

**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX;](#)  
**Subject:** NR: Arrow Lakes school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:51:17 AM

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NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0048-000639  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Arrow Lakes school district benefits from innovation grant

NAKUSP - The Arrow Lakes school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The school district is undertaking a program titled, "Values of the Doukhobor Community - Then and Now." This history project about Doukhobor heritage will be collaboratively built by Grade 6/7 students at the district elementary schools and also at Lucerne School by secondary students. Students will reach out to Doukhobor elders and produce films and web site material.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Minister of Education George Abbott -

"This pilot project will enable students to capture and record the stories of the Doukhobor community while gaining valuable experience through personalized learning."

School board chair Pattie Adam -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and our communities, and look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Doukhobor heritage is significant to the Arrow Lakes community with

15

- 35 per cent of families having Doukhobor backgrounds.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

Learn More:

Learn NowBC's Rural Education Strategy:

[www.learnnowbc.ca/educators/Rural\\_Education/](http://www.learnnowbc.ca/educators/Rural_Education/)

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Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Boundary school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:48:58 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2011EDUC0042-000633

June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Boundary school district benefits from innovation grant

GRAND FORKS - The Boundary school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The district is undertaking a program which includes a look at rural secondary students with special needs. The goal is to help students with special needs build their collaborative, creative, and problem solving capacities through real-life experiences. Community partners will also deepen their understanding of the importance of including students with special needs in opportunities that develop skills and abilities necessary for life outside of school.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Boundary-Similkameen MLA John Slater -

"This pilot project will assist and provide the opportunity for students with special needs to explore the benefits of personalized learning and will engage these students and their families to improve educational outcomes."

School board chair Teresa Rezansoff -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district and look forward to sharing the results of this project with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX;](#)  
**Subject:** NR: Central Coast school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:54:21 AM

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NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0049-000640  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Central Coast school district benefits from innovation grant

BELLA COOLA - The Central Coast school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

With a higher than average rate of diabetes in Bella Coola, the Educational Food Innovations project will help students make better nutritional choices. Students will be taught to mill their own organic flour and grains to produce a wide variety of nutrient-rich foods to sustain them through the school day.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Minister George Abbott -

"This pilot project supports the Premier's recently announced \$68.7 million Healthy Families BC strategy, which will help families make healthy choices and introduce innovative approaches to challenges facing the health care system."

Central Coast School Board Chair Robyn Willis -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of families and look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* There is a higher than average diabetes and obesity rate in the Bella Coola Valley. This combined with the rising cost of food is making sound nutritional choices difficult for many families.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** NR: Charles Hays Secondary benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:52:42 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0053-000644  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Charles Hays Secondary benefits from innovation grant

PRINCE RUPERT - Charles Hays Secondary school is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the schools selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

At Charles Hays Secondary, for one semester, approximately 30 Grade 9 students, under a team of three teachers, will explore the theme of urban development through a community revitalization project for Prince Rupert.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Minister of Education George Abbott -

"This project will not only provide an invaluable personalised learning experience for students involved, but should provide important data and observations on development in Prince Rupert."

Prince Rupert School Board Chair Tina Last -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and the community and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Prince Rupert is redefining itself as a vital port and tourism destination after the collapse of its primary industries and a significant drop in population over the last ten years.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Coast Mountains SD benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:54:38 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0050-000641  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Coast Mountains SD benefits from innovation grant

TERRACE - The Coast Mountains school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The staff at Kitwanga Elementary School will be using culturally relevant assessment and teaching strategies to more effectively support First Nations students reading comprehension skills. The goal of the project is to share best practices across the district by developing the assessment and teaching tools for use in all schools.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Education Minister George Abbott -

"This pilot project will explore the importance of having relevant literature available for First Nations students and bringing these wonderful stories into the classroom to benefit everyone."

