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**Subject:** Year of Science Supports Student Gene Researchers  
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Ministry of Science and Universities

Year of Science Supports Student Gene Researchers

VICTORIA - Year of Science is supporting a select group of British Columbia high school students who are spending their Spring Break (March 14-25) in labs learning about genetic research. The Gene Researcher for a Week program received a \$29,000 grant from the Province through Year of Science.

The Gene Researcher mentoring program is a nationwide initiative of the Canadian Gene Cure Foundation. This year it was able to place a record 44 highly deserving students into labs across the country, including 14 students from B.C., the highest number from any province. Students are placed into one of eight host labs in British Columbia that specialize in a range of human genetic research from computer-based bioinformatics to cancer research, pharmacology to epigenetics.

QUOTES:

Ida Chong, Minister of Science and Universities -

"This grant and others like it will help further the Year of Science objective to raise the level of science awareness, and science and technology skills in British Columbia. With the support of science leaders like the genetic scientists, as well as educators and community organizations throughout B.C., our government is promoting increased literacy in science so we will be well-positioned to meet future workforce demands. With job projections that one in eight jobs in the next 10 years will be in science-related occupations, it is essential to get young people interested in science."

Sandra MacPherson, board chair, Canadian Gene Cure Foundation -

"Enabling high school students to get real hands-on experience under the guidance of highly accomplished scientists inspires our youth to follow their passion and interest in science into a career in research. The

Year

of Science grant not only enabled us to place more students this year, it also made it possible to produce a handbook for students to ensure they make the most of their time in the lab, and have the resources to report back to their schools, passing on lessons they have learned to others in their classes."

QUICK FACTS about the Year of Science:

\* Through the Year of Science, the B.C. government wants to engage young people in science by showcasing how science works, who scientists are, the kinds of work they do, and why science matters in our everyday lives.

\* B.C.'s future depends on a new kind of literacy in science, technology, math and engineering. We know that three-quarters of all future jobs in B.C. will need some kind of post-secondary education.

\* Over the next 10 years, approximately one in every eight job openings will be in a science-related occupation.

QUICK FACTS about the Gene Researcher for a Week Program:

\* The Canadian Gene Cure Foundation selects motivated and ambitious students in grades 11 and 12 who have an innate curiosity for science.

\* Students are placed in top labs of influential human genetic research scientists for one week over Spring Break.

\* Students gain insight into the world of genetic diseases by conducting real, hands-on science experiments with equipment that is often not available in schools.

\* Participants also learn how genes cause human genetic disorders and how top scientists translate these findings into treatments and cures for genetic diseases.

\* The Gene Researcher for a Week mentoring program is a great opportunity for young scientists to learn about human genetics research and connect with the scientific community.

LEARN MORE:

About the Year of Science:

\* [www.yearofsciencebc.ca](http://www.yearofsciencebc.ca)

About the Gene Researcher for a Week Program:

\* [www.genecure.ca](http://www.genecure.ca)

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