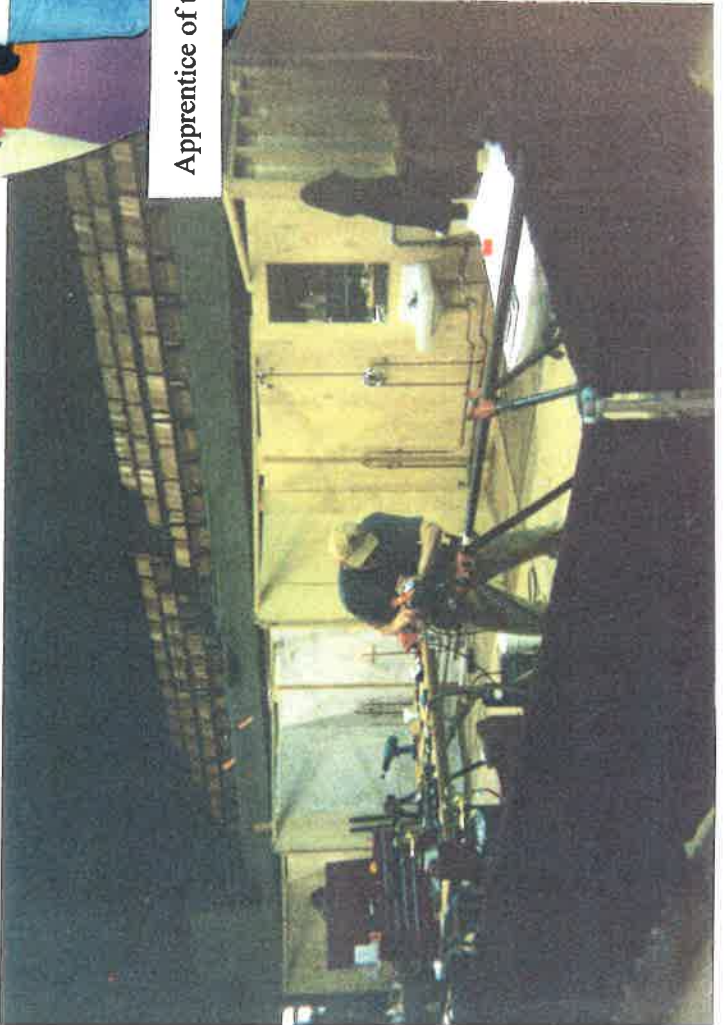


Apprentice Plumber
(pipe and gas fitter)



Jordan Hindbo
competitor representing CANADA



35th World Skills Competition
Nov 11-15 Montreal, Que.



Apprentice of the Year Award 1998



CLASS
OF '99



World-class results

Jordan Hindbo took his competition experience and capitalized on it

With a name like World Class Contracting Ltd., you'd expect a combination of precision, talent and attention to detail.

Company owner and president Jordan Hindbo says that is exactly what he learned as a competitor in the Plumbing and Gasfitting category at WorldSkills.

"I believe in being world-class — from reading the blueprint, through every aspect of the

Profile

Name: Jordan Hindbo

Skill Area: Plumbing

Hometown: Red Deer

Accolades: 6th-place finish in the 1999 WorldSkills in Montreal

and built a company on it.

"I feel the skills are a personal challenge to showcase my career and promote the discipline of plumbing" says Hindbo.

Hindbo feels the quest for perfection is important in building confidence as a tradesperson, and more people need to appreciate the detail required in the skill of plumbing.

He praises Skills/Compétences Canada, in particular, for bringing attention to his trade. By focusing on piping and technical requirements, the competition mixes knowledge with hands-on application, he says.

Plumbing tradespeople install water, drainage and heating pipes for residential, commercial and industrial sites. The responsibility of reading blueprints to determine system layout, connections and obstructions requires good math skills, and analytical thinking is essential, he says.

Tasks can include gas and compressed air pipe installations, calculating specialized water systems and installing visible fittings such as showers and basins.

