

# When plumbing flows in your veins

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Jean-Sébastien Simard embarks on a promising career in plumbing, qualifying for the WorldSkills Competition. **BY LUC BOILY**

Organized by Skills/Competences Canada\*, the 42nd biennial WorldSkills will be held in Leipzig, Germany, July 2-7, 2013. Based on their success at the Skills Canada National Competition (SCNC), 35 competitors have qualified to become members of WorldSkills Team Canada. Their abilities will be measured against over 1000 competitors from 61 countries and regions at the famous Leipzig Trade Fair. More than 43 professional trades will be represented. WorldSkills provides a unique means of exchange and comparison of global standards of skills in different fields, including the industrial building industry.

## PLUMBING/HEATING COMPETITOR

In the field of plumbing and heating, Jean-Sébastien Simard from l'École des métiers de la construction de Montréal qualified to represent Canada at Leipzig. Living in the north outer suburbs of Montreal, QC, Simard is currently working as a first year plumber apprentice for Groupe Paquette Mécanique Du Bâtiment Inc., a company specializing in turnkey projects for commercial, institutional, industrial and big residential projects. This Laval-based company has become one of the leading mechanical contractors in Quebec. Under site foreman Daniel Bouchard's guidance, Simard is now involved in one of the major construction projects underway in the City of Montreal: the \$2.3 billion McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), which is scheduled to open its doors in the summer of 2015.

## DEDICATION TO TRAINING

Inspired by the example of several family members who are working in the plumbing industry – including his father, grandfather and one uncle – Simard would like to become foreman himself one day. The 19-year-old young adult sees the future with optimism: "I am proud of my vocational diploma (DEP), but I don't discard the idea of resuming my studies in mechanical engineering in the near future."

South view of the MUHC in February 2013.



Photo: MUHC



Jean-Sébastien Simard in training

Photo l'École des métiers de la construction de Montréal

One thing is for sure, the way he distinguished himself in the local, provincial and national SCNC competitions – entitling him to join Team Canada for the prestigious WorldSkills – will open doors for him. His teachers were the first people to encourage him to apply for the Skills Competition because of the talent they recognized in him. He takes nothing for granted regarding the July competition. Simard started a 40 hour per week training program on April 1.

"I know very well that the WorldSkills brings together the best students in the world in their field. The only thing I can do is give my very best, and see where it will lead me. In a sense, I already consider myself a winner for my good fortune to participate in this rewarding experience," said Simard.

## THE FUTURE

Upon his return from Leipzig this summer, Simard would like to return to work with Paquette, but with the heating division, if possible, to broaden his skills and gain experiences in both his educational areas: plumbing and heating. The HPAC team wishes him the best of luck at WorldSkills. <>

Luc Boily is the editor of *Plomberie, Chauffage & Climatisation*, HPAC's French language publication.

\* Founded in 1989, Skills/Competences Canada is a national, not-for-profit organization, which promotes careers in skilled trades and technologies to Canadian youth in partnership with employers, teachers, labour organizations and governments. Further information is available at [www.skillscompetencescanada.com](http://www.skillscompetencescanada.com) or tel. 877.754.5226.

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