



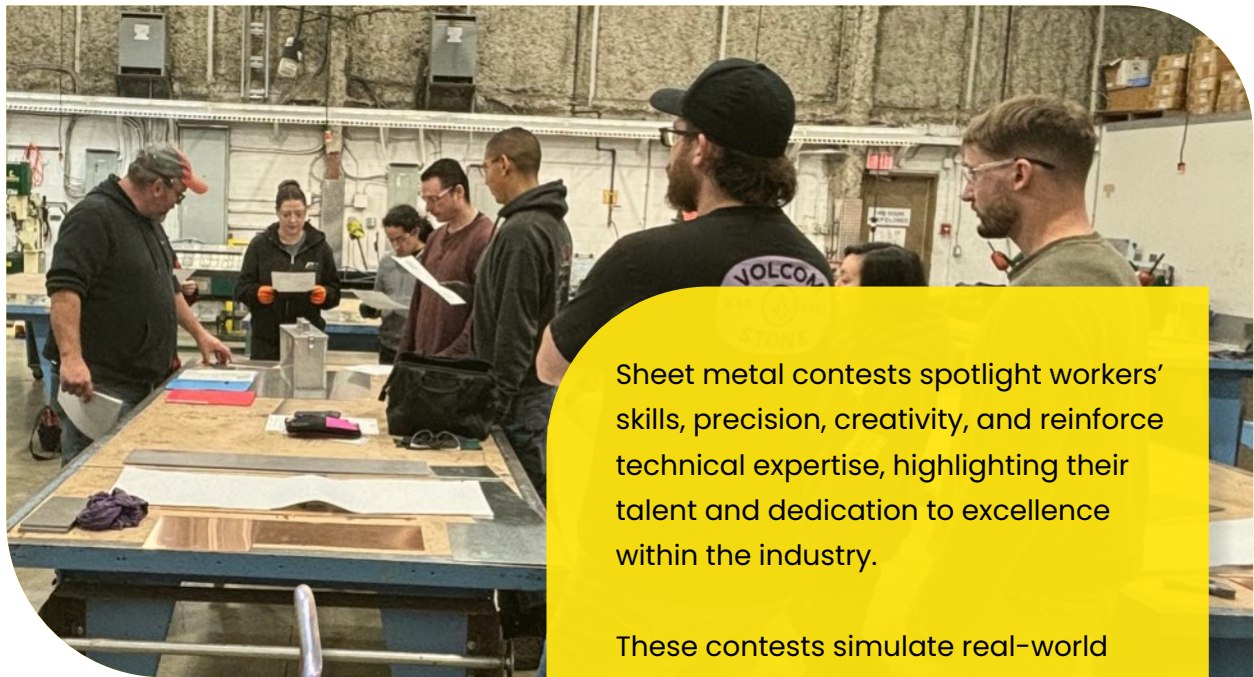
SHEET METAL WORKERS TRAINING CENTRE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

19077 - 95A AVENUE, SURREY, B.C. • 5514 - 275 STREET, LANGLEY, B.C.

Contests

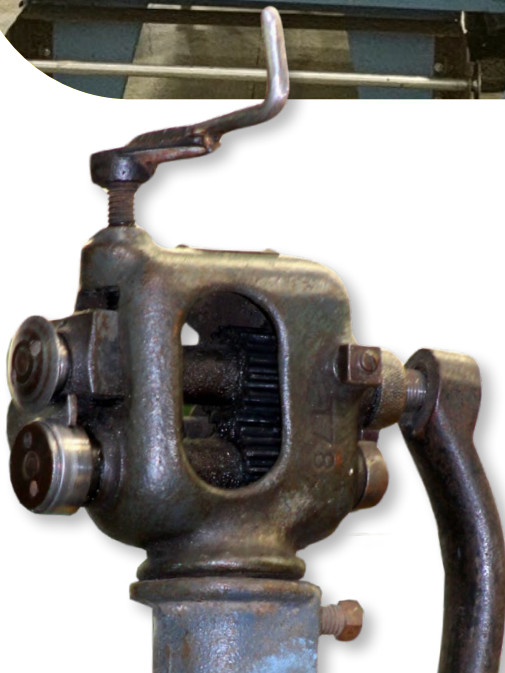
Showcasing our Talent!



