

Legislature Luncheon

Manmeet Bhullar, Parliamentary Assistant, Alberta Advanced Education and Technology

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*Check Against Delivery*

Good afternoon everyone:

My name is Manmeet Bhullar, parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology.

I am here on behalf of Doug Horner, who is currently in China...and my colleagues in the Alberta Legislature to welcome and congratulate the competitors who will represent Alberta at WorldSkills Calgary 2009.

I'm pleased that we have this opportunity to celebrate your achievements.

The Alberta government proudly supports the WorldSkills Competition for a number of reasons.

WorldSkills shines a spotlight on the wide range of challenging and rewarding careers in the trades and technologies, the employers who share their expertise and train Alberta's tradespeople, and our young tradespeople who make valuable contributions to the growth of our skilled workforce.

The Competition provides a tremendous learning opportunity for Alberta students, and encourages youth to explore careers in these fields.

WorldSkills will increase international awareness of our province, as a key destination to learn, train, work, invest, visit or relocate.

WorldSkills will also create some friendly competition and quite possibly some unexpected innovation – something all workplaces can strive towards.

After lunch, you will be formally recognized and welcomed in the Legislature.

For those of you who have traveled from across Alberta to be here today, thank you for taking the time and making the effort to be part of this formal recognition.

Many people are still learning about WorldSkills, and events like today, will greatly contribute to the growing awareness of this international competition.

Any event that includes 51 countries competing in more than 45 different skill categories with 150,000 expected spectators is sure to draw attention.

Congratulations to all competitors for being chosen as Alberta members of Team Canada.

This is a tremendous accomplishment, not only will you represent your trade or technology achievements, you will also represent your community and our province, and congratulations and

thank you to each trainer and employer who has invested their time and resources to help each competitor excel.

All of us here today wish you continued success over the remaining 10 months leading up to the competition, and in your future career endeavors.

Thank you.