

WorldSkills Canada Expert

TECHNOLOGY: Web Technologies

COMPETITOR: Cooper Ross

HOMETOWN: Eastport, NL



DAVID CANTWELL



What made you want to represent Canada in your trade at the WorldSkills level as Canada's Expert?

"I have been a volunteer with Skills Canada since 2014 starting as a provincial technical committee member and then joined the national technical committee in 2016. In 2019, I joined Team Canada as the WorldSkills expert in Russia. I have enjoyed all aspects of helping young people excel in our competitions and to get the most from it. I want to help our Canadian competitor prepare for the competition in Shanghai and to support them at the competition itself in any way that I can. It is an amazing experience to see these competitors at all levels of competition."

Tell us a little about your Skills experience that led you to becoming an Expert.

"I started developing web pages as a student at Memorial University of Newfoundland. I worked with professors in Mathematics, German, and Religious Studies to help them prepare content for their courses and research and display that in the early days of the web. This led to a full-time position at Memorial where I stayed and continued to develop my skills for 23 years building many customized applications for students, faculty and staff. I currently work with Nasdaq Verafin as a senior software developer where we work to help banks and credit unions around the world fight financial crimes."

What do you think sets Canada apart in your trade?

"Web Technologies encompasses a wide variety of technology from web page design up to code that allows complex systems to talk to each other. It can include phones, fridges and smart watches. As such, it requires a variety of individuals for its success. Canada has been pushing hard in the information technology field and so we have amazing individuals bursting with talent."

What are you most looking forward to experiencing in Shanghai, China?

"I am most looking forward to reconnecting with experts from around the world in my competition area and meeting new ones. There is a particular passion that goes along with people who dedicate their time to this kind of competition in their field. I am also looking forward to seeing the work completed by the competitors and how they interact with each other. It is a singularly unique experience that is hard to describe and I can't wait for my competitor to experience it!"