Sheet metal contests spotlight workers' skills, precision, creativity, and reinforce technical expertise, highlighting their talent and dedication to excellence within the industry.

These contests simulate real-world challenges, helping sheet metal workers improve accuracy and speed, encourage innovation and problem-solving, and refine their craft.

Competitors build their skills by gaining confidence through peer benchmarking and constructive feedback while deepening understanding of industry standards.



Contest Winners



Level 1
Dorian Escamilla



Level 2
Jacob Smith



Level 3
Adam LaBar



Level 4
Natasha Hua

2024 SMWTC Annual Apprentice Contest

The Sheet Metal Workers' Training Centre hosts its annual competition each November, bringing together contestants competing across four levels and representing multiple contractors.

In November 2024, we had 17 apprentices who put their skills and creativity to the test. Each contestant competed in theory, drawing, welding, and shop projects in timed challenges.

Let's celebrate the 2024 SMWTC Annual Apprentice Contest winners:

- **Dorian Escamilla**
Piedmont Sheet Metal (1997) Ltd.
- **Jacob Smith**
Smith Sheet Metal Works Ltd.
- **Adam LaBar**
Spectrum Sheet Metal Ltd.
- **Natasha Hua**
Modern Niagara Vancouver Inc.

These contests are a great success thanks to our incredible sponsors and their generous contributions. Competitors receive door prizes and winners have the opportunity to represent SMWTC at BC Skills.

2025 SMWTC Annual Apprentice Contest



*Saturday
November 22, 2025*

Watch for invites for this year's upcoming contest. Come showcase your talent!



Skills Canada BC

Thursday, April 16, 2025

The Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre Society (SMWTCS) proudly participated in the 2025 [Skills Canada BC](#) Provincial Competition, held on April 16 at the Abbotsford Trade and Exhibition Centre. This high-energy competition brought together top apprentices from across the province to compete in various skilled trades, including sheet metal work.

SMWTCS apprentice Adam LaBar of Spectrum Sheet Metal Ltd. showcased his skills and secured the bronze medal. The complete results were:

- **Gold:** Mark Holowachuk
(Okanagan College)
- **Silver:** Adi Purnomo
(British Columbia Institute of Technology)
- **Bronze:** Adam LaBar
(Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre)

The contest highlights individual talent but also contributes to the advancement of skills within the sheet metal industry. Congratulations to all the contestants!





Skills Canada

May 29–30, Regina

Over 500 of Canada's top students and apprentices competed in 40+ skilled trade and technology contests. The event featured Try-A-Trade® activities, exhibitor booths, and more!

Skilled sheet metal competitors tackled a project modelled after the World's Largest Coffee Pot – a landmark in Davidson, Saskatchewan.

Our head instructor, Jake LeBlanc, was onsite representing British Columbia on the National Technical Committee for Sheet Metal at Skills Canada.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

July 24-26th

Canadian
Contest
TORONTO, ON

SMWTC
Annual
Apprentice
Contest
SURREY, BC

Nov 22nd

Natasha Hua, our Level 4 winner of the 2024 annual SMWTC Apprentice will be representing [SMART Local Union 280](#) and SMACNA BC at this year's Canadian Contest. Wish her luck!

Sign up soon for the 2025 SMWTC Annual Apprentice Contest.



Alex Donaldson Award

SMACNA-BC Christmas Party, November 29, 2024

The Alex Donaldson Award is presented annually to the top apprentice from SMART Local 280 and SMACNA-BC, recognizing excellence in the sheet metal trade.

