



JACOB MCCLELLAND



SCHOOL: SAIT
TRADE: CNC Milling
TRAINER: Tim Wong
EXPERT: Jurgen Hierholzer
HOMETOWN: Calgary, AB

What was the first thing that went through your mind when you realized you had made Team Canada?

"At first, I wasn't sure how I had performed in the CNC Machining competition. I kept replaying moments in my head, thinking I could've done better. When they announced my name as Team Canada's CNC Milling competitor, I was absolutely ecstatic. It felt like all the hard work I'd put into this trade had truly paid off. I was proud, motivated, and ready to push my skills even further."

What are you most excited to experience in Shanghai, China?

"I'm most excited about the challenge itself. Competing at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 is a chance to refine my techniques, learn from the best, and push myself beyond my limits."

Do you have any words of encouragement for future Skills competitors?

"Don't be afraid to give it a shot. Sometimes all it takes is someone believing in you—like my high school teacher who suggested I look into machining. That one piece of advice changed my life. If you're passionate about your trade, embrace the challenges and keep learning. Competitions aren't just about winning—they're about growth, connection, and discovering what you're truly capable of. Surround yourself with people who push you to be better, and never stop striving for excellence."

What do you love most about your trade/technology?

"Machining is a perfect blend of creativity, discipline, and craftsmanship. I love taking a raw block of metal and transforming it into a precise, functional part—sometimes with tolerances smaller than a human hair. It's not just about making something; it's about making it perfectly, over and over again. That process of shaping ideas into reality, with such precision and care, is deeply satisfying. It's a craft that challenges me and rewards me every day."

What has been the best part of your Skills journey so far?

"The best part has been the growth—both personal and professional. Working at Fidelity Manufacturing Group in Calgary has been a blessing. The environment is rich with talent and knowledge, and every day brings new challenges and learning opportunities. From discovering machining in high school to competing nationally and now internationally, each step has been driven by curiosity, mentorship, and a love for the craft. It's been an incredible journey, and I'm excited for what's next."