
WATERLOO WINS BID TO HOST 2010 CANADIAN SKILLS COMPETITION

Kitchener, ON – The City of Waterloo and Skills Canada - Ontario successfully won the bid to host the 2010 Canadian Skills Competition, from May 20th – 23rd, 2010 at RIM Park and Manulife Financial Sportsplex and the Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex, Waterloo.

Commenting on the announcement, Gail Smyth, Executive Director, Skills Canada - Ontario said: the unanimous decision was taken by the National Secretariat of Skills Compétences Canada after a formal presentation last week in Whitehorse, Yukon. Representatives from the City of Waterloo, including Mayor Halloran, highlighted the available facilities, tourist attractions, volunteer base, as well as the proven credibility of hosting the Ontario Technological Skills Competition. The large scale of that annual event encompasses over 160 000 square feet and approximately 30 000 visitors.

Every year, the national event brings together over 600 young people from all regions of Canada to compete in over 40 skilled trade and technology areas. The competition provides an opportunity for young Canadians studying a skilled trade or technology to be tested against exacting standards and against their peers from across the nation. Students vie to win the honour of being crowned the best in their chosen discipline.

The main goals of this event are to provide competitors with hands-on work experience and to raise awareness for the general population of the value of and challenge in skilled trades and technology careers. The journey to the Canadian Skills Competition is a long one for many students as they must compete at local, regional and then provincial competitions. These competitions provide our budding Canadian talent an opportunity to move forward and perform on the world stage. The Canadian Skills Competition is the main step in selecting the members of Team Canada for the WorldSkills Competition that is held every two years. Canada is pleased to be hosting the 2009, WorldSkills Competition in Calgary on September 1-7, 2009.

In preparation for the next Canadian Skills Competition, being held in Charlottetown, P.E.I., Skills Canada – Ontario will host the 20th Ontario Technological Skills Competition (OTSC) on May 4-6th, 2009 at RIM Park and Manulife Financial Sportsplex and Health Living Centre in Waterloo.

In closing, the Conference Board of Canada estimates Ontario could be short more than 360,000 skilled employees by 2025, and more than 560,000 by 2030. To assist in addressing this issue, the mandate of Skills Canada – Ontario is “to promote the skilled trades and technologies as viable first-choice career options to Ontario youth”. For additional information please visit www.skillsontario.com