



CHAD MCCONNELL



Team Canada Trainer

TRADE: Heavy Vehicle Technology

ORGANIZATION: Finning

COMPETITOR: Luke Emeny

HOMETOWN: Gibbons, AB

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

"My path to becoming a trainer was a bit different from most. I was asked to step into the role after Luke was named to Team Canada. I hope I can help where it matters most, and that some of my past experiences will support his training."

What made you want to train competitors for Skills competitions?

"Back in 2001, I was the Canadian competitor for automobile technology in the WorldSkills competition held in Seoul, South Korea. Over the years, I've assisted in different aspects of Skills, and becoming a trainer seemed like a good fit. Skills has helped my career so much, and I like to pay it forward to the next generation of competitors."

What do you think sets your competitor apart from the others in their skill area?

"Luke is very focused on the tasks at hand. He's always asking questions and pushing for answers and deeper understanding. That curiosity helps him learn as much as possible, keeps him engaged in the trades, and supports his development into a well-rounded technician."

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

"China will be a cultural overload — in a good way. The technology, the big-city atmosphere, and the cars and equipment we don't have in North America will make it an incredible experience. It should be a great time. Being back on the WorldSkills team will be awesome as well. I competed in Seoul and assisted in St. Moritz, Switzerland, and Calgary, so it's definitely time for another WorldSkills event."