



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Local Students Compete in Trade and Technology Competition Provincial and Canadian Skills Competition in Calgary

CALGARY, May 21, 2008 – Over 600 high school and post-secondary students will compete at Skills Canada Alberta's 16th Annual Provincial Skills Competition May 22-23, 2008 at Calgary's Stampede Park. Alberta's most in demand careers will be on display as students compete in 40 trade and technology event areas.

The Olympic-style competition tests students' skills over two days, establishing the best young tradespeople and technologists in Alberta. The exciting format of the Provincial Skills Competition will attract over 7,500 students from across the province to learn about career opportunities they normally wouldn't have access to or consider.

"In a hot economy it is critical to keep students personally challenged and developing real world skills," says Shawna Bourke, Communications Coordinator of Skills Canada Alberta. "Whether it is careers that begin with apprenticeship programs, technical training, college or university, students will work to pursue excellence when a challenge matches their interests."

The Provincial Skills Competition shines a spotlight on students whose skills are normally concealed in the labs and shops of Alberta schools, but are coveted by industry. To recognize the talent of these students, hundreds of industry, labour, education and government partners have joined forces with Skills Canada Alberta to host Alberta's premier showcase of trade and technology talent. The result is over 200,000 square feet of space at Stampede Park, filled with \$4 million in equipment, tools and supplies for two days of competition.

The Provincial Skills Competition is the stepping stone to the Canadian Skills Competition, happening two days after the provincial event on May 26-27, 2008 also at Stampede Park. The team that will represent Canada at WorldSkills Calgary 2009 will be selected at the 2008 Canadian Skills Competition.

A diverse cross section of careers will be showcased, from culinary arts to welding, and computer animation to auto service. This free event is Alberta's Largest Trade and Technology Career Fair, featuring interactive Try-A-Trade® demonstrations for the public to try, and presentations on how to get into the trades. Industry experts, employers, labour groups and technical institutes will be at the event to provide information on hundreds of career opportunities. Entrance into the competitions and career fair is free, and open to the public.

Skills Canada Alberta is a part of the national association, Skills Compétences/Canada, working with industry, educators, labour groups and the government to equip young minds with the skills that will help Canada compete successfully in a drastically changing world market. On September 1-6, 2009, Alberta will host the 2009 WorldSkills Competition, the world's largest display of skilled trade and technology talent.

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.

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Competitors from across Alberta will compete at the 16th Annual Provincial Skills Competition, May 22-23, 2008

Alberta Beach	Clive	Heisler	Millarville	Smith
Airdrie	Coaldale	High Level	Millet	Spring Coulee
Anzac	Coalhurst	High River	Morinville	Spruce Grove
Ardrossan	Cochrane	Hinton	Mossleigh	St. Albert
Banff	College Heights	Hobbema	Myrnam	St. Paul
Barrhead	Condor	Hotchkiss	Namao	Stettler
Bashaw	Devon	Innisfail	Nanton	Stony Plain
Beaumont	DeWinton	Innisfree	Okotoks	Strathmore
Black Diamond	Didsbury	Irma	Olds	Sundre
Blackfalds	Drayton Valley	Jasper	Onoway	Sunnynook
Bowden	Drumheller	La Crete	Oyen	Sylvan Lake
Brooks	Duffield	Lac La Biche	Picardville	Taber
Calahoo	Edmonton	Lacombe	Picture Butte	Tees
Calgary	Falher	Langdon	Pincher Creek	Tofield
Camrose	Fairview	Leduc	Ponoka	Trochu
Canmore	Fort Chipewyan	Lethbridge	Red Deer	Vauxhall
Cardston	Fort McMurray	Lloydminster	Rivercourse	Wainwright
Carstairs	Fort Saskatchewan	Lone Rock	Roblin	Westlock
Castor	Gibbons	Loydminster	Rocky Mountain	
Champion	Grande Prairie	Magrath	House	
Cherhill	Granum	Mannville	Sedgewick	
Chestermere	Hanna	Mayerthorpe	Sherwood Park	
Claresholm	Hays	Medicine Hat	Slave Lake	

Competition Events

Each participant specializes in one area of competition and must complete a project that has been designed by experts in that field.

2D Computer Animation	Electrical Wiring	Painting Decorating
3D Computer Animation	Electronics	Plumbing
Aesthetics	Graphic Design	Precision Machining
Aircraft Maintenance	Hairstyling	Refrigeration
Architectural CADD	Heavy Equipment Service	Restaurant Service
Auto Service	Mechanical Insulation	Sheet Metal Work
Autobody Repair	Industrial Mechanics	Outdoor Power &
Automation and Control	Millwright	Recreation Equipment
Baking	IT and Network Support	TV & Video Production
Brick Masonry	IT Software Application	Website Development
Cabinet Making	Job Interview	Welding
Carpentry	Job Skill Demonstration	Women's Apparel Design
Car Painting	Landscape Gardening	Workplace Safety
CNC Machining	Mechanical CADD	
Culinary Arts	Mechatronics	

Try-A-Trade™ and Hands-On Demonstrations

Experts will host interactive demonstrations in dozens of the competition areas, in addition to special demonstrations by the ironworker and roofing trades.

