entire audience	4
• Fluency – fluidity, smoothness, polish	4
• Non-verbal – gestures, mannerisms, body language	7

Questions Point Breakdown – Maximum of 5 points per question

<b>Item</b>	<b>Point Value</b>
<i>Question 1 – Prepared Speech Question</i>	
• Addresses the question	1
• Demonstrates knowledge of topic	1
• Develops ideas adequately	1
• Organizes ideas logically	1
• Demonstrates clarity and conviction	1
<i>Question 2 – Skilled Trades &amp; Technologies Competition Question</i>	
• Addresses the question	1
• Demonstrates knowledge of topic	1
• Develops ideas adequately	1
• Organizes ideas logically	1
• Demonstrates clarity and conviction	1
<i>Regulations</i>	
• Prepared speech delivered within time specifications	4
• Prepared speech question response delivered within time specifications	1
• Skilled trades and technologies competition observation question response delivered within time specifications	1
• Meets clothing requirements	1
• Speech submitted prior to the contest start	1

## **9. Additional Information**

- No ties are permitted. 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 a tie remains, the competitor with the higher mark in the 'Content' 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.
- Contestants will be notified of their positional results but will not be provided with the judges' score sheets.

- Results will be determined by averaging the total points awarded by all judges.
- Contestants may request and receive, if time permits, personal feedback from judges (if available) for the purpose of identifying their perceived strengths and weaknesses. However, judges must not reveal their scoring for or placement of individual contestants.
- Contestants should note that judges' feedback represent personal opinion and not those of the PTC.

**10. PTC Contact Information for questions and clarifications related to the Public Speaking Competition.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Employer</b>	<b>Email</b>
Baxter Crocker	Spirit-Ed Toastmasters – Volunteer Chair	<a href="mailto:baxter.crocker@gmail.com">baxter.crocker@gmail.com</a>
Shelly Currie	NSCC Ivany Campus	<a href="mailto:shelly.currie@nsc.ca">shelly.currie@nsc.ca</a>