

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**On Your Mark, Get Ready – Paddle!
Skills Canada BC 1st Annual Provincial Cardboard Boat Championships –
December 11th, 2013**

75 Lower Mainland Students will showcase their creativity and sportsmanship by racing handmade cardboard boats ...

VANCOUVER, BC December 3, 2013 – Next week [Skills Canada British Columbia](#) will host its first annual Provincial Cardboard Boat Championship. Armed with duct tape and creative design, teams of junior and senior high school students from 6 Lower Mainland schools will use cardboard to construct vessels that will float and carry a minimum of 1 passenger. Each team will have 2 hours to complete boat construction, after which the teams will race their boats across Templeton Pool. To add to the challenge, teams whose boats ‘survive’ the race, will then compete in the weight category; testing the weight bearing capacity of their vessels. Teams will earn additional points for overall design, safety, and team work.

“Skills Canada BC sees the Cardboard Boat Championships as an innovative way of introducing students, teachers and parents to careers in skilled trades & technologies,” explains Executive Director, Amber Papou. “In particular we want to provide students with engaging hands on activities that inspire them to explore the many skilled trades & technology career opportunities that are available in this province”.

The Cardboard Boat Championships help Skills (Canada) BC bring recognition to the growing skilled labour shortage in the province, and also provide recognition to the craftsmanship and skills of students already preparing to enter into a trade or technology career. Skills BC and its team of industry, government and educational partners work with 600 volunteers in communities across the province offering skilled career exploration programs to over 12,000 students each year. In school presentations, the Skilled Trades & Technology Career Conference for Women and the Skills Canada competitions are providing students with the information and inspiration to consider professions in high demand jobs. Skills Canada BC promotes careers in all skilled trade and technology professions from the service sectors, traditional trades, to IT and everything in between.

The Skills Canada BC Olympic-style skills competitions are a very unique form of mentorship programming offered in the province. Of the 1200 competitors that will compete in the 13 Regional competitions beginning in January 2014, 600 will qualify to compete in the 20th Annual Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition on April 9th, 2014. Gold winner medals of the Provincial event will move on to the National Skills Competition June 4 – 7th 2014 in Toronto.

About Skills Canada British Columbia

Skills Canada British Columbia (Skills BC) was founded in 1994 as a not-for-profit organization that works with employers, educators, labour groups and governments to promote skilled trades and technology careers among youth across the province. As a means of helping to offset current and pending labour shortages in skilled labour in the province, Skills BC offers positive and exciting hands-on experiences to thousands of students annually. Located in Vancouver, British Columbia, Skills Canada British Columbia is a Member Organization of Skills/Compétences

Canada. For more information about Skills Canada British Columbia, visit www.skillscanada.bc.ca or call 604-432-4360.

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Note to Editors:

High resolution images are available on request.

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