

Skills Ontario Celebrates Team Canada and Ontario competitors' success at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026

September 29, 2026 – [Shanghai, China] - Skills Ontario is applauding Team Canada after an impressive showing of skills in the trades and technologies at the WorldSkills Competition, which wrapped up Sept. 29th in Shanghai, China with the official Closing Ceremonies.

Team Canada earned a silver medal in Graphic Design Technology and three bronze medals in Aircraft Maintenance, Automobile Technology, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. In addition to these 4 medal wins, 13 Canadian competitors received Medallions for Excellence, including Luca Assad from Ontario in Cooking.

The Medallions for Excellence are awarded to those who achieved scores of 700 points or higher in their respective competitions out of 1,000. This distinction highlights their mastery and precision, placing them among the top competitors in the world.

"We are incredibly proud of all Team Canada competitors, including four from Ontario: Cole Hunter and Grant Maddock representing Humber Polytechnic in Mechatronics, Luca Assad representing George Brown Polytechnic in Cooking, and Ethan Almeida from Centennial College in Autobody Repair," said Ian Howcroft, CEO of Skills Ontario. "Their dedication, hard work, and passion for their respective fields reflect the strength of Ontario's educational institutions and future potential of Canada's skilled trades sector."

WorldSkills is the largest vocational skills competition globally, bringing together talented young professionals from across the world to compete in various trades and technologies. The competition aims to inspire excellence, drive innovation, and promote careers in skilled trades. At WorldSkills Shanghai 2026, 1385 competitors from 68 Member countries and regions competed in 64 Skill Areas for the prestigious title of world champion in their respective trade. The 49th WorldSkills Competition will take place in Aichi, Japan from 15–20 November 2028.

Team Canada had 31 competitors attend the WorldSkills Competition across 29 Skill Areas, against the best in the world. A Special Congratulations to the Canadian Team:

Silver Medals:

- Jorda Thomas, Graphic Design Technology (Saskatchewan).

Bronze Medals:

- Benjamin Jamison, Aircraft Maintenance (Alberta)
- Carter Kokot, Automotive Technology (Alberta)
- Xavier Bélanger, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (Québec)

Medallions for Excellence:

- Cooking – Luca Assad (Ontario)
- Landscape Gardening - Charlie Véronneau, Logan Poisson (Quebec)
- Mechanical Engineering CAD - Samuel Bolduc (Quebec)
- CNC Milling - Jacob McClenland (Alberta)
- Welding - Lucas Stang (Alberta)
- Plumbing and Heating - Kylar Bloomberg (Alberta)

- Electrical installations - Keegan Sturge (Alberta)
- Industrial Control - Eric Wu (British Columbia)
- Cabinetmaking - Tate McGarry (Alberta)
- Carpentry- Logan Peters (Alberta)
- Hairdressing - Misha Marien (Quebec)
- Fashion Technology- Dhefen Goh (British Columbia)
- Pâtisserie and Confectionary - Marianne Masson (Quebec)

Best of Nation:

This is an award at WorldSkills which is special recognition presented to the highest-performing competitor from each participating country or region:

- Graphic Design Technology – Jorda Thomas (Saskatchewan)

A huge congratulations from Skills Ontario to all the Canadian competitors and those from around the world. Their performance not only highlights their personal achievements but also serves as an inspiration for future generations to pursue excellence in skilled trades and technologies.

Their achievements are also a representative of their trainers and the Team Canada Experts, who dedicate and volunteer their time and expertise to assist in training our Ontario and Canadian youth. In Canada, WorldSkills competitors are supported by a distinct two-part mentorship team, the Expert and the Trainer, family members and other supporters. We thank them and the following Ontario representatives:

Team Canada Experts from Ontario:

They serve as the primary link to their respective WorldSkills contests. They interpret competition rules, design test projects, and clarify technical requirements. They act as official evaluators during competitions to ensure fair, accurate, and transparent marking.

- Jurgen Hierholzer, CNC Milling (Georgian College)
- Bill Speed, Autobody Repair (Road Appraiser)
- Rene Letoile, Bricklaying (Conestoga College)
- Joshua Hamilton, Mechatronics (Conestoga College)
- Jeremy Braithwaite, Mechanical Engineering CAD (Loyalist College)

Ontario Competitor Trainers:

This role acts as the day-to-day coach. Typically, the competitor's teacher or local industry mentor, they observe the Expert's guidance and handle regular, hands-on training daily.

- Repair, Mark Millson (Excellence Auto Collision)
- Mechatronics, Wei-Hung Juan (Humber Polytechnic)
- Cooking, Trevor Ritchie (George Brown Polytechnic)

Competition Managers from Ontario:

At WorldSkills this role is an experienced leader responsible for guiding and managing a specific skill competition from 21 months before the event until one month after. Must have served as a Chief Expert, Deputy Chief Expert, or Expert in that specific skill competition at least two times previously.

- Industrial Mechanics, Craig Brazil (Sheridan College)
- Heavy Service, Angelo Spano (Centennial College)

About Skills Ontario

Skills Ontario has been delivering programs and events since 1989 with an aim to inspire youth to explore skilled trades and technologies. Skills Ontario has found great success through its initiatives, and continues to deliver programs for many audiences, including young women, Indigenous youth, new Canadians, persons with exceptionalities, and more, in order to connect education, experience, and employment. To see how you can partner with Skills Ontario and help make a difference in the lives of Ontario youth, visit skillsontario.com/get-involved.

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