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Students Compete at 2011 Skills Canada NWT

YELLOWKNIFE (April 18, 2011) – Yellowknife’s high schools will be bustling with activity tomorrow as students, apprentices, trades professionals and visitors take part in the 2011 Skills Canada Northwest Territories (NWT) Competition. With over 90 competitors registered, the 13th Annual Territorial Skills Competition sees educators, industry and labour professionals celebrating and supporting the future of trades in the NWT.

“Providing opportunities for NWT students, parents and residents to recognize and explore different career paths is vital to the future of our territory,” says the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), Jackson Lafferty. “Through Skills Clubs and competitions, Skills Canada NWT encourages youth to consider pursuing skilled trades and technologies.”

“Thanks to support from the government, Skills Canada NWT is able to reach more and more youth in the NWT,” adds Ms. Kelly Arychuk, President of Skills Canada NWT. “We’re excited by the growing number of schools and communities that are hosting Skills Clubs, which lead to broader participation in events like this Territorial Skills Competition. All of these things increase awareness of career opportunities in skilled trades and technology – careers that are essential to the health of our northern economy.”

To further engage youth, Skills Canada NWT is piloting a “Try-a-Skill” tent where visitors can try hands-on activities related to skilled trades and technology, and including a cultural sewing demonstration, with the hope to include it as a full contest area in 2012.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to helping residents gain the knowledge and skills to reach their full potential, lead fulfilled lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous society. Skills Canada NWT helps build possibilities for a strong future by providing youth and apprentices with a chance to demonstrate and challenge their skills while gaining hands on experience and instruction.

Details about this year’s competition, including contest areas and locations, are available in the backgrounder below.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

For more information, contact:

Ashley Green

Officer, Public Affairs
Education, Culture and Employment
Phone: (867) 920-3059
Email: ashley_green@gov.nt.ca

Jan Fullerton

Executive Director
Skills Canada NWT
Phone: (867) 873-8743
Email: skillsnt@skillscanada.com

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Backgrounder

Territorial Skills Competition 2011 Schedule April 19, 2011

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration of Volunteers, Judges & Tech Chairs (St. Pat's)
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration of Competitors (St. Pat's)
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony and Orientation (St. Pat's)
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Competition Events (Contest Sites) Career Expo (St. Pat's and Sir John gyms)
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch – Supplied by Skills Canada (St. Pat's, Sir John & KCTC)</i>
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Competition Events (Contest Sites) Career Expo (St. Pat's and Sir John gyms)
4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Submission of judges scores
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Closing Reception (Explorer Hotel)
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Medal presentations & Closing Ceremony (Explorer Hotel)

Contest Locations:

Akaitcho Trades & Technical Centre: Auto Service, TV/Video Production

École Sir John Franklin High School: Baking (kitchen), Electrical Wiring, Millwright, Plumbing, Small Engine Repair

École St. Patrick High School: Aesthetics, Cooking (kitchen), Graphic Design, Hairstyling, Workplace Safety, Sewing Demonstration, Photography

Kimberlite Career & Technical Centre (KCTC): Carpentry, Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Welding

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