



28th ANNUAL SKILLS CANADA MANITOBA COMPETITION CONTEST DESCRIPTION APRIL 9, 2026

CONTEST NAME: Public Speaking

CONTEST NO: 85

LEVEL: Secondary Level – up to 2 competitors per school allowed to a **total maximum of 8**. In the case of 2 competitors from one school, coaches must advise the Contest chair who is the first-place competitor and who is the second. This must be indicated at the time of registration. The 2nd place may compete if spots are available.

CONTEST LOCATION: Red River Polytech – Notre Dame Campus –
Orange 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 a.m. competitors will return and 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.

CONTEST DEADLINES:

- Early bird registration before February 6, 2026
- Final registration deadline March 2, 2026

-Monday March 16, 2026 11:59pm – Deadline for student's speech to be submitted

- Thursday April 9, 2026 – Public Speaking Manitoba Competition

CONTEST INTRODUCTION:

2.1 Description of the associated work role(s) or occupation(s).

<https://www.skillscompetencescanada.com/en/skills/employment/prepared-speech/>

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

2.3 Duration of contest

Up to 6 hours

SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED:

2.4 Skills and Knowledge to be tested

- Present original thoughts in a clear, coherent, and well-constructed format on the assigned topic.(7)
- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the 5 to 7 minute timeframe. (2, 7)
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion, or position).(7)
- Speak easily, with confidence.(2)
- 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. (7)
- Reflect upon research, make observations, and share experiences through prompted response. (7)

Essential Skills – (2) Oral Communication, (6) Writing, (7) Thinking (Job Task Planning and Organizing, Critical Thinking)

CONTEST DESCRIPTION:

3.1 List of documents produced and timeline for when competitors have access to the documents.

DOCUMENT	DATE OF DISTRIBUTION VIA WEBSITE
No other documents will be posted prior to the competition	

3.2 Tasks that will be performed during the contest
Each competitor will speak on the following prompt:

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 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.
- Each competitor must submit 1 copy of their prepared speech, with a header that contains your full name and high school, before **11:59 pm, Monday March 16th, 2026**, following the specified format:
- Double spaced
- Justified
- Arial 14
- Include a header that contains your full name and high school
- PDF Format

Emailed to the chair of the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC):

ntirefitness@gmail.com

- If you have not received confirmation that the speech has been received within 24 hours, please email the PTC chair and resubmit.

Please Note: Late submissions sent after the date and time specified above WILL NOT be accepted. Submissions not in the correct format will receive a deduction as indicated in the Assessment document.

- Competitors will attend a mandatory orientation session on **April 9th, 2026 at 8am** in the White Lecture Room at Red River Polytech Notre Dame Campus.

- Competitors will observe the "on-site" Skills Manitoba competitions to gather information about skilled trades and technology careers. The intent of these observations is to support the response to the impromptu topic. Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.
- In Part 2 of the competition, each competitor will present their prepared speech in a formal public setting and answer one (1) question based upon the submitted speech. Order of presentations will be determined through a random selection process.

3.3 Time Requirements

- **Length of Impromptu Speech**
At 10 a.m. on Competition Day, competitors will be given a prompt 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 at 2 minutes, 1 minute, and at 15 seconds to indicate time remaining during response.
- **Length of Prepared Speech**
The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length and shall not exceed seven (7) minutes. There will **not** be a warning light, sound, or timecards to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentations.
- **Length of Response to Question**
Following Prepared Speech Presentations, students will be asked one question based upon the content of their prepared speeches. Competitors will have a maximum of 1 minute and 30 seconds to respond to the question. Time card will be shown to indicate 15 seconds remaining.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS:

4.1 Equipment and material provided by Skills Manitoba

- Lectern (optional use for each competitor)
- Audio/Video recording of impromptu speeches is NOT permitted
- Audio/Video recording of prepared speeches is permitted

4.2 Equipment and material provided by the competitor

- Optional: Use of cue cards/notes

4.3 Required clothing (provided by the competitor)

- Competitors should be dressed appropriately for a business presentation.
- Provincial team shirts may not be worn during the competition.
- School/team shirts may not be worn during the competition

