



**2015**  
**18th ANNUAL SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION**  
**CONTEST SCOPE**

**CONTEST NAME:** PUBLIC SPEAKING

**CONTEST NO:** 85

**LEVEL:** Secondary Level – up to 2 competitors per school allowed to a maximum of 10

**CONTEST LOCATION:** Red River College – Notre Dame Campus – White Lecture Theatre

**CONTEST START TIME AND DURATION:**

Orientation will take place at 8 a.m. after which competitors will be given opportunity to observe other on-site competitions. At 10:00 competitors will be asked to respond to one question based on their observations of Skilled Trades and Technology competitions. The presentation of prepared speeches will follow and each competitor will be asked one question based on the content of their submitted speeches. The competition ends when the last speaker has presented and judges have had an opportunity to deliver general feedback. Lunch will be approximately 1 p.m.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES:**

The Conference Board of Canada has identified the essential skills needed to enter and progress in the world of work—whether it is self employment or working as a part of a team. Essential skills are used in nearly every job and at different levels of complexity. They provide the foundation for learning all other skills and enable people to evolve with their jobs and adapt to workplace change. Good Essential Skills means you will understand and remember concepts introduced in technical training. The level of Essential Skills required for most trades is as high or higher than it is for many office jobs. The following 9 skills have been identified and validated as key essential skills for the workplace: <sup>1</sup>Numeracy, <sup>2</sup>Oral Communication, <sup>3</sup>Working with Others, <sup>4</sup>Continuous Learning, <sup>5</sup>Reading Text, <sup>6</sup>Writing, <sup>7</sup>Thinking, <sup>8</sup>Document Use, <sup>9</sup>Digital Technology

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

## PURPOSE OF CHALLENGE:

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 a speech, conduct research and to construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

## SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED:

- Present thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on **one** of the **assigned topics**.<sup>7</sup>
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the 5 to 7 minute timeframe.<sup>2</sup>
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position).<sup>2</sup>
- Speak easily, with confidence.<sup>2</sup>
- Use non-verbal skills (body language and gestures) to assist in expression.
- Be expressive by varying voice in pitch, tone, tempo, and volume.<sup>2</sup>
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly<sup>7</sup>
- Reflect upon research, make observations; share experiences through prompted response.<sup>7</sup>  
*Essential Skills – <sup>2</sup>Oral Communication, <sup>7</sup>Thinking (Job Task Planning and Organizing, Critical)*

**TOPIC:** Each competitor will speak on the following topic:

Skills Canada competitions highlight the importance of the Essential Skills commonly used in skilled trades and technology careers. Did you know that Canadians age 16-24 rank below average in both literacy and numeracy compared to their peers in 23 other developed countries and regions?

With this in mind, respond to the statement below:

“From the classroom to the workplace, Essential Skills matter.”

Competitors should 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.

**By 4 p.m. April 6, 2015** students must submit their speeches via email to the chair of the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC). Please refer to email address at the end of this Contest Description. Students who do not submit speeches by the above deadline will not be eligible to compete.

## LENGTH OF PREPARED SPEECH:

- The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length and shall not exceed seven (7) minutes.
- Five (5) points will be deducted from each judge’s score for each minute or portion thereof under the minimum time or in excess of the maximum time.
- There will not be a warning light, sound, or time cards to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentations.

### **LENGTH OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS:**

At 10 a.m., competitors will be asked one question based upon their observations of the skilled trades and technology contests. They will have a maximum of 2 (two) minutes to prepare and 3 (three) minutes to respond. Time cards will be shown to indicate time remaining.

Following the presentation of their prepared speeches, students will be asked one question based upon the content of their speeches. Competitors will have a maximum of one minute and thirty seconds to respond to the question. Time cards will be shown to indicate time remaining.

### **TASKS TO BE PERFORMED DURING CONTEST:**

- Competitors will attend an orientation session at 8 a.m.
- Competitors will observe the "on-site" Skills Manitoba competitions to research and gather information about skilled trades and technology careers. The purpose of this observation component is to help students prepare for a general question that will be posed in random order beginning at 10 a.m. The focus of this question (#1) will be based upon the required observation and research component completed prior to the speech presentations.
- Competitors will present their prepared speeches in a formal public setting with all competitors present. Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.
- Competitors will then respond to one question (#2) based on the content of the speech addressing the assigned topic as outlined above.

### **EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, MATERIALS TO BE PROVIDED BY COMMITTEE:**

- A lectern will be provided (optional use for each competitor)
- Speeches may be photographed or videotaped

### **EQUIPMENT, TOOLS, MATERIALS TO BE SUPPLIED BY COMPETITOR:**

- Clothing should be appropriate for a formal presentation.
- School shirts may not be worn during the competition.
- Competitors must not identify their home schools or names during the competition and the delivery of their speeches.

## NATIONAL COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY:

- A mark of **70% or higher** must be scored by the gold medalist in order to attend the National Skills Competition

## ASSESSMENT

POINT BREAKDOWN	/100
<b>A) CONTENT</b>	<b>30</b>
<p><b>Ideas and Information:</b> related to and focused on the chosen topic (<i>The PTC will assess this subcategory prior to the formal speech presentations.</i>)</p> <p><b>Organization:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses effective introduction</li> <li>• Focuses ideas and presents them in logical order</li> <li>• Links ideas coherently</li> <li>• Concludes effectively</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p>
<b>B) DELIVERY</b>	<b>40</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conventions: diction, grammar, pronunciation</li> <li>• Effectiveness: convincing, coherent, interesting, descriptive language</li> <li>• Eye Contact: engages with audience</li> <li>• Fluency: fluidity, smoothness, polish</li> <li>• Non Verbal: gestures, mannerisms, body language</li> <li>• Poise: self – confident, dignified, composed</li> <li>• Voice: expression, tempo, volume, phrasing</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>8</p>
<b>C) QUESTION</b>	<b>20</b>
<p><b>Question 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity, to the point</li> <li>• Conviction, knowledge of topic</li> </ul> <p><b>Question 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity, to the point</li> <li>• Conviction, knowledge of topic</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <p>5</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p>
<b>D) CONVENTIONS</b>	<b>10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speech within time requirements</li> <li>• Question responses do not exceed time limit</li> <li>• Meets clothing requirements</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <p>4</p> <p>1</p>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Mrs. Irene Peters – Committee Chair

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