Named in memory of Alex Donaldson, a dedicated Local 280 member committed to apprenticeships and training, the award honors the apprentice who excels in the Level 4 competition at the Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre Society (SMWTCS) Annual Apprentice Contest. This recipient earns the opportunity to represent their local union and [SMACNA-BC](#) at the

Canadian Council's Sheet Metal Apprentice Competition, held annually across the country.

Colin Nam from Apollo Sheet Metal received the Alex Donaldson Award in November 2024, being honored as the Top Apprentice at the SMACNA-BC event.

Colin was the 2023 SMWTC Apprentice Contest Winner, 4th place competitor at the Canadian Council's Sheet Metal Apprentice Competition and the Franco Pederzini Memorial Award recipient last year.

Franco Pederzini

Memorial Award



The Franco Pederzini Memorial Award is a \$1,000 scholarship presented annually to the Level 4 winner of the Sheet Metal Workers Training Centre (SMWTC) Annual Apprentice Contest.

Established by [Apollo Sheet Metal Ltd.](#) in memory of Franco Pederzini — a former SMITB Trustee and SMWTCS Director (2018–2019)— the award honors his dedication to apprenticeship training and the sheet metal trade.

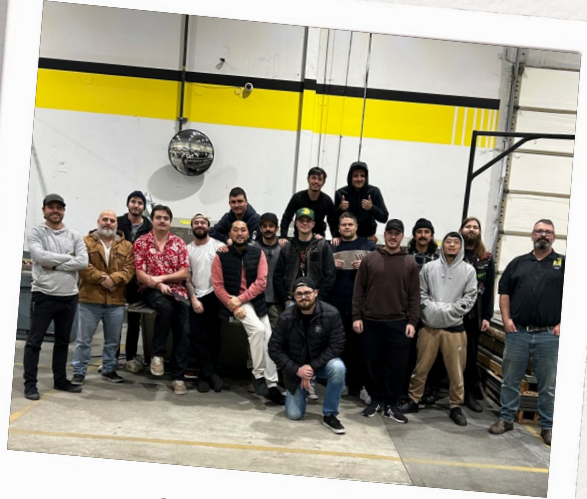
In recognition of her excellence in the trade, congratulations to **Natasha Hua** as the 2024 award recipient. Natasha was the 2024 SMWTC Apprentice Contest Level 4 Winner and will be competing at the Canadian Council's Sheet Metal Apprentice Competition in July. Wish her luck!

Congratulations to our Grads!

It's been an outstanding year turning out graduates from our Main & Valley locations. We've had 4 successful classes with everyone passing!

- 3 sheet metal (Level 4) classes
- 1 architectural sheet metal (Level 3) class

These students' hard work and dedication to educational excellence was recognized by their instructors. Well done!



2454-H4 class



2514-H4 class



2521-A3 class



2524-H4 class

Student Projects Gallery

Our training centres are a showcase of incredible craftsmanship and technical ability by our talented level 4 students. At both the Main and Valley locations, these student projects add “character” to the space, inspiring future students to tap into their endless ideas and creativity!

We’d love to showcase more of the great work happening in our classes. If your project isn’t included in this edition, send your photos to **media@smwtcs.ca** and we’ll include them in our next newsletter and social media feed.



Projects Gallery



Projects Gallery





Belonging and Excellence for All (BE4All) is a commitment to creating an environment of welcoming, belonging and excellence.



Women

In partnership with BC Building Trades, a crew of young adults participate in a Trade ambassador program to advocate for the trades to high school students via a presentation and games. Nicole Pasqualini represented the College of the BC Building Trades at Skills Canada BC on April 16, 2025.

Indigenous

SMWTCS was invited to instruct a sheet metal “try a trade” for indigenous women at the Nexw7áystway Training and Trades Centre (Squamish Nation). Jake LeBlanc and Sheila Sadler facilitated a one-week trades sampler program in April.



