

News Release

## Students Excel at the Canadian Skills Competition

Calgary, May 30, 2008 - This week 55 of Alberta's top Trade and Technology Students competed in the Canadian Skills Competition in Calgary. Testing their skills against the best from across Canada, Alberta demonstrated their skill expertise in 35 trade and technology events earning 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 13 Bronze. Five Alberta students are now eligible to be a part of Team Canada and compete in the WorldSkills Calgary 209 Competition:

Skill name	First name	Last name	City
Automation and Control	Steven	Dingwall	Calgary
Car Painting	Daniel	Green	Drumheller
IT and Network Support	Matthew	Chadder	Millarville
Autobody Repair	Devon	DeBoer	Calgary
Electrical Wiring	Craig	Spady	Red Deer

"Our competitors demonstrated a true passion and determination at the Canadian Skills Competition," said Chris Browton, Executive Director of Skills Canada Alberta. "We are indebted to the hundreds of volunteers and partners who ensured that the skilled talent of Canadian students was showcased in such an impressive manner."

The Canadian Skills Competition featured over 40 trade and technology events ranging from auto service to computer animation, and landscape gardening to culinary arts. Students qualified to compete at the national level by qualifying at the 16th Annual Provincial Skills Competition held May 22-23, 2008 at Calgary's Stampede Park.

Over \$4 million in tools, equipment and supplies were used in the competition, to profile the career opportunities available in the trades and technologies. During the Skills Canada Competitions over 10,000 students and career seekers from across Alberta took part in the interactive Try-A-Trade® demonstrations and toured the event which is also Alberta's Largest Trade and Technology Career Fair.

This year, as part of the Government of Alberta's plan to redevelop the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program, Skills Canada Alberta managed a one time conditional grant to enhance existing facilities and equipment used for CTS programs. The initiative will inject over \$14 million into school jurisdictions across Alberta to help improve high school completion rates, develop opportunities to prepare students for Skills Canada competitions, and meet local industry needs.

Established in 1992, Skills Canada Alberta is a not-for-profit provincial association, which works with industry, educators, labour groups and the government to reposition trade and technology careers as first choice career options. As a member of WorldSkills International, Skills/Compétences Canada selects and prepares competitors for international competitions, through provincial/territorial and national competitions. September 1-6, 2009, Alberta will host WorldSkills Calgary 2009, the world's largest display of skilled trade and technology talent.

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### For more information contact:

Shawna Bourke, Communications Coordinator, Skills Canada Alberta

Phone: 780-493-6620

Cell: 780-945-0925

Email: shawnab@skillscanada.com Website: www.skillsalberta.com

Skill name	Level (Secondary or Post Secondary)	First name	Last name	Rank	Team Canada	City
2D Character Computer Animation (team of 2)	S	Adam	Kabbeke	1		Airdrie
2D Character Computer Animation (team of 2)	S	Chris	Putnam	1		Airdrie
Carpentry	PS	Derek	Dixon	4		Airdrie
Plumbing	PS	Craig	Damen	4		Airdrie
TV/Video Production	S	Phil	Griffin	4		Airdrie
TV/Video Production	S	Zachary	Smith	4		Balzac
Baking	S	Courtney	Hug	5		Blackfalds
Automation and Control	PS	Steven	Dingwall	1	X	Calgary
Autobody Repair	PS	Devon	DeBoer	2	X	Calgary
CNC Machining	PS	David	Dyck	1		Calgary
Autobody Repair	S	Taylor	Yalte	2		Calgary
Cooking	PS	Jordan	Clay	2		Calgary
Restaurant Service	PS	Lauren	Funk	2		Calgary
Sheet Metal Work	PS	Brad	Chyz	2		Calgary
Automotive Service	PS	Matthew	Quinn	3		Calgary
Cooking	S	Ian	MacDougall	3		Calgary
Workplace Safety	S	Shamus	Hardie	3		Calgary
Baking	PS	Carly	Hallam	5		Calgary
Graphic Design	PS	Brittany	Gunn	5		Calgary
Welding	PS	Scott	Wilkinson	6		Calgary
Mechatronics (team of 2)	PS	Aaron	Riddle	3		Carstairs
Landscape Gardening (team of 2)	PS	Thomas	Sharuga	4		Chestermere
Outdoor Power and Recreation Equipment	S	Morgan	St-Onge	3		Claresholm
Brick Masonry	PS	Kenneth	Van Harberden	6		Coaldale
Mechatronics (team of 2)	PS	Dennis	McCollum	3		Creston
Car Painting	PS	Daniel	Green	1	X	Drumheller
Precision Machining	PS	Brandon	Haycock	2		Eckville
Job Interview	S	Stephanie	D'agostini	1		Edmonton
Job Skill Demonstration	S	Satricia	Knake	1		Edmonton
Hairstyling	S	Sable	Melton	3		Edmonton
Hairstyling	PS	Veronica	Lee	3		Edmonton
IT and Network Support	S	Kevin	Lau	3		Edmonton
Graphic Design	S	Jose	Moran	4		Edmonton
IT Office Software Applications	S	Andy	Ma	4		Edmonton
Aesthetics	PS	Tammy	Le	5		Edmonton

