

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 8, 2009

BC COMPETITORS SHINE AT THE 40TH WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

Burnaby, September 8, 2009 – The 40th WorldSkills Competition in Calgary, Alberta has officially drawn to a close. The Competition gathered more than 151,000 visitors to the Calgary Stampede grounds where the event was hosted. The weeklong celebration and showcase of skill brought together the finest young professionals in trades and technologies from around the world. More than 900 Competitors in 45 skills have come together from 51 Member countries/regions to compete against each other and vie for the gold medals and awards.

The Closing Ceremonies was a magnificent display of energy and excitement as champions from 45 competition areas were announced at the sold out event. Brian Everts from Maple Ridge, B.C. was awarded the Silver Medal in Aircraft Mechanics, while Daisy Liang of Vancouver, B.C. was awarded a Bronze Medal in Fashion Technology. Surrey B.C.'s Caitlin Mayo was awarded a Medallion of Excellence and the People's Choice Award in the category of Confectioner/Pastry Cook. Mayo earned a point score of more than 500 (out of a total possible 600), which qualified her for the medallion. Team Canada Competitors took home eight medals, topping their previous record of six medals in 2007 in Shizuoka, Japan. Korea led all nations at WorldSkills Calgary 2009, winning 23 medals. Switzerland and Japan tied for second, with 14 medals each. Chinese Taipei was third, with 12.

“All three Competitors from B.C. represented their Province and Country proudly on the international stage. They displayed great determination enthusiasm, and passion in their respective fields this past week,” said Vincent Chou, Communication Coordinator of Skills Canada BC. “Each Competitor should be proud of their achievements with the firm knowledge that they have a bright future ahead of them in their careers.”

About WorldSkills International

WorldSkills is a not for profit membership association open to agencies or bodies which have a responsibility for promoting vocational education and training in

their respective countries/regions. WorldSkills operates worldwide and is politically and denominationally neutral.

Over its 60 year history, WorldSkills International (formerly known as the "Skill Olympics") has come to symbolise the pinnacle of excellence in vocational training. Every two years hundreds of young skilled people, accompanied by their teachers and trainers, gather together from around the world to compete before the public in the skills of their various trades and test themselves against demanding international standards. They represent the best of their peers drawn from regional and national skill competitions held currently in 51 countries/regions.

About Skills Canada BC

Skills Canada BC is a non-profit organization and registered charity composed of volunteers representing - industry, labour, education and government dedicated to promoting and enhancing the perceived value of professional technical and trade skills among British Columbia's youth.

For more information, please contact:

Vincent Chou
Communication Coordinator - Skills Canada BC
604.432.4229
bc@skillscanada.com
www.skillscanada.bc.ca