Coast Mountains School Board Chair Barry Pankhurst -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and First Nations students and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* The Aboriginal student population of Coast Mountains school district

stands at approximately 38 per cent. Although overall student enrolment has declined in the district, the Aboriginal student population has increased each year.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** NR: False Bay Elementary school benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:50:28 AM

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NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0043-000634  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

False Bay Elementary school benefits from innovation grant

QUALICUM BEACH - False Bay Elementary School is receiving \$10,000 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the schools selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

Students at False Bay will build positive understandings of renewable energy systems and social responsibility by examining local solar, micro-hydro and wind power projects with area experts.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Parksville-Qualicum MLA Ron Cantelon -  
"Children need to learn from more than just computers and textbooks. Innovative hands-on projects like this are fantastic because they give our kids invaluable real-world experience."

Qualicum School Board Chair Eve Flynn -  
"Lasqueti Island and False Bay School is unique in itself as the whole island is 'off the grid' and looks to alternative power for all their day-to-day activities. This project will further help the school in exploring renewable energy options."

Quick Facts:

\* False Bay Elementary school is a small rural school, with a current enrolment of 20 students ranging from kindergarten to Grade 8.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** NR: Gold Trail school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:54:53 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0051-000642  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Gold Trail school district benefits from innovation grant

ASHCROFT - The Gold Trail school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

Collaboration lies at the core of the Connected Classrooms project, as the idea is to bring together schools separated by significant distances. Teachers and students will be linked through daily videoconferencing to share their education experience and enhance online collaborative work.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Education Minister George Abbott -

"By using technology in this way we are encouraging the sharing of best practices among educators and reducing the sense of isolation often felt by rural students and teachers."

Gold Trail school board chair Valerie Adrian -

"We are very proud of the work being carried out in our district in support of our students. Rural schools need to be innovative in their approaches to teaching and we look forward to sharing our findings

with educators across the province once this research project is completed."

Quick Facts:

\* Connected Classrooms allows for collaboration between Gold Trail schools that are typically an hour's drive apart from other schools.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Gulf Islands school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:53:37 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0058-000650  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Gulf Islands school district benefits from innovation grant

SALTSPRING ISLAND - The Gulf Islands school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

Connecting Generations will offer students and staff a "living library" consisting of community residents enthusiastic about talking with youth. The goal is to build bridges between generations through dialogue and to promote intergenerational learning and relationship building in order to strengthen the community.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Murray Coell -

"This pilot project will give an opportunity for community knowledge to be shared with students in an exercise that will bring all parties closer together and create a better understanding of age-related issues."

Gulf Islands school board chair May McKenzie -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* The skills which Connecting Generations encourages include critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, collaboration, teamwork and leadership.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Kootenay Lake school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:52:59 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0054-000645  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Kootenay Lake school district benefits from innovation grant

NELSON - The Kootenay Lake school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The district is undertaking a program titled "Digital Storytelling Project: Community Heritages." Students will document local culture and family heritage through interviewing senior community members and doing online research. The resulting videos will be presented at community events and posted online.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Minister of Education George Abbott -

"This pilot project will allow the Kootenay Lake school district to preserve the rich history of the region while providing an opportunity for students to explore the benefits of personalized learning."

Kootenay Lake school board chair Mel Joy -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and the community and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* The digital stories will be archived on a community website, and there may be an opportunity to extend the project to a provincial digital storytelling program.

\* Sixty one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Nicola-Similkameen schools benefit from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:52:10 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0045-000636  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Nicola-Similkameen schools benefit from innovation grant

MERRITT - The Nicola-Similkameen school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

Aboriginal Academy 9 will be a full semester 16-credit program where students will experience the local Thompson and Okanagan culture. Students will participate in authentic, hands-on Aboriginal activities aimed at enriching their understanding of the local culture while making a positive contribution to the community.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Education Minister George Abbott -

"This pilot project will support rural students bridging cultural differences through exploration and engagement while building community."

Nicola-Similkameen school board chair Gordon Comeau -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and our First Nations students, and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Approximately 40 per cent of students in the Nicola-Similkameen

school district are of Aboriginal ancestry.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Peace River North schools benefit from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:49:16 AM

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NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0046-000637  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Peace River North schools benefit from innovation grant

FORT ST. JOHN - The Peace River North school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The district's Energetic Learning Campus (ELC) project will look at how a healthy living environment and personal fitness affects student absenteeism, test scores, collaboration skills, student engagement and school culture. The program will be housed in Fort St John's Pomeroy Sports Centre.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Peace River North MLA Pat Pimm -  
"This pilot