

## NEWS RELEASE

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### The manufacturing industry is on course for economic recovery

*Conference program focuses on competitiveness, productivity and process improvements*

EDMONTON — The conference program for the **Western Manufacturing Technology Show** (WMTS) indicates positive changes ahead for the manufacturing industry, as sessions focus on competitiveness, productivity and process improvements. [Registration](#) is now open for the event running **June 14 to 16, 2011** at the **Edmonton EXPO Centre** (7515 - 118 Ave).

This year's keynote is **Justin Reimer, Assistant Deputy Minister for Alberta Finance and Enterprise**. He provides leadership to the Premier's Competitiveness Initiative, established by the Alberta Competitiveness Act of 2010. Reimer will present the **Report on Competitiveness – Alberta 2010**, which compares Alberta's competitive position to 14 provincial and international jurisdictions, across 60 economic indicators, within four sectors, including manufacturing.

Reimer will be accompanied by industry expert **Doug Schindel, president of the Weldco Companies**. Weldco has invested heavily in technology and automation and will address the benefits of their investments in terms of enhanced productivity and competitiveness.

“The [Society of Manufacturing Engineers](#) connects manufacturing practitioners to each other, to the latest technology and the most up-to-date processes,” says **Howard Wang**, Chair, [SME Chapter #370 - Northern Lights, Edmonton](#). “WMTS is always an exciting time for our members and we're anticipating a bigger show this year, due to the recovering economy.”

Other components of the WMTS program includes:

- **Productivity and process improvements for the welding industry**, presented by the Canadian Welding Association
- **Townhall Panel discussion** on the anticipated labour shortage and its effect on the industry – “How to integrate semi-automation without replacing your son-in-law.”
- **Getting started with lean: Fundamentals, flow & 5S**, presented by Gary Loblick, The Winslow Group
- **Elastomers and sealing 101**, presented by Brian Benkendorf and Said Amaar, Hi-Tech Seals
- **Oil sands supply chain opportunity analysis**, presented by Sierra Systems
- **Risk Management and Disaster Planning**, presented by George Klassen, Corporate Risk Manager, Supreme Group
- **Cutting the cost of cutting metal/automated inventory management**, presented by Greg Rinkowski, WinWare and Jerry Battley, from Thomas Skinner

To learn more about WMTS, go to [www.wmts.ca](http://www.wmts.ca) or call 888-322-7333. The Society of Manufacturing Engineers is a 501(c)3 organization with members in more than 70 countries. It is supported by a network of technical communities and chapters worldwide.

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