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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

YOUTH SCIENCE MONTH BRINGS IDEAS ALIVE

VICTORIA - It's Youth Science Month in Canada, and in B.C., approximately 60,000 students are expected to take part by bringing some amazing ideas to life.

Youth Science Month is a national event that sees over 500,000 students competing in project-based science across Canada through a series of regional fairs. Winners will compete at the 50th annual Canada-Wide Science Fair in Toronto, May 14-21, 2011.

More information can be found at the Science Fair Foundation of B.C. at:
www.sciencefairs.ca

Youth Science Month also takes place during B.C.'s Year of Science, which is all about showcasing how science works, who scientists are, the kinds of work they do, and why science matters in the everyday lives of British Columbians and their communities.

Learn more about science in B.C., events in your community, and the 'Choose Science. Go Far. Win Big!' \$25,000 contest at:
www.yearofsciencebc.ca

Quotes:

Minister of Education -

"Every year, about half a million students across the nation apply their creative and scientific genius during the month of March," said Minister of Education Margaret MacDiarmid. "Thousands of B.C. students get involved in a big way by participating in school, district and regional events with some really spectacular projects."

Minister of Science and Universities -

"This school year is also the Year of Science in B.C. and our goal is to get young people excited about science," said Ida Chong, Minister of Science and Universities. "Through the Year of Science, we want to inspire

students with the thrill of scientific discovery and encourage a culture of innovation and research in B.C. that is essential for ongoing economic growth."

More information on creative, scientific young minds in B.C.:

Last year, these four students and their exciting projects were among 74 B.C. students who won a spot at the Canada-Wide Science Fair:

- o Sweet Poison - Jennifer Mei Ling Campbell of David Thompson Secondary school in Vancouver conducted an evaluation of aspartame to develop a new artificial sweetener for individuals afflicted by phenylketonuria, a disorder characterized by an enzyme deficiency, making the consumption of aspartame problematic.

- o Get into the Spirits - Edward Wong of Lytton Elementary school in Lytton tested for cellulosic ethanol production from B.C. mountain pine beetle-killed trees by acid hydrolysis, steam explosion and fermentation.

- o The Actuator - Michael Peters of Glenlyon Norfolk school in Victoria created a practical device that exercises the lower legs to help prevent blood clots in wheelchair-bound individuals.

- o Cytotoxicity of Dandelion Extracts on Melanoma Cells - Danielle Xu and Michael Shao of Sir Winston Churchill Secondary school in Vancouver investigated the use of dandelion in treating melanoma.

More information on last year's winners at: <http://www.cwsf.ca/>

More information on employment demands for science and related occupations:

Over the next ten years, B.C.'s need for workers in science-related occupations will grow faster than B.C.'s need for all occupations combined, with approximately one in every eight job openings being in a science-related occupation.

B.C. is already recognized as a world leader in many areas of research and innovation. Organizations such as Genome BC, the Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, the BC Cancer Agency and TRIUMF are all outstanding in their fields, using scientific research and innovation to change lives, and indeed the world, for the better.

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