Hindbo continues to transfer the skills he learned from WorldSkills to his work. During the Competition, Hindbo learned an artistic form of plumbing, different from what he does every day, but essential in promoting the precision of installation.



— Photos: Chad Hipolito

"Few people do heat bending anymore," he says. "Plastic pipe fittings that can be crimped together are more popular now."

Nearly a decade after competing at WorldSkills, Hindbo still feels he has plenty to prove. And as an alumnus, he feels he still has a world-class reputation to live up to.

"I believe in straight, square and level," says Hindbo. "If it isn't exactly that, then it isn't world-class."

— Teri McKinnon



Did you know?

More than 800,000 square feet of competition space is needed for WorldSkills Calgary 2009 at Stampede Park in Calgary.

Merit's Top Apprentice

contender for world skills competition

Jordan Hindbo, a 20 year old 3rd year plumbing apprentice with Mort-an-Son Plumbing, is in extensive training for the privilege to represent Canada at the World Trade Competitions in Montreal in the Fall of 1999. Jordan recently won the gold medal in Alberta's Skills Canada competitions, and came in first place in the under 22 age category in the Canadian championship competitions held in Vancouver earlier this year. He was also one of Merit's top apprentices in 1998.

The Canadian competition consisted of a comprehen-

sive residential bathroom layout requiring sketch layouts, material take-off lists, use of unusual fittings, minimum visits to the "parts store" and actually constructing the bathroom. All of his work was timed, monitored consistently by industry judges, and then inspected and marked. Jordan's skill, competency and craftsmanship won him the right to continue his quest towards the World competitions.

Since starting his apprenticeship, Jordan has worked for Mort-an-Son Plumbing for the past three years on many projects and is cur-

rently working on a new University of Calgary residence.

Jordan credits his boss, Norm Mortenson, for much of his success. Norm is a teacher, coach and mentor to Jordan and has helped sharpen his knowledge, skills and abilities.

These days, Jordan is in extensive hands-on training for the Worlds. He was in Montreal recently where Skills

Canada set a specific training program and schedule. In November, he will spend several days in Quebec City for specialist training and psychological preparation. February 1999 will see him in Kitchener for more training and preparation. His next major competition is in Kitchener in June 1999 where he competes against two other plumbers for a spot on Team Canada and then, if he wins, the Worlds in Montreal.

Jordan says he likes his trade and the challenges and complexity of commercial work. His positive attitude, skills, initiative and perseverance have contrib-

uted to his success in the plumbing trade and he intends to move into supervisory and management roles in the future.

Jordan's message to young people looking at his trade is to try it, work hard, learn everything possible, latch on to a supportive and understanding journeyman who will be a teacher and mentor, and acquire as many trade related skills as possible.

Merit is pleased to congratulate and support Jordan in his quest to compete in the World competitions and we wish him all the success he so obviously deserves. 🧢



Jordan Hindbo

One of Merit's 1998 Apprentice of the Year award winner, gold medal winner in Alberta's Skills Canada competition and contender for the world skills competition.

County Home To Talented Tradesman

Alison Delker
The Olds Gazette

Forty young Canadians will be representing the country at the World Skills Competition in November, and one of these Canadians comes right out of the Town of Olds.

Jordan Hindbo, a 21-year-old plumber from Olds will be competing in one of the biggest trade competitions to ever grace Canadian soil.

"It will be pretty neat to represent Canada," Hindbo said.

The announcement came after the closing ceremonies of the National Skills competition in Kitchener, Ontario.

Of the 40 Canadians selected to go on to the world competition, 10 are from Alberta.

The World Skills Competition will display 35 different trades from mechanics to cooking, with 34 different countries represented.

The competition will run from Nov. 11 to 14 in Montreal, Quebec.

Hindbo's next step will be to practice his techniques, because the judges are extremely meticulous.

Two individuals from Carstairs, Jesse Burton and Bryce Diamond, and Ron Billings also competed in the National Skills Competition in Kitchener Ontario.