Newcomers

SMWTCS works with our partner, [Skill Plan](#) to implement an assessment process for all apprentices attending technical training. All apprentices, regardless of their citizenship status or country of origin, must demonstrate a satisfactory level of English proficiency, math work problems and document use to support them succeeding in their chosen program.



Green Initiatives

Sheet Metal ERT

Our Environmental Training Project promotes environmental stewardship by training apprentices to reduce, reuse, and recycle sheet metal.

In the first year of this three-year project, we accomplished the following:

- incorporated “reduce, reuse and recycle” strategies/shop projects into training curriculum with intent to reduce consumption of sheet metal materials
- engaged Skill Plan as project partner to provide access to SMWTCS instructors and students to their Building it Green online self-directed foundational course
- purchased sheet metal consumables for participant use
- identified recycling partners (e.g. North Delta Secondary School – donated 800 lbs of scrap metal)

- supported recruitment of equity-deserving groups (women, newcomers, Indigenous People) through various partnerships (Squamish Nation, PICS TradeBuilders Program, Skill Ready. Etc.)

Sheet Metal E.R.T. Project goals include:

- ✓ Our apprentices will learn to optimize material usage, reduce waste generation, and increase resource efficiency.
- ✓ Our training centres will foster a culture of sustainability, where environmental responsibility becomes ingrained in everyday operations and decision-making processes.



Canada's Building Trades Unions Building It Green initiative

The Building It Green program is a national climate literacy initiative launched in 2021 by Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU), funded by Employment and Social Development Canada's Union Training and Innovation Program.

Developed by tradespeople for tradespeople, it equips apprentices, journeypersons, and instructors with the knowledge to integrate sustainable practices into construction work. The program offers a free 2.5-hour online

Foundations Course and in-person train-the-trainer workshops, available through over 200 union training centres nationwide.

Collaborating with partners like SkillPlan and the Climate Industry Research Team, Building It Green aims to prepare the skilled trades workforce for Canada's transition to a net-zero future. Although the project wraps up this fall, CBTU has been awarded another UTIP project to continue green initiatives.

National UTIP Grant

In March 2025, SMART Canada and Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) secured a significant national grant through the Government of Canada's Union Training and Innovation Program (UTIP), specifically under the Sustainable Jobs Stream. This initiative is part of a broader \$67 million investment aimed at preparing skilled trades workers for Canada's transition to a clean economy.

SMART Canada was allocated up to \$8.9 million of this funding to enhance training for over 2,000 members. The grant supports the development of a national online training curriculum, providing sheet metal workers across the country with accessible, always-on training to develop crucial skills for clean energy projects.

This partnership between SMART Canada and CBTU exemplifies a commitment to equipping tradespeople with the necessary skills to lead in sustainable construction and energy sectors, aligning with Canada's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

The announcement took place at Local 47's training centre in Ottawa — watch it in the link below:



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



Mental Health Resources: *Updated Information and Supports*

The [Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan](#) (CIRP) continued its mission in 2024 to provide comprehensive mental health and substance use support to unionized construction workers and their families across British Columbia and Yukon. CIRP recognizes the unique challenges faced by construction workers, and seeks ways to remove barriers and destigmatize mental health and substance use issues.

CIRP has introduced innovative programming such as Opioid-Free Pain Management. This includes *myoActivation* (a form of dry needling), restorative yoga, group therapy, and pain management workshops, aiming to reduce reliance on opioids and address the interplay

between mental health, substance use, and pain. bccranesafety.ca

CIRP also partnered with Community Savings Credit Union to launch the Recovery Protection Program. This initiative is designed to provide financial support and resources to individuals in recovery, helping them navigate the economic challenges associated with treatment and reintegration into the workforce. comsavings.com

Through these initiatives, CIRP reaffirmed its role as a vital resource for the construction industry, adapting to emerging challenges and continuing to provide essential support services to its community.

