



2026 Territorial Skills Competition Contest Description

# Public Speaking

Secondary

**Date:** April 16, 2026, 8:00 A.M.

**Location:** Yukon University, Gym

**Duration of contest:** 6 Hours

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## **1. SKILLS FOR SUCCESS FOR CAREERS IN SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Government of Canada has updated the previous Essential Skills framework to the new Skills for Success model in response to the evolving labour market and changing skill requirements. This model outlines nine fundamental skills Canadians need to thrive in work, education, training, and daily life.

Skills/Compétences Canada aims to highlight the importance of these skills, vital for success in trade and technology careers. Competitors can see how Skills for Success are integrated into contest descriptions, projects, and project documents. Recognizing these skills during the competition helps competitors match tasks with specific skills necessary for success and understand how these skills apply within their trade or technology programs and future careers.

The nine key Skills for Success, validated for workplace success, are:

1. Numeracy
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Adaptability
5. Reading
6. Writing
7. Problem Solving
8. Creativity and Innovation
9. Digital

## **2. CONTEST INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 What is public speaking?**

Public speaking is the process of speaking to an audience in a deliberate way so that you inform, influence, or entertain. The ability to communicate effectively is a critical skill in today's workplace. Potential employers are looking for employees who have a variety of general skills and abilities. Transferable skills, such as interpersonal communications, organizational, analytical and problem-solving abilities, can be applied to many different jobs. Effective public speaking occurs when a speaker is well organized and confident to present the substance of the speech to an audience. The main idea of your speech is referred to as the thesis. This is often one sentence that uses specific language, a single idea, and is audience centered. The main body of your speech must be focused upon the thesis or main topic. Reading from a prepared speech is a formal way to deliver your message. This is also viewed as effective when your desire is to control your speech content. In this instance, the speaker must be careful to not jeopardize spontaneity and conversational elements.

## **2.2 Purpose of the Challenge**

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.

It is believed that we enjoy speakers who know their topic and can demonstrate energy, vigor, and excitement. Competent public speakers seek to be perceived as dynamic. It is important to show a genuine interest in your topic and audience. By being authentic and real, you will convey your dynamism. One of the greatest fears that many people have is speaking in public. It helps to allow that nervousness to heighten your sense of audience and your topic. Through practicing your gestures, intonation, expression and movements you will add interest to your talk and gain confidence in your ability to deliver.

## **2.3 Duration of Contest**

6 Hours. Competitors will begin at 9:00AM and have until 4:00PM to complete all of their tasks, including tidying their work station.

## **2.4 Skills and Knowledge to be Tested**

- Present original thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on the assigned topics.
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the designated time frames.
- 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.

## 2.5 Contest Description

Competitors will perform three (3) tasks:

### **Before the competition:**

1. Competitors will write and submit a prepared speech that reflects creatively on the following topic: ***"Apprenticeship is an essential component of and a pathway to a successful career in the Skilled Trades and Technologies. With this in mind, how can we attract and encourage more students to consider this option?"***

Competitors will ensure that they maintain a focus and consider the content implied by the topic. Competitors are expected to express themselves clearly while capturing the attention of their listening audience.

<b>SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS</b>	
Each competitor must submit 1 copy of their prepared speeches, before 4:00 PM on <b>April 9, 2026</b> , following the specified format:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Minimum length: 5 minutes</li><li>· Maximum length: 7 minutes</li><li>· Double spaced</li><li>· Justified</li><li>· Arial 14</li><li>· PDF Format</li><li>· Emailed to following addresses: <a href="mailto:icoyote@yukonu.ca">icoyote@yukonu.ca</a></li></ul>	
If you have not received confirmation within 24 hours that your speech has been received, please email <a href="mailto:yukon@skillscanada.com">yukon@skillscanada.com</a>	

### **During the competition:**

1. Each competitor will present their prepared speech in a formal public setting and will answer one (1) question based upon the submitted speech. The order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.
2. Competitors will also speak on an impromptu topic that will be revealed on the morning of the competition. This speech is intended to be an original speech. No materials from previous written speeches should be included.

