



**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
REPORT**
2024—2025

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The past year has been one of remarkable achievement and growth for Skills Canada Nova Scotia.

We began the year with an extraordinary milestone as Nova Scotia was represented on the world stage for the first time in the culinary trade. **Olivia Sewell competed in the Cooking event at WorldSkills Lyon**, supported by her team—WorldSkills Canadian Expert Sean Kettley, coach Jonathan Canning, and fundraising coordinator Garth Brown. Olivia's outstanding performance earned her a **Medallion of Excellence**, a tremendous success for her, her team, and our organization.

Throughout the fall, staff remained actively engaged in a range of impactful initiatives. We organized the **Skills for Success Forum**, facilitated a segment of the **Indigenous Skilled Trades Fair**, participated in the **Oceans 2024 Conference**, promoted our programming during the **NSCC Sydney Waterfront Campus Grand Opening**, and hosted a **Career Showcase in Pictou County**.

In addition to these events, our outreach team visited schools across the province to deliver in-school presentations, facilitate Skills for Success workshops, and provide engaging Try-A-Trade® Takeout activities. Through these three initiatives alone, **we reached more than 4,800 students across Nova Scotia**.

As 2025 began, **Skills Canada – Nova Scotia awarded classroom robotics kits to eight schools across the province** through our partnership with the RBC Foundation. Each kit, valued at \$2,000, contains all the components needed to build multiple robotics projects and can be reused year after year. This initiative leaves a lasting legacy of skill development in classrooms and inspires students to explore robotics and technology as potential career pathways.

This year, along with hosting the Nova Scotia Skills Competition at **NSCC Akerley Campus, NSCC Ivany Campus** and the **Building Trades Advancement College**, we proudly brought the event back to Cape Breton for the first time since 2019. The stunning new **NSCC Sydney Waterfront Campus served as our host venue**, welcoming competitors, volunteers, judges, and touring students from across the province. Many faculty members were new to the event, providing an excellent opportunity to build awareness of the benefits of competition involvement.



We also hosted **Abilympics Competition events at both NSCC Akerley and NSCC Sydney Waterfront Campus**, expanding this program to more participants than ever. Competitions included Cooking, Floral Arrangement, Job Interview, and Photography.

Following a successful provincial season, **Team Nova Scotia traveled to Regina, Saskatchewan, to compete at the Skills Canada National Competition**. Our team delivered exceptional results—earning **13 medals across 12 different skill categories**. Notably, secondary students captured six of the 13 medals (including three gold) despite comprising just 31% of the team. The 2D Animation duo, **Tuesday Neves and Kiera MacLellan, received RBC's Best of Region Award** for their outstanding work.

Our partnerships also strengthened this year, with **increased support from the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables, Milwaukee Tools, CN Rail, and the Department of Agriculture**. We launched a new project with the **Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)**, producing a series of videos featuring apprentices and journeypersons sharing their experiences in the skilled trades. These videos will be featured on exploretades.ns

In collaboration with NSAA and NSCC, **we successfully delivered five Skilled Trades Camps in Springhill, Sydney, Dartmouth, Kentville, and Yarmouth**. Seven staff members were hired to organize and facilitate these immersive week-long camps, **each welcoming 60 participants** for hands-on exposure to the skilled trades.

It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team this year. Together, we achieved meaningful impact, expanded our reach, and continued to strengthen Nova Scotia's skilled trades community.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Lorway

Robin Lorway

Executive Director, Skills Canada – Nova Scotia



N.S. Skills Competition
featured a total of
259
competitors



98 In-School
Presentations to
3,275
students



Try-A-Trade® Take-Out
program delivered
12,111
classroom kits

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

36 Workshops from
Accessibility Services with
448
participants



121 Skills For Success
workshops for
3,398
students

ABILYMPICS

Two Provincial
Abilympics Events had
44
participants

Skilled Futures CAREER SHOWCASE

Four Career Showcase
Events with
3,568
touring students



THANK YOU! SKILLS CANADA – NOVA SCOTIA PARTNERS



PRESENTING PARTNERS



PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNERS



SILVER PARTNERS

Bird Construction

Cherubini Bridges & Structures

CWB - Canadian Welding Bureau

Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture

Nova Scotia Construction Sector Council

Trucking Human Resources Sector Council

BRONZE PARTNERS

ACRC Local 1588 - Carpenters Union Cape Breton
Atlantic Masonry Institute
Cape Breton University
Carpenter Millwright College
Canadian Coast Guard College
Coast Tire & Auto Service
Construction Safety Nova Scotia
Fix Automotive Network
Forces Canada - Canadian Navy

Landscape NS
LE Cruickshanks Sheet Metal
Local 1588 - Carpenters Union Cape Breton
Local 1852 - IBEW
Merit NS
Nova Scotia Boat Builders Association
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture

Nova Scotia Pipe Trades - NS JATC
Nova Scotia Pipe Trades - NS Sprinkler JTAC
Nova Scotia Pipe Trades Association
O'Regans Automotive
Snap On Tools
Stellar Industrial
Toromount Cat
UA Local 56

SUPPORTERS IN KIND

Building Trades Advancement College
Cosmetology Association of Nova Scotia
3M
Bunzl McCordick Safety Supplies
Crane Supply Ltd
EMCO Ltd. Dartmouth

Festo
FloCor
Graybar Canada
LCN East
LKQ Corporation
Maritime Beauty

National Fire (Moncton)
Northeast Equipment
Russel Metals
Wolseley
Victaulic