SAFETY RULES / REQUIREMENTS:

5.1 At the competition orientation, competitors will receive safety information as it pertains to this contest.

5.2 List of required personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by competitors

- No PPE required

POINT BREAKDOWN/JUDGING CRITERIA:

IMPROMPTU SPEECH	TOTAL VALUE 15
CONTENT	
• Response addresses the prompt	/2
• Chooses ideas that demonstrate understanding of the topic	/2
• Develops ideas adequately	/1
ORGANIZATION	
• Uses effective introduction	/1
• Focuses and presents ideas in a logical order	/1
• Links ideas coherently	/1
• Concludes effectively	/1
DELIVERY	
• Effectiveness: uses convincing, coherent language	/2
• Voice: expression, tempo, volume, phrasing	/2
• Eye contact: engages with audience	/1
• Non-verbal: gestures, mannerisms, body language	/1
PREPARED SPEECH	TOTAL VALUE 75
CONTENT/ORGANIZATION	20
<i>Note: the PTC will assess this subcategory, based on written submission, prior to the prepared speech presentations</i>	
• Response develops the content contained in the first section of the prompt	/3
• Response develops the content contained in the second section of the prompt	/3
• Introduction is coherent and shaped	/2
• Introduction contains the assigned topic	/2
• Arrangement of supporting ideas contributes to a competent discussion	/2
• Supporting ideas are focused on assigned topic	/2
• Transitions link ideas coherently	/2
• Conclusion is relevant	/2
• Conclusion is connected to the assigned topic	/2
DELIVERY	50
• Introduction gains audience attention	/2
• Introduction previews main ideas	/2
• Supporting ideas are connected to assigned topic	/2

• Supporting ideas develop assigned topic	/2
• Supporting ideas are precise	/1
• Conclusion is appropriate and skillful	/1
• Captures interest at the beginning of the speech	/2
• Holds interest through to the end of the speech	/2
• Convincing	/2
• Commands audience attention	/2
• Coherent	/2
• Effective word choice	/2
• Volume is sufficient	/1
• Volume used for effect	/2
• Appropriate tempo (pacing)	/2
• Effective phrasing	/2
• Expressive	/2
• Varies tone and pitch	/2
• Displays self-confidence	/2
• Composed	/1
• Correct use of conventions: diction, grammar, pronunciation	/2
• Eye contact: engages with entire audience	/2
• Eye contact is effective	/2
• Fluency: fluidity, smoothness	/2
• Polished	/2
• Gestures	/2
• Mannerisms, body language	/2
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
CONVENTIONS	TOTAL VALUE /10
REGULATIONS	10
• Impromptu speech delivered within required time specifications (as per 3.3)	/1
• Prepared speech delivered within time specifications (as per 3.3)	/4
• Prepared speech question response delivered within time specifications (as per 3.3)	/1
• Speech submitted on time	/2
• Speech submitted in specified format	/2

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

7.1 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 competitor with the highest overall score in the Impromptu Speech will be declared the winner.

7.2 Minimum Score

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS FOR CAREERS IN THE SKILLED TRADES AND TECHNOLOGY:

In response to the evolving labour market and changing skill needs, the Government of Canada has launched the new Skills for Success (former Essential Skills) model defining nine key skills needed by Canadians to participate in work, in education and training, and in modern society more broadly. SCC is currently working with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to bring awareness of the importance of these skills that are absolutely crucial for success in Trade and Technology careers. Part of this ongoing initiative requires the integration and identification of the Skills for Success in contest descriptions, projects, and project documents. The following 9 skills have been identified and validated as key skills for success for the workplace: 1.Numeracy, 2.Communication, 3.Collaboration, 4.Adaptability, 5.Reading, 6.Writing, 7.Problem Solving, 8.Creativity and Innovation, 9.Digital

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chair/Contact:

Mr. Steve Proskurnik

ntirefitness@gmail.com