



## **CALL OF INTEREST FOR CANADIAN JOURNALISTS: COVERAGE OF WORLDSKILLS ABU DHABI 2017**

This October, a group of 31 outstanding young women and men will form [WorldSkills Team Canada](#) to compete at [WorldSkills 2017](#) in Abu Dhabi.

In order to cover WorldSkills 2017 and WorldSkills Team Canada 2017, one Canadian journalist will be selected to travel, all expenses paid, to Abu Dhabi from October 14 – 19, 2017.\*

Topics that could be covered include the following from a Canadian and / or international perspective:

- Youth employment and unemployment
- Skills development and the mismatch with current job requirements
- Post-secondary education options
- Developments in the sectors showcased at WorldSkills: manufacturing and engineering, construction, information technology, transportation, services.
- Personal interest stories of WorldSkills Team Canada members and competitors from the 60 countries participating.
- Attendance of national ministers, business and sector leaders at a concurrent conference designed to tackle global issues related to skills development.

**Journalists who are interested in being considered for this unique opportunity are required to submit the following information, in addition to their resume:**

1. Name of outlet/ publication where you work. If you are a freelancer, please explain which outlets/ publications have covered your work in the last 3 years.
2. Type of stories you would want to cover if attending WorldSkills 2017
3. Expression of interest in 500 words or less.
4. Your full contact information
5. Two journalistic references

**All required information shall be sent to Gail Vent, Director of Business Development, ([gailv@skillscanada.com](mailto:gailv@skillscanada.com)) by September 2, 2017.**

\*The selected journalist will be notified by September 7, 2017. Skills / Compétences Canada reserves the right to select none of the journalists who submit a request via this process, should none meet its media requirements.

## About WorldSkills

Watch the WorldSkills 2017 [promo video](#)

- WorldSkills is the global hub for vocational skills.
- Every 2 years it hosts the world championships of skills, which attracts more than 1,300 competitors from some 70 countries - all vying to win a prestigious medal in their chosen skill.
- Competitions are in over 50 skills across a wide range of industries – from joinery to floristry; from hairdressing to electronics; and from autobody repair to bakery.
- As well as being the greatest of all skills competitions, WorldSkills is a unique opportunity for all the countries that participate to benchmark their vocational education and training systems.
- The 20 largest economies in the world are Members of WorldSkills, as are the 5 most populous. In all, the membership represents two-thirds of the world's population.
- WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 will be the first competition to be held in the Middle East.
- In parallel to the competition, **WorldSkills holds one of the most prominent Conferences in the sector. National ministers of education, as well as industry and business leaders have been invited from all the WorldSkills member countries.**

### Schedule

14 October – opening ceremony (Du Arena, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi)

15 October – competition starts (Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC))

16 October – WorldSkills conference starts (ADNEC)

17 October – WorldSkills conference concludes (ADNEC)

18 October – end of competition (ADNEC)

19 October – closing ceremony (Du Arena, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi)

## About Skills / Compétences Canada

Watch the Skills Canada National Competition 2017 [recap video](#) (3 minutes)

- Skills / Compétences Canada was founded in 1989 as a national, not-for-profit organization with partner Skills Canada organizations in each of the provinces/territories that work with employers, educators, labour groups and governments to promote skilled trades and technology careers among Canadian youth.
- Its unique position among private and public sector partners enables it to work toward securing Canada's future skilled labour needs while helping young people discover rewarding careers.
- Every year, Skills / Compétences Canada hosts the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC). SCNC is the only national, multi-trade and technology competition for students and apprentices in the country.
- More than 500 young people from all regions of Canada come to SCNC to participate in over 40 skilled trade and technology competitions.
- Over 10,000 visitors attended SCNC 2017 in Winnipeg.