

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

SASKATOON TO HOST NATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITION

SASKATOON, MARCH 16, 2007 – Skills/Compétences Canada, the national not-for-profit organization that actively promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to Canadian youth, made formal announcement today that the Skills Canada Saskatchewan will host the 13th Canadian Skills Competition in Saskatoon this June.

Provincial and territorial branches of Skills/Compétences Canada hold annual Olympic-style competitions to test the skills of young people at secondary and post-secondary levels for trade and technology occupations. Gold medallists from each province or territory then go on to compete in the Canadian Skills Competition. This means that five hundred and fifty (550) Canadian youth, accompanied by their coaches and parents, will gather in Saskatoon June 6-9 for what is perhaps our nation's largest and most exciting endeavour to promote the careers in skilled trades and technologies that industry so desperately needs.

“About 20 years ago, careers in the trades went out of fashion,” says Donavon Elliott, chair of Skills Canada Saskatchewan and a teacher from Prince Albert. “About the same time, the need for workers in applied technology careers began to grow. The work of Skills/Compétences Canada and its regional branches across the country is helping to build these workforces through our young people. The well-being of our economy and our infrastructure depends on these careers, which are extremely viable and rewarding, yet undervalued.”

Skills Canada Saskatchewan is hosting the national event and will conduct the 9th Saskatchewan Skills Competition immediately before on June 4th and 5th. Prairieland Park and the SIAST Kelsey campus will house the competitions, which are also open to the general public. Industry, government, and education displays will showcase career opportunities in trades and technologies as well as provide information about the educational requirements and supports for these occupations.

Categories of competition are based on industry trends and needs, which vary from year to year. In 2007, 32 categories of competition will be delivered at the Saskatchewan Skills Competition and 42 categories of competition will be delivered at the Canadian Skills Competition. A number of special events accompany the competitions including Opening and Closing Ceremonies, The Rising Stars Celebration, and a golf tournament for industry participants hosted by the Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association.

To learn more about the 13th Canadian Skills Competition and the 9th Saskatchewan Skills Competition and Skills/Compétences Canada, visit www.skillscanada.com, call Conrad E. Pura, Executive Director, Skills Canada Saskatchewan at 306.683.0404, or Patti Gera, verve2 events at 306. 651.1414.

Visit www.verve2.com to download the full package of event information to support this release.



Brief History & Organizational Profile

Skills Canada is a national, not-for-profit organization that works with employers, educators, labour groups and governments to promote skilled trades and technology careers among Canadian youth. Their unique position among private and public sector partners enables them to work toward securing Canada's future skilled labour needs while helping our youth to discover rewarding careers.

Primary programming for Skills Canada is an Olympic-style competition that provides a forum for secondary, post-secondary, and apprentice students to compete in over 40 trade and technology categories. Students participate in practical challenges designed by industry professionals to test the skills of trade and technology occupations. The overall event is enhanced by an environment that promotes careers in trade and technology sectors as well as being festive and ceremonial, like the Olympics.

Throughout the remainder of the year, Skills Canada connects youth to trades and technology careers through school presentations and visits, career fairs, youth conferences, and community clubs.

Skills Canada is represented in most provinces and territories through provincial and territorial organizations. These organizations work to achieve the same objectives as the national organization on a regional level. Provincial/territorial organizations deliver a provincial/territorial skills competition that takes place prior to the national event. Gold medallists from each province and territory make up the competitors list for the national event.

13th Canadian Skills Competition Schedule of Events

presented by Alliance Pipeline

Wednesday, June 6

- 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Golf Tournament – Willows Golf and Country Club
- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Opening Reception & VIP Reception – TCU Place Saskatoon
- 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies – TCU Place Saskatoon

Thursday, June 7

- 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Competitor Orientation – Prairieland Park
- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Competition Day One – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Career Showcase – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open to the Public – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. School Tours – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Young Women’s Conference – Concordia Club
- 11:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. Partnership Luncheon – Willows Golf and Country Club
- 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. SIAST Prairie Luau – Big Tent at Prairieland Park

Friday, June 8

- 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Competition Day Two – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Career Showcase – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Open to the Public – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. School Tours – Prairieland Park
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Young Women’s Conference – Concordia Club
- 6:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. “The New Rising Stars” Celebration – Odeon Events Centre

Saturday, June 9

- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Closing Reception – TCU Place Saskatoon
- 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Medal Presentations and Closing Ceremonies – TCU Place

Expected Participation

Canadian Skills Competition	2007 Projections
Categories of competition	42
# of Competitors	550
Competitor’s mentors and teachers	450
Technical volunteers	200
Judges	250
Skills Canada Staff & Board members from all provinces & territories	100
Total Direct Participation	1550
School Tours, family and general public audience	5000 - 7500
Total Participation	6550 - 9050

The competition site, which includes the Career Showcase, is open to the general public.