<b>TIME REQUIREMENTS</b>		
	<b>Prepared Speech</b>	<b>Prepared Speech Question</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>7 minutes</b>	<b>1 minute 30 seconds</b>
<b>Visual and/or Verbal cues</b>	<b>There will not be a warning light, sound, or</b>	<b>Cue will be provided to indicate 15 seconds remaining.</b>

	timecards to indicate time allotment.	
	<b>Impromptu Speech</b>	
<b>Preparation</b>	<b>2 minutes</b>	
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>N/A</b>	
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>3 minutes</b>	
<b>Visual and/or Verbal cues</b>	<b>Cues will be provided 3 times: at 2 minutes, 1 minute, and 15 seconds to indicate time remaining.</b>	

**3. EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL, CLOTHING**

**3.1. Equipment and material provided by Skills Canada Yukon:**

- Lectern
- Wireless microphone (if necessary)

**3.2. Required Clothing & Equipment Provided by the Competitor**

- Business Casual attire while on-site
- Blank paper, pen/pencil

**4. HEALTH & SAFETY**

**4.1. Safety Orientation**

During orientation, Competitors will participate in a Safety workshop and they will be expected to work and maintain a safe working area during the competition.

**NOTE:** Competitors who do not have the required protective equipment/clothing will not be allowed to participate in the competition

**4.2. Field Level Risk Assessment**

SCY will complete a Field Level Risk Assessment for every competition area in addition to a full walkthrough with a representative from Yukon Workers Safety and Compensation Board to identify potential hazards and create solutions. The primary goal of an FLRA is to identify and mitigate potential risks to ensure the safety of competitors.

**5. ASSESSMENT**

**5.1. Point Breakdown**

<b>TASK</b>	<b>/100</b>
Prepared Speech - Content & Organization	<b>/20</b>

Prepared Speech - Delivery	<b>/50</b>
Prepared Speech - Question Response	<b>/5</b>
Impromptu Speech - Content, Organization & Delivery	<b>/15</b>
Overall Conventions	<b>/10</b>

**5.2. Qualifying for the Skills Canada National Competition**

Competitors can secure a win in their specific competitions by demonstrating exceptional skills and abilities, and meeting or exceeding established evaluation criteria. However, qualification for the Skills Canada National Competition is not solely determined by winning at the territorial level.

The decision to advance further depends on additional factors, such as the Territorial Technical Committee's (TTC) assessment and/or the judges' discretion, which may take into account specific criteria beyond just event performance. These additional criteria could encompass a competitor's adherence to safety protocols, ethical conduct, teamwork, or overall professionalism, ensuring that those who represent the Territory at the national level not only excel in their technical skills but also embody the values and standards upheld by Skills Canada.

**\*Please note:** Not all territorial contest areas are eligible for the Skills Canada National Competition. Please refer to the SCNC website to determine if your skill area/level is eligible to compete.

**6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**6.1. Competition Rules**

Refer to the competition rules of the Skills Canada Yukon Territorial Competition which can be found on our website.

**6.2. Ties**

- 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 student with the highest overall score in the Impromptu Speech will be declared the winner.

**6.3. Accessibility & Accommodations**

Skills Canada Yukon is committed to providing a barrier-free environment which allows everyone to participate in our programs and competitions. We strive to be

fully inclusive to all manner of disabilities and identities. SCY provides the opportunity for any competitor to disclose a disability on our competition registration form. Requests for accommodations must be made at least 3 weeks prior to the competition date.

**7. NATIONAL & TERRITORIAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

- 7.1. The Yukon National Technical Committee member for Public Speaking is Ivan Coyote. Email: [icoyote@yukonu.ca](mailto:icoyote@yukonu.ca)
- 7.2. Please contact [yukon@skillscanada.com](mailto:yukon@skillscanada.com) with questions or concerns related to the competition.