

DATE		LOCATION	
March 20, 2025		Building Trades Advancement College	
TIME	TASK		
845am	Competitors arrive		
9am-930am	Orientation and Ice Breaker		
945am	Prepared Speech and question		
1200pm-100pm	Lunch Break		
100pm	Impromptu Speech		
200pm	End of competition		

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

2. Criteria

All competitors will speak from the same area in the Building Trades Advancement College at their assigned time.

A copy of the prepared speech must be submitted to the provided folder by noon the day prior to the competition. The folder will be provided to registered competitors at the alter date

3. Number of Stations / Allocations

There are ten (10) available competitor spaces.

4. Skills & Knowledge to be Tested

- Present original thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on the assigned topics.2,8
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the designated timeframes.2
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position).2
- Speak easily, with confidence.2
- Use non-verbal skills (body language and gestures) to assist in expression.2
- Be expressive by varying voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.2
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly.7
- Reflect upon research, make observations, and share experiences through prompted response.2,4

Skills for Success – 2Communication, 4Adaptability, 7Problem Solving, 8Creativity & Innovation

Competitors will speak twice (2 times) during the competition.

1. Competitors will prepare a 5-to-7-minute speech on the assigned topic.

Each competitor will speak on the following assigned topic:

Canada has many “silenced voices.”

With this in mind,

How can they be encouraged to join 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.

2. Competitors will also speak on an impromptu topic that will be revealed before the designated time. The impromptu speech is intended to be an original speech. No material from previously written speeches should be included.

Competitors will attend an online orientation session that will be scheduled before the competition date as well as one on the morning of the competition prior to the public speaking event. In both orientation sessions, they will have an opportunity to ask questions. Attendance at both orientation sessions is a mandatory requirement to compete.

Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process during the in-person orientation.

Video and/or audio recording of speeches is permitted.

Competitors must submit an electronic copy of their prepared speeches prior to the online Orientation Session.

The format for the prepared speech submission includes:

- Double spaced
- Left justified
- Use Arial 14 font
- Submit in PDF format
- Include a header that contains your full name and name of your school.

Competitors will present their speeches in person at the Building Trades Advancement College at their assigned time. No virtual speeches will be permitted.

5. Prerequisites

- Attend a public or private recognized secondary institute, or be enrolled in a registered home school program through the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DOEECD);
- Be between 13 and 21 years of age on January 1 of the year of the Competition.
- Competitors are responsible for verifying this information, if requested.

- 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 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 or submitted by a parent or guardian if under the age of 19.

6. Equipment & Clothing

The following will be supplied:

- Podium
- Microphone
- Note paper

Competitors are responsible for:

- Competitors should be dressed appropriately for a business presentation;
- Clothing that identifies school or area should not be worn during the competition;
- Use of cue cards/notes are optional;
- Electronic equipment, including any assistive technology, may be used only at the prior approval of Skills Canada Nova Scotia and the PTC;
- Competitors should not identify their home areas, schools, or names during the competition in the delivery of their speeches.
- Competitors are responsible for notifying Skills Canada Nova Scotia and the PTC in advance of any special requirements related to their participation.

7. Evaluation & Judging Criteria

OVERALL SCORE		/100
PREPARED SPEECH	TOTAL	/75
CONTENT / ORGANIZATION - the NTC will assess this subcategory, 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 addresses the content contained in the second section of the prompt	/2
Response develops the content contained in the second section of the prompt	/2
Introduction is coherent and shaped	/2
Introduction contains the assigned topic	/2
Supporting ideas are focused on the assigned topic	/2
Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent discussion of the assigned topic	/2
Transitions link ideas coherently	/2
Conclusion is connected to the 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 topic		/1
Develops ideas adequately		/1
Organizes ideas logically		/1
Demonstrates clarity and conviction		/1
IMPROMPTU SPEECH	DAY 2 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 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
CONVENTIONS	SUBTOTAL	/10
Impromptu speech delivered within required time specifications		/1
Prepared speech delivered within time specifications		/2
Delivery of speech meets time specifications		/2
Prepared speech question response delivered within time specifications		/1



**Contest Description
Public Speaking
Secondary**

Speech submitted on time	/2
Speech submitted in specified format	/2

8. Additional Information

Any additional contest rules will be reviewed during the competitor’s orientation.

If a competitor requires any disability related accommodations, they must inform Skills Canada Nova Scotia a minimum of 1 month prior to the competition or this service may not be guaranteed.

No ties are permitted. In the event of a tie (s) the following criteria will be used:

- Tiebreaker #1: The competitor with the highest score in the Delivery criteria of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #2: The competitor with the higher mark in the Content section of the Prepared Speech will be declared the winner.
- Tiebreaker #3: The competitor 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.

9. PTC Contact Information

Name	Employer	Email
Scott Furlotte	Nova Scotia Community College	scott@thinkingcap.work