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Skill name	Level (Secondary or Post Secondary)	First name	Last name	Rank	Team Canada	City
IT Office Software Applications	PS	Tiffany	Pord	4		Fort McMurray
Refrigeration	PS	Dathan	Headge	5		Fort McMurray
Electrical Wiring	S	Boh	Guerrette	8		Grande Prairie
Welding	S	Dillon	Hebert	5		Lac La Biche
Architectural CADD	S	Sorrel	Whitrow	1		Lloydminster
Precision Machining	S	Tom	Manners	3		Lloydminster
Mechanical CADD	S	Josh	Klamot	4		Lloydminster
IT and Network Support	PS	Matthew	Chadder	1	<b>X</b>	Millarville
Heavy Equipment Service	PS	Karl	Kitt	5		Myrnam
Carpentry	S	Stephen	Wein	2		Okotoks
Cabinetmaking	S	Bart	Van Haaren	1		Ponoka
Electrical Wiring	PS	Craig	Spady	3	<b>X</b>	Red Deer
3D Character Computer Animation	S	Ian	Charlton	4		Red Deer
3D Character Computer Animation	S	Jason	Lindsay	4		Red Deer
Industrial Mechanic/Millwright	PS	Shane	Yachimec	1		Slave Lake
Cabinetmaking	PS	Andrew	Spring	3		St Albert
Landscape Gardening (team of 2)	PS	Brett	Kelly	4		St Albert
Automotive Service	S	Trevor	Evenson	3		Stony Plain

## Skills Canada Alberta Backgrounder

Skills Canada Alberta (SCA) was founded in 1992 to stimulate leadership and technological excellence in Alberta's youth. SCA is the provincial arm of the national association of Skills/ Compétences Canada.

Through partnerships with education, government and industry, SCA develops innovative programs to address the skilled labour shortage. The exciting format of the Provincial Skills Competition encourages young people to consider the value of a career in the trades and technologies. SCA provides students with the information, opportunity and inspiration to begin a path to success.

SCA holds an annual, Olympic-style Provincial Skills Competition, which is the stepping-stone to competitions at the national and international level. Gold medalists of the 2008 Provincial Skills Competition, will compete at the Canadian Skills Competition on May 26-27, 2008. The team that will represent Canada at the 2009 WorldSkills Competition will be selected at the 2008 Canadian Skills Competition. September 1-6 2009, Calgary will be the host city for the WorldSkills Competition, drawing 150,000 spectators to this important international event.

The philosophy of the skills competitions is to reward students for excellence, to directly involve industry in evaluating student performance and to keep training relevant to employers' needs. As a member of WorldSkills International, Skills/Compétences Canada selects and prepares competitors for regional, provincial, national and international competition.