Admission Price: Youth \$5 Adults \$8

Special events are open only to paid delegates and the media. Contact verve2 events to arrange for your all access media pass. Phone 306.651.1414 Email: shana@verve2.com

9th Saskatchewan Skills Competition Schedule of Events

presented by SaskPower

Monday, June 4

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Saskatoon Cardboard Boat Race – SIAST Kelsey Campus
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Registration for 9th Provincial Skills Competition – Saskatoon Inn
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony – Saskatoon Inn
9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.	Technical Committee Reception – Saskatoon Inn

Tuesday, June 5

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.	Competitor Orientation – Prairieland Park
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	9 th Provincial Competition – Prairieland Park
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Career Showcase – Prairieland Park
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	School Tours – Prairieland Park
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Spectrum Challenges – SIAST Kelsey Campus
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Partnership Recognition Breakfast – Willows Golf and CC
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Closing Reception – Saskatoon Inn
7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Medal Ceremony

Expected Participation

Saskatchewan Skills Competition	2007 Projections
Categories of competition	32
# of Competitors	350
Competitor's mentors and teachers	150
Technical volunteers	125
Judges	125
Total Direct Participation	750
School Tours, family and general public audience	2500+
Total Participation	3250+

The competition site, which includes the Career Showcase, is open to the general public.

Admission Price: Youth \$5 Adults \$8

Special events are open only to paid delegates and the media. Contact verve2 events to arrange for your all access media pass. Phone 306.651.1414 Email: shana@verve2.com

9th Saskatchewan Skills Competition – June 4 & 5, 2007
13th Canadian Skills Competition – June 6-9, 2007
Competition List

Competition Area	9 th Saskatchewan Skills Competition		13 th Canadian Skills Competition	
	S	PS	S	PS
Aesthetics		X		X
Architectural Technology and Design	X	X	X	X
Aircraft Maintenance		X		X
Autobody Repair	X	X	X	X
Automation & Control				X
Auto Service	X	X	X	X
Baking	X		X	X
Brick Masonry		X		X
Cabinet Making	X		X	X
Carpentry	X	X	X	X
Cooking	X	X	X	X
CNC Machining		X		X
Electrical Wiring	X	X	X	X
Electronics	X		X	X
Graphic Design			X	X
Hairstyling	X	X	X	X
Heavy Equipment Service				X
Industrial Mechanics Millwright		X		X
IT & Network Support			X	X
IT Software Applications	X		X	X
Job Interview	X		X	
Job Skill Demonstration	X		X	
Landscape Gardening				X
Mechanical CAD	X		X	X
Mechatronics				X
Plumbing		X		X
Precision Machining	X	X	X	X
Prepared Speech	X		X	
Refrigeration		X		X
Restaurant Service		X	X	X
Robotics	X		X	
Sheet Metal Work		X		X
Outdoor Power and Recreation Equipment	X		X	
Solar Challenge			X	
Spectrum Challenge	X			
TV & Video Production	X		X	
Web Site Development	X	X	X	X
Welding	X	X	X	X
Women's Apparel Design			X	
Workplace Safety	X		X	
2D Character Computer Animation			X	
3D Character Computer Animation	X		X	

PSC = Provincial Skills Competition

S = Secondary Level (High School)

CSC = Canadian Skills Competition

P = Post Secondary Level (Apprentice)

FACTS ABOUT SKILLED TRADES & THE SKILLS SHORTAGE

About Skilled Trades

- There are over 200 skilled trades careers available in Canada.
- The average annual salary in Canada is \$40,000, but a skilled trade occupation can expect to earn an average of \$50,000/year.
- There were 248,615 registered apprentices in Canada in 2003.
- An apprenticeship can take two to five years to complete, with approximately 20% classroom training and 80% on-the-job training.
- Apprentices can “earn while they learn”, right from their first day of training.
- Apprentices who complete their Certificate of Qualification can write an inter-provincial exam to obtain a Red Seal endorsement to practice their trade across the country.

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.
- Almost 50% of businesses surveyed in 2003 said a shortage of qualified labour was one of the most important issues facing them. (Canadian Federation of Independent Business, 2003)
- 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 the steel industry, 45% of all tradespeople are expected to retire by 2006. (CFIB, 2003)
- In the manufacturing sector, there is an estimated 400,000 workers required in the next 15 years due to retirement. (Canadian Labour and Business, 2004)
- In the next two decades, 40% of new jobs will be in the skilled trades and technologies. In 1998, that number was less than 20%.
- According to Job Futures 2000, by 2007, more than one-third of jobs created in Canada will require a skilled trade designation or a college diploma.
- In the next 7 to 10 years, 50% of current tradespeople plan to retire. Also 40% of new jobs will be in the trades and technology sector. (Information and Technology Association of Canada)

13th Canadian Skills Competition Sponsors & Partners

Presenting Sponsor

Alliance Pipeline

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