



News Release

Red Deer Catholic student Dane Schmidt wins gold at Skills Alberta Provincials, advances to Nationals

For immediate release – May 22, 2025

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools (RDCRS) is celebrating the remarkable achievement of Dane Schmidt, a grade 12 student from St. Joseph High School, who captured the gold medal in the Welding-Secondary competition at the Skills Alberta Provincial Competition held last week in Edmonton. This impressive victory qualifies Dane to represent Alberta at the upcoming Skills Canada National Competition.

Building on his gold medal win at the Regional Skills Competition, Dane demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in welding, outperforming his peers from across the province. His success is a testament to his hard work and the quality of the Dual Credit Welding program at St. Joseph High School.

“Winning gold at provincials is an incredible honour,” said Dane Schmidt. “The experience at Skills Alberta was challenging and rewarding, and I’m now really looking forward to competing at the national level. The Skills competitions have taught me so much about my trade and myself.”

Mike Bownes, Fabrication Instructor at St. Joseph High School, expressed his pride in Dane’s accomplishment. “Dane’s commitment and skill have been evident throughout his training. This gold medal is well-deserved, and we are excited to see him compete at Skills Canada Nationals.”

“We are immensely proud of Dane’s success. His achievement highlights the strength of our career pathways programs and the dedication of our students and staff. Dane’s advancement to

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the national competition is a fantastic accomplishment and we wish him the best,” added Tracey Millar, Career Pathways Coordinator with Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

“On behalf of the RDCRS Board of Trustees, I want to congratulate Dane on his incredible achievement at Skills Alberta Provincials. As a welder myself, I understand the level of skill, precision, and dedication it takes to compete at that level, let alone win gold. Dane's success reflects his hard work and the exceptional support from our educators and community. We're incredibly proud of him,” said Board Chair Murray Hollman.

The Skills Canada National Competition will see top skilled trades and technology students from across the country compete for national recognition. Dane's participation underscores the high level of skilled trades education within Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools.

The Skills Canada National Competition will be held on May 29 and 30, 2025 at the Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL) District in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Thank you to Lasermann Cuts Ltd. for their sponsorship of Dane and support of the Fabrication Program.

Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools serves over 9,600 students in 21 schools in Red Deer, Blackfalds, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House, Innisfail, and Olds. It also supports the learning of over 950 students in a Home Education Program. The Division is committed to serving children and parents with a complete offering of learning opportunities delivered within the context of Catholic teachings and within the means of the Division.

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