The team from Carstairs won silver in the Provincial Skills Competition for computer animation, and they are happy with their performance at Kitchener.

"Most people don't even get this far," Burton said.

Burton said that the team will be working together next year and will compete in the Provincial Skills Competition again.

"If we go to Canadians again, that would be great," Burton said.

Ron Billings from

Olds competed his last year at the National Skills Competition finishing seventh overall.

Although Billings would've liked to go on to the worlds com-

petition he said that he was happy to have competed at all.

"It was a great experience," Billings said. "I still beat another 12 competitors in the country."





Trades students advance to worlds

By **JIM LOZERON**
Advocate staff

Two Central Alberta apprentices have landed berths on a national team chosen for an Olympic-style trades competition.

Robert Waite, 22, of Red Deer and Jordan Hindbo, 21, of Olds are among just 40 young trades people, including 10 Albertans, selected for the squad to take part in the World Skills Competition.

Sponsored by the International Vocational Training Organization, the four-day event will be held in Montreal's Olympic Stadium, Nov. 11-14.

About 600 youth from 34 countries are expected to vie for medals in 40 separate trades.

Waite is a fourth-year electrical apprentice employed by Studon Electric and Controls, located on the city's north side.

Hindbo, meantime, has only a year to go to get his four-year plumbing and gas fitting ticket. He works in Calgary.

The award-winning apprentices qualified for the national team after placing first in their respective trades during national playdowns in Ontario last week.

Skills Canada competitions — sponsored by private enterprise and provincial and federal governments — are designed to raise the profile of trade-related careers among young people.

Competitions typically involve an academic component (such as writing a multiple-choice test) and a practical component (such as repairing an automobile or installing a plumbing system).

Waite defeated an electrical apprentice from Quebec to capture the

TRADE WARS: RDC apprentice seeks national honors

By JACK WILSON
Advocate staff

A Red Deer College plumbing apprentice has earned top Canadian honors for the second consecutive year. Jordan Hindbo, 20, of Olds is now preparing to take on the world.

A third-year apprentice in the plumbing and gas fitting program Hindbo won the Alberta then a Canadian Skills competition qualifying him for a shot at the world title next fall in Montreal.

Hindbo must prove himself again in a series of tests in Montreal over the next several months.

"Part of the testing in a psychological one involving a sports psychologist," Hindbo said.

"They want us to be relaxed and calm in a large audience setting. We've been told there may be as many as 100,000 people coming through the world event."

Two other apprentices will compete against Hindbo for the right to represent Canada.

The world competition will be held



Photo by JERRY GERLING/Advocate staff

Jordan Hindbo works at his trade at the Red Deer College

at Olympic Stadium in Montreal which seats almost 50,000.

Skills Canada competitions are sponsored by a private enterprise and provincial and federal governments.

They are designed to raise the profile of trade-related careers among young people.

High school students and post-secondary students and apprentices compete in separate categories.

The competitions involve writing and practical components.

Brian Stephenson, one of Hindbo's instructors, likes his chances.

"Jordan is excellent at both. He has great hand skills and is very strong in the academic side too. It's rare to find someone with both strengths," Stephenson said.

Hindbo credits Stephenson and instructor Rod Baumbach for pushing his career along.

"I attended my first year at SAIT in Calgary and the classes were big.

"At Red Deer College the classes are smaller and you get more one on one instruction.

Please see **STUDENT**, on Page A2

Team approach great for learning

Continued from Page A1

"It's like a team approach which is great for learning," Hindbo said.

Hindbo works for Botting and Associates of Calgary when he's not attending college classes for about two months.

Hindbo would like apprentices to receive more recognition.

He said not all tradesmen appreciate apprentices.

"Some of them need to give apprentices more of a chance. We're not just there to hand them tools in some cases," he said.

Hindbo follows in the plumbing footsteps of Chandra Din of Red Deer who won the Alberta and a Canadian Skills competition last year.

Stephenson said the fact two college students have won consecutive awards says something for the entire apprenticeship program.

Hindbo joins college electrical apprentice Robert Waite, 21, who is also battling two other Canadians for a trip to the world title next fall.



Plumbing apprentice receives top mark

by *Carla Victor*
Olds Albertan

An Olds plumbing apprentice has received top Canadian honors for the second consecutive year.

Jordan Hindbo will compete in a skills competition this spring, in Kitchener, Ontario, against two other Canadians to earn the right to represent Canada at the World Trade Show in Montreal the summer of 1999.

At last spring's competition, in Vancouver, Hindbo finished first overall in his category.

"I was first in technical ability, and I will be competing with the

guys that placed second and third at the last competition," said Hindbo, "so the odds are good."

Instructors at Red Deer College, where Hindbo is a student, are behind him all the way. "I think his chances are excellent. He has good hand skills and does great academically," said Brian Stephenson, instructor at Red Deer College.

Instructors are also encouraged about the amount of recognition the college will receive because of Hindbo.

"I think the recognition will be good for the college," said Rob

Baumbach, instructor. "We have had another student win the provincials, but he was too old to compete in the nationals. People will remember Red Deer College for its students doing well."

Hindbo returned from Quebec this past weekend where he took part in physiological testing and training.

"He has to learn to be the centre of attention and perform under pressure," said Hindbo's Grandmother, Isabel Hindbo of Olds.

She said he has always been

quiet, and never made too much of a fuss about himself so the training will come in handy.

Hindbo works in a shop he built in his garage, to practice his skills.

"He calls me up and says, 'what do you need made out of pipes Grandma.' I never know what I need made out of pipes so I asked him to build me a fancy lawn ornament. I will put it on my front lawn with a sign that says, made by the best plumber in Alberta," said Isabel.

The competition, which is sponsored by private enterprise

and provincial and federal governments, is designed to promote trade-related careers among young people.

"Jordan is enthusiastic and very confident about his ability. I think he will do very well," said Baumbach.

Hindbo will be 21 when he has his journeyman certificate in plumbing and gas fitting.

According to instructor Rob Stephenson, Hindbo probably won't stop there.

Hindbo intends to continue his education into another trade so he can have dual tickets.

A gold medal performance

► Not everyone likes to have their best bathroom work timed, monitored, marked and pressure-tested, but to **Jordan Hindbo** of Olds, it is all in a day's work. The 20-year-old plumber and gas-fitter was named Apprentice of the Year after taking top honours in "comprehensive bathroom layout" at the Skills Canada trades competition held in Vancouver in November. Next fall, the third-year Red Deer College student will compete in the World Trade Competitions in Montreal. "Plumbing is not a very accurate description of this trade," says Mr. Hindbo. "There's so much more to it. I've brought seven of my friends and relatives into plumbing since I started this competition." A shy fellow who grew up driving tractors on his family farm near Dixon, Mr. Hindbo was introduced to commercial plumbing by an uncle who got him his first job. The trades competitions, Mr. Hindbo says, are little-known but important. "Not all kids will go to university. They need to know they can be common-sense smart, go into the trades and still have a good life. You need a positive attitude, some skills, initiative, perseverance and a willingness to just try it. It also helps to latch onto a supportive and understanding journeyman who will be a mentor."

Member Employee Three Time Winner

Jordan Hindbo, a 20 year old 3rd year plumbing apprentice with Mort-an-Son Plumbing, is in extensive training for the privilege to represent Canada at the World Trade Competitions in Montreal in the fall of 1999. Jordan recently won the gold medal in Alberta's Skills Canada competitions, and came in first place in the under 22 age category in the Canadian championship competitions in Vancouver earlier this year. He was also one of Merit's top apprentices in 1998 and was recognized at Merit's Annual General Meeting in Calgary this spring.

The Canadian competition consisted of a comprehensive residential bathroom layout requiring sketch layouts, material take off lists, use of unusual fittings, minimum visits to the "parts store" and actually constructing the bathroom. All of his work was timed, monitored consistently by industry judges, and then inspected and marked. Jordan's skill, competency and craftsmanship won him the right to continue his quest towards the world competitions.

Jordan took his technical instruction at SAIT in his first period and his second and third periods at Red Deer College. He has worked for Mort-an-Son Plumbing for the past three years on many projects including the Fletchers Hog Plant in Red

Deer, Whiskey Jack Lodge in Lake Louise, a school in Douglasdale and a Canadian Tire and Safeway in south Calgary. Currently Jordan is working on a new University of Calgary residence.

Jordan also credits his boss, Norm Mortenson, for much of his success. Norm is a teacher, coach and mentor to Jordan and has helped sharpen Jordan's knowledge, skills and abilities.

These days, Jordan is in extensive hands-on training for the Worlds. He was in Montreal recently where Skills Canada set a specific training program and schedule. In November, he spends several days in Quebec City for specialist training and psychological preparation. February 1999 will see him in Kitchener for more training and preparation. His next major competition is in Kitchener in June 1999 where he competes against two other plumbers for a spot on Team Canada and then, the Worlds in Montreal.

Jordan says he likes his trade and the challenges and complexity of commercial work. His positive attitude, skills, initiative and perseverance have contributed to his success in the plumbing trade and he intends to move into supervisory and management roles in the future. His longer trade career goals include settling down in the country on a small farm, working in the

trade, tinkering and inventing something.

Jordan's message to young people looking at his trade is to try it, work hard, learn everything possible, latch on to a supportive and understanding journeyman who will be a teacher and mentor, and acquire as many trade related skills as possible. Jordan's

positive attitude and his demonstrated willingness to learn are also important factors in his tremendous success in his field, at a young age.

Merit is pleased to congratulate and support Jordan in his quest to compete in the World competitions and we wish him all the success he so obviously deserves. ☺

Young plumbers compete

Canada's National Skills Competition in Plumbing took place in Kitchener, Ont. June 2-6. A total of 12 apprentices competed after having qualified in provincial skills competitions.

Three Ontario competitors came out on top with Enrico Casciato taking gold, Giovanni Arena (silver) and Robert Adams (bronze). Other provincial winners and national competitors were: Jamesis Pitseolak, Nunavut; Peter Andruchuk and Derek Fast, Manitoba; Darin Shumka and Chris Buhalis, B.C.; Alban Neves, Nova Scotia; Warren Wourms, Northwest Territories; Matthew Lindberg and Michael Jerratt, Alberta.

At the provincial level, competitors had to rough in, finish and install fixtures for a three-piece bathroom.

At the national level, they had to do the same for a four-piece bathroom.

While the nationals were being held in Kitchener, a similar but perhaps more significant competition was being held at nearby Contestoga College,

reports Todd Mathiesen, a judge at the B.C. provincial competition and national event.

Last year's national event winners (under age 21) competed for a spot on the Canadian National Team



Jordan Hindbo

which will represent the country at the 35th Annual World Skills Competition in Montreal Nov. 11-14. Winning the spot was Jordan Hindbo of Aldo, Alberta. He works for Morton-Son Plumbing, a subsidiary of Borting & Associates. He won the Canadian Skills Competition in Vancouver last year. ♦



From left, in front, National Skills Competition winners are John Arena (silver), Enrico Casciato (gold) and Robert Adams (bronze). Behind them is Lou Tarsitano, who has instructed all three at George Brown College in Toronto.

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Announcements

HOME FRONT



Apprentices excel

Two Red Deer College apprentices have qualified to compete in the World Skills competition next month in Montreal. College spokeswoman Melinda Vester-Wiebe said Robert Waite and Jordan Hindle will compete in the event Nov. 11-14. Waite is an electrical apprentice while Hindle is learning plumbing. Both won a qualification event in Edmonton followed by other wins at Vancouver and a final qualifying event in Kitchener, Ont. The competition consists of mock set-ups of actual fieldwork. The competitors are timed and their work is measured for accuracy and workmanship.

Medal winner

A Red Deer College student has wired his way to a bronze medal in the World Skills Competition in Montreal. Apprenticeship student Robert Waite brings home the bronze in the commercial wiring section of the competition. He also won the Prix de la Nation award for being the best candidate in the Canadian delegation of 32 people. Waite and college plumbing apprentice Jordan Hindbo competed at the worlds after winning provincials, nationals and world run-off events in their class. The skills competition is a mock set up of fieldwork conditions. The competitors are timed, and their work is evaluated for accuracy and workmanship.



Jordan Hindbo placed sixth for Canada in plumbing. (Photo by T. Mathiesen)

Skills competition tough

Canada's Jordan Hindbo, of Dickson, Alta., placed sixth in the plumbing category of the 35th World Skills Competition, held in Montreal Nov. 11-14.

Hindbo was up against 17 of the best young plumbers from around the world, reports Todd Mathiesen, who attended the competition. The gold medal in plumbing went to Hyung Gu Lee of Korea. Judging was tough. All measurements had to be within 2 mm.

Other Canadian contestants included Frederic Martin of Lavaltrie,

Que., who placed fourth in refrigeration and David Warkentin of Coaldale, Alta. who placed seventh in sheet metal.

Competitors are high school, college or apprenticeship students under 22 years of age.

The next World Skills Competition takes place in September, 2001, in Seoul, South Korea. Provincial and regional qualifying competitions begin this spring. Those who qualify will compete in a national competition in Quebec City. For more information, check www.skillscanada.com. ♦

Merit Apprentice to Represent Canada in World Skills Competition

Jordan Hindbo is a plumbing apprentice who has had great success in the Skills Canada trades competitions. After winning in Alberta, he went on to win the national competition last year in Vancouver. Last month in Kitchener Ontario, Jordan competed in a run-off competition with other top apprentices from the national finals to determine who would represent Canada at the World Skills Competition.

After this four day event Jordan came out on top again. Jordan described the Kitchener competition as tough, in that the competition involved 20 hours of assembling a complicated plumbing installation that included a variety of different materials and fixtures some of which he had no prior experience with.

On November 11th to 14th this year Jordan will travel to Montreal for the world competition being held in Canada for the first time. The Olympic Stadium will be the site for the competition where Canada's top apprentices will match their trade skills against apprentices from 38 countries in 35 different trade categories.

Jordan is employed by long-time Merit member Mort-An-Son Plumbing, a company working for Botting & Associates, another strong Merit supporter. He is nearing the completion of his apprenticeship and is enrolled for 4th year technical school classes in January.

Our congratulations go out to Jordan as well as best wishes for success in Montreal in November.

Jordan Hindbo

Shines at the 35th World Skills Competition

by Julie Domvile

With relatively little fanfare, an international competition was held in Montreal in November 1999 in which members of Team Canada '99 shone. The 35th World Skills Competition drew 611 topnotch competitors from 34 countries. The competition was fierce, pressured and exhausting. Jordan Hindbo, from Olds, Alberta, represented Canada in the plumbing and gas fitting category and was awarded one of Canada's nine certificates.

The competitions consist of mock set ups of actual fieldwork conditions in specific skill areas. The competitors are timed and their work is measured for accuracy and workmanship. Contenders qualify for the provincial levels based on their grades at post-secondary institutions. In order to compete at the World's, students first must win at the provincial, national levels and World Skill's Run-Off Competition.

"It was very exhausting and very pressured. At the Alberta Skills Competition and the Nationals I let the pressure get to me but for the World's I was under control and calm. I worked with a sports psychologist on how to cope with pressure and the media. That really, really taught me how to focus. I learned to relax and plot out my moves. It was an awesome experience. I met so many people from other countries and realized how small the world really is and that people are just out there making a living," said Jordan, a fourth year

plumbing student at Red Deer College.

The whole experience cost Mr. Hindbo very little other than time. His employer, Botting and Associates Mechanical Contractors, paid for his plane tickets to the events, and Skills Canada and other sponsors paid for hotels and expenses. Mr. Hindbo is very grateful to his sponsors: Westburne Plumbing Supply, PCL Constructors Inc., Merit Contractors Association, Red Deer College and MCA Alberta.

"This opportunity has given me self-confidence. Now I think I can walk into any office, anywhere, show them my portfolio and have a job," said Jordan, of the experience of participating in the competitions.

Shaun Thorsen, Executive Director of Skills Canada Alberta, noted, "This was the first time Alberta has been represented at the World's. We can now try to improve on the process of entering a student by providing additional training. We've had great support from industry and employers. It's a wonderful opportunity for any student."

Skills Canada Alberta, a member of Skills Canada National organization, is a non-profit association that endeavors to enhance the development of trades and technological education in Alberta's schools. The organization was created through a joint venture between business, industry, labour, education and government.

The provincial and national

skills competitions are a wonderful experience for a student who wants to excel at their trades. In the spring, provincial and territorial competitions are held for secondary and post secondary students in technologies and skilled trades, and in some cases, leadership contests. The World Skills Competitions are organized every two years by the International Vocational Training Organization (IVTO) headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland and test participants in 41 trades and technologies. The next World's Competition will be held in 2001. *

ALBERTA

May 4, 2000

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Campus, Calgary
www.planet.eon.net/~skillsab/skills.html

BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 14, 2000

Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Center, Vancouver
www.skillscanada.bc.ca

MANITOBA

April 13, 2000

Red River Community College, Winnipeg
www.skillscanada.mb.ca

SASKATCHEWAN

April 7-8, 2000

Carleton Comprehensive High School, Prince Albert
www.cableregina.com/business/skills

Olds Man Places Fourth in World Competition

Chris Puglia
The Olds Gazette

Eight Albertans had the opportunity to visit Montreal from November 11 - 14 to showcase their skill and creativity at the 35th World Skills Competition.

The World Skills competition is an international event focused on trades and technical skills.

Among the eight Albertans was Olds man Jordan Hindbo who now resides in Red Deer.

Hindbo, a plumber by trade, said the competition was a great experience.

"It was quite an experience to see people from all over the world and the fact that I was there gave me confidence," said Hindbo.

The competition lasted four days but the competitors had the opportunity to be in Montreal for 10 days so they could practice and unwind before and after the event.

"The first few days I toured with people from all over the world and on the last night there was a Much Music dance party," said Hindbo.

The competition went well for Hindbo who was one of the first to complete his circuit, and he says he expected to do a lot better than he did.

"I was the second one finished and when I was done a lot of people were cheering and clapping and a few guaranteed I would

get a medal but when it came down to it I tied for fourth," said Hindbo.

There were 19 competitors in Hindbo's class.

A fourth place ranking was quite an achievement for Hindbo who had to learn a few new techniques before competing.

"It was all European pipe bending, I had to go there and learn how to make templates," said Hindbo. "Here in Canada we just use fittings and we don't bother bending pipe."

One of the best parts of the four day competition was being able to see other trades in action and compare the differences between trades from country to country.

"It was neat to walk around and see all the other competitions and different tools and not only in my trade."

From here Hindbo will be doing

some work up north until January when he goes back to school in Red Deer to complete his four year program.

Alberta had the second highest number of competitors on Team Canada.

"Alberta's strong representation at the the World Skills Competition is a fine example of the excellent work being done in the area of apprenticeship and skills-based training in our province," said Learning Minister Dr. Lyle Oberg.

Alberta has approximately 9 per cent of the working competition but it trains approximately 18 per cent of Canada's apprentices according to Stats Canada.

World skills competitors are chosen because of their success in both provincial and national competitions.

Weather Report

- Wednesday, December 1, mainly sunny with a high of -2°C .
- Thursday, December 2, mainly cloudy with a high of 0°C and low of $+ -10^{\circ}\text{C}$.
- Friday, December 3, mainly sunny with a low of -14°C and high of -3°C .
- Saturday, December 4, mainly cloudy with a low of -11°C and a high of $+ 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