Provincial Skills Competition Schedule At Calgary's Stampede Park

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Competition Set Up by 300 Volunteers at the Roundup Centre and Big Four

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Competition Set Up by 300 Volunteers at the Roundup Centre and Big Four
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Opening Ceremonies (Open to the Public) at the Corral

Thursday, May 22, 2008

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Competition Day 1 (Open to the Public) at the Roundup Centre and Big Four

Friday, May 23, 2008

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Competition Day 2 (Open to the Public) at the Roundup Centre and Big Four
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Young Women Exploring Trade and Technology Conference at the Rotary House
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Awards Ceremony - Presentation of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals (Open to the Public) at the Corral

Canadian Skills Competition Schedule At Calgary's Stampede Park

Saturday, May 24, 2008

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Competition Set Up at the Roundup Centre and Big Four

Sunday, May 25, 2008

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Competition Set Up at the Roundup Centre and Big Four
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Welcome Reception at the Palomino Room
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Opening Ceremonies (Open to the Public) at the Corral

Monday, May 26, 2008

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Competition Day 1 (Open to the Public) at the Roundup Centre and Big Four
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Two Major Announcements by WorldSkills Calgary 2009 at the Boyce Theatre
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Partnership Luncheon, Speakers: Premier Ed Stelmach, and Jack Dusseldorp, President WorldSkills International, at the Palomino Room

Tuesday, May 27, 2008

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Competition Day 2 (Open to the Public) at the Roundup Centre and Big Four

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Awards Ceremony Presentation of Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals (Open to the Public) in the Corral

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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.

About the Skilled Trades Shortage

- The Conference Board of Canada forecasts that Canada could be short about 1 million workers by 2020 due to an ageing workforce and declining birth rates.
- The first baby-boomers are due to reach retirement age by 2012. In 2015, almost half the workforce (48%) will be between the ages of 45 to 64. By 2026, more than half the population will be over the age of 43. (CFIB, 2003)
- In 2007, 57.4% of small business owners mentioned employee shortages as one of their most significant problems, the highest level since 1989. (CFIB, 2008)
- A strong economy and an ageing population created a shortage in qualified labour that cut across every province and every sector in 2007, says the Canadian Federation of Independent Business.
- According to the national director of the Software Sector Council, Canada will face a shortage of some 1.2 million workers in the next 10 years. (2007)
- In 2007 the Construction Sector Council's Labour Market Information Program identified a need to replace 152,000 skilled workers who will be retiring over the next 10 years

2008 Provincial and Canadian Skills Competition Partners

Government Partners

Human Resources and Social Development Canada
Alberta Education
Alberta Advanced Education and Technology
Alberta Employment and Immigration

Corporate Partners

NAIT
SAIT Polytechnic
TELUS

Elite Partner of the Provincial Skills Competition

ConocoPhillips Canada

Gold Partners of the Provincial and Canadian Skills Competition

Alberta Building Trades Council
Canadian Home Builders Association - Calgary Region
City of Calgary
Christian Labour Association of Canada
CISCO
Construction Labour Relations - An Alberta Association
Finning Canada
PPG Canada Inc
Suncor

Gold Partners of the Provincial Skills Competition

Imperial Oil Foundation
Nexen Inc.
Syncrude
TransCanada

Try-A-Trade Demonstrations™

Alberta Roofing Contractors Association
International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing
Ironworkers Local 720, Local 725

Skills Canada Alberta Quick Facts

- The Provincial Skills Competition, in Alberta was established in 1993 with 80 competitors in 12 events. Now the event features 600 competitors in 40 events.
- The Provincial Skills Competition is Alberta's Largest Trade and Technology Career Fair and offers free admission.
- The 2008 PSC will occupy 200,000 square feet of space at Stampede Park
- Our sponsors supply \$4 million in equipment, tools, time and computers for the 4 day event.
- 7,500 students from 120 schools will attend the competition on a field trip to explore career opportunities in over 40 trades and technologies.
- Each year over 300 volunteers donate a total of 22,000 hours to Skills Canada Alberta.
- Hundreds of industry experts will be on hand to answer questions, conduct Try-A-Trade™ demonstrations and provide insight on the opportunities in the trades and technologies.