

DATE		LOCATION	
Friday, March 27, 2026		NSCC Ivany Campus	
TIME	TASK		
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Orientation		
9:00 am – 3:30 pm	Competition in progress		
TBD	Mandatory 30-minute lunch break		

1. Purpose of the Contest

Assess the competitor's ability to perform duties relating to graphic design and pre-press.

2. Criteria

Tasks that may be assigned during the contest:

- Understanding and developing complex concepts;
- Reading and understanding technical specifications;
- Implementing time management and work flow planning;
- Understanding and utilizing basic design fundamentals;
- Using master pages, style sheets, and die-line;
- Using industry-standard software for illustration, page layout, and image manipulation;
- Exporting to final formats, (.eps, .tif, .psd, .pdf, and jpg);
- Editing copy.

3. Number of Stations / Allocations

There is a maximum of twelve (12) spaces.

4. Skills & Knowledge to be Tested

This skill involves any graphic design technology utilizing skills and techniques applicable to all phases of graphic design technology such as concept/ideas, design, digital preparation of images, typography, supportive artwork (illustrations, typefaces, etc.), layout, final processing, and output (PDF, crop marks, color separations, etc.) and presentation of the final design.

5. Prerequisites

Post-Secondary competitors:

- must meet the following criteria in the current school year:
- Be enrolled in a community college, university, private school OR be a registered apprentice with the Department of Labour and Advanced Education (Apprenticeship Agency);
- Be registered as a competitor with Skills Canada – Nova Scotia;
- The competitor cannot be a certified journey-person;
- Possess Canadian citizenship or Permanent Resident (Landed Immigrant) status and be a resident of Nova Scotia; or be a registered International Student. Competitors are responsible for verifying this information if requested;
- Have been earning post-secondary credits in a sector relevant to the one in which they wish to compete (i.e. to compete in carpentry, the student would be earning credits in any construction-related trade) at any time during the academic school year (September to June);
- All competitors must be able to show either current apprenticeship status and/or proof of enrollment in a post-secondary institution upon request of the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC) or Skills Canada – Nova Scotia.
- Have completed and submitted a signed release form

Secondary Competitors:

- 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

GRAPHIC DESIGN IS A 'BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) CONTEST. COMPETITORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR OWN COMPUTERS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION.

What Competitors Must Supply

- Mac OSX or PC computer running Adobe Suite
- USB Stick (minimum 4GB) for personal archiving files;
- Personal keyboard/mouse (optional);
- Personal tablet (optional). Drivers installed before the competition begins and must be provided by the competitor;
- Exacto knife;
- Pencil/pen, eraser, glue stick or double-sided tape;
- Ruler/straight edge that measures at least 18"

External music devices with headphones are permitted.

Additional fonts or any reference materials are not accepted.

7. Evaluation & Judging Criteria

POINT BREAKDOWN	/ 100
Technical Elements – Objective Marking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid and layout; • Document Sizes; • Bleed, trim lines, fold lines, etc.; • Typographical hierarchy • Required elements; • Final presentation; • File format; • Following instructions. 	50
Aesthetics and Creative Elements – Subjective Marking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and implementation; • Ideas and originality; • Target audience; • Design Principles 	50

Contest Description

Graphic Design

Secondary & Post-Secondary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typography; • Colour; • Image. 	
TOTAL	_____ / 100

No ties are permitted. In the event of a tie, the competitor with the highest score in the 'Technical Elements' criteria will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the higher score in 'Computer Layout' will be used to declare the winner. If a tie still exists, 'Savings Ability' will be use.

8. PTC Contact Information

Name	Employer	Email
Crystal McManus	NSCC Ivany Campus	crystal.mcmanus@nsc.ca
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