



**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL INTERMEDIATE SKILLS COMPETITION**  
**January 30, 2010**  
**Mount Pearl Intermediate**

**PREPARED SPEECH**  
**Intermediate Level Scope**

**Purpose of the Challenge**

The Conference Board of Canada has identified the skills needed to enter, stay in, 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 relevant technological knowledge and skills to explain or clarify ideas

The prepared speech 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 and to construct answers to related questions in a clear and concise manner.

**Skills and Knowledge to be tested**

**Competitors will demonstrate these abilities:**

- Capture and hold the attention of the audience within the 5–7minute timeframe
- Present thoughts in a clear, coherent and well-constructed format on the assigned topic
- Deliver a clear message (main idea, argument, opinion or position)
- Speak easily with confidence
- Use non-verbal skills (body language) to assist in expression
- Be expressive by varying voice pitch in tone, tempo and volume
- Think quickly and answer unseen questions clearly with conviction within the time limit per question

**TOPIC:**

**“Skill Trades and Technology Careers: The Connections to Canada’s Future”**

Competitors should reflect on this title ("**Skill Trades and Technology Careers: The Connections to Canada's Future**") creatively ensuring that 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. During the orientation session, competitors must submit 4 copies of their speech to the NTC. Competitors, who do not speak directly on this topic/title, will have significant marks deducted from the 40% content component of the scoring grid.

### **Length of Prepared Speech**

The speech shall be at least five (5) minutes in length and will not exceed seven (7) minutes.

Fifty (50) points will be deducted from the final score (i.e. 50 out of 1000 points) for each minute or portion thereof under the minimum time or in excess of the maximum time.

There will not be a warning light or sound to indicate time allotment. Competitors should develop the skill to monitor the length of their presentation and are strongly encouraged to use a watch or timer.

### **Length of Response to Questions**

At the end of their speeches, students will be asked two questions. Competitors will have exactly one minute to respond to each question. Twenty (20) points will be deducted from the final score for exceeding the one minute specified.

### **Contest Description**

Tasks that will be performed during the contest:

1. Competitors will attend an orientation session during which time they will submit a hard copy of their prepared speeches. The Technical Committee will assess the content component of the speeches as a portion of the final score as reflected in the scoring grid. Forty (40%) of the total grade is allocated to content. The Committee will derive a score out of 20 as will the judges. The judges will assess the remaining 80% including 20% which remains for content.
2. Competitors will observe the on site Skills Canada competitions to 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 after the presentation of their prepared speech. The focus of this question will relate to what they have observed about skilled trades and technology careers.
3. Competitors will present their speeches in a formal setting.
4. Competitors will then respond to two questions. One question will be based on the topic as outlined above. The second question will be based upon the required observation component completed prior to the speech presentations.

## **Equipment, Tools, Supplies and Clothing**

Clothing should be appropriate for a formal presentation.

Provincial/Territorial team shirts may not be worn during the competition. Competitors must not identify their home province/territory, school or their names during the competition and the delivery of their speech. 10 points will be deducted from the final score (10 out of 1000) for violation of this regulation.

A lectern will be provided and a microphone supplied if the venue requires it but its use is optional for each speaker. Use of cue cards/ notes is also optional. No electronic equipment or other props will be permitted. Competitors may use a watch or timer.

## **Point Breakdown**

### **Content (40%)**

(20% evaluated by Provincial Committee; 20% evaluated by Judges as part of the formal speaking component) PTC will evaluate ½ of each item below and the scores will be averaged before being added to the competitor's final score.

**Mechanics:** Diction/grammar/pronunciation (50)

**Organization:** Logical and focused (100)

**Opening of Speech:** Lead into topic, creating interest (25)

**Ideas and Information:** Related to and focused on the assigned topic (50)

**Close of Speech:** Summary, conclusion, originality (25)

**Effectiveness:** Convincing, coherent, interesting, use of descriptive language (150)

### **Delivery (40%)**

Eye Contact (50)

Non-verbal gestures / mannerisms (50)

Voice - pitch, tempo, volume (50)

Enthusiasm (100)

Poise - Confidence (150)

### **Questions (20% with 10% assigned to each question)**

Clarity / to the point (100)

Conviction / Knowledge of topic (100)

## **Total (1000)**

### **Provincial Technical Committee**

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