



# 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SKILLS MANITOBA COMPETITION

## CONTEST SCOPE

### APRIL 9, 2026

**CONTEST NAME:** Graphic Design

**CONTEST NO:** 40

**LEVEL:** Secondary & Post-Secondary  
(Up to 3 competitors allowed per school)

**CONTEST LOCATION:** **Room 207.2**  
**Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology**  
**130 Henlow Bay**  
**Winnipeg, MB**

**CONTEST START TIME AND DURATION:**

Orientation: 8:00 am

Contest Start Time: 8:15 am

**Contest End Time: 1:00**

**PURPOSE OF CHALLENGE:**

Assess the contestant's ability to perform duties relating to document graphic design and pre-press

**SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO BE TESTED**

The projects focus on practical work. Theoretical knowledge is limited to that required to perform practical work:

- Reading and understanding technical specifications
- Implementing time management and work flow planning;
- Understanding and utilizing basic design fundamentals;
- Producing preliminary sketches;
- Editing pixel based digital images and colour correction;
- Using industry standard software for vector illustration & page layout software;
- Working with copy and applying typography principles;
- Ability to design for both print and digital display;
- Applying print pre-press standards (resolution/screen ruling, bleed, etc.);

- Exporting to final formats (pdf, eps);

## **PROJECT RELEASE INFORMATION**

On the day of competition, a 15 minute briefing will be given. This will be the competitor's opportunity to ask questions and gain a full understanding of the project.

Competitors are encouraged to follow the Technical Requirements video playlist which has been supplied by Skills Canada to help competitors achieve technical proficiency.

Watch the playlist here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLADNqcX8lc4VTR0ZFe6rnvbEXwxSVmtnA>



## **POINT BREAKDOWN / 100% TOTAL**

### **Technical elements (objective marking) 60%**

- Correct resolution of images
- Correct colour mode of images
- Correct file saving format of images
- Correct document sizes
- Appropriate utilization of bleed, trim lines, fold lines, etc
- Collecting for archiving
- Production of press ready PDF
- Use of the appropriate application
- Following project instructions
- Final printed output of project pieces

### **Aesthetic and creative elements (subjective marking) 40%**

- Overall quality of design
- Ideas and originality
- Understanding the target market
- Suitability and legibility of typography
- Suitability and use of colours
- Quality of image manipulation and effects

## **NATIONAL COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY:**

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

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

- Computers with Adobe Design Suite Installed
- Paper for preliminary sketches
- Printer paper
- Cutting mat
- Work table and chair
- Printer for proofing

**Supplied Software:** *Available versions of*

Acrobat, Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop

Students may download additional fonts from the internet

(note: no additional software will be added to this contest)

NO AI software, or use of AI features in Photoshop to be used.

Competitors may download fonts to use in addition to those available on their computer.

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

**Outside reference material and/or templates are strictly prohibited.**

USB Stick to transfer final project (to be cleared of all other files), pencil, eraser, glue stick or double-sided tape, ruler that measures at least 18"

**WORKSITE SAFETY RULES / REQUIREMENTS:**

No food or beverages at workstations (water bottles that can be closed will be allowed in room)

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

No outside resources, computers, tablets, books, webpages, data storage devices allowed.

Portable audio players allowed, subject to inspection. No devices of any kind may be connected to workstations.

No headwear, no logos or trademarks on clothing. See provincial competitor guidelines.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF 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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

Trish Goldrup

Technical Vocational High School

(431) 338-4933

[Tgoldrup@wsd1.org](mailto:Tgoldrup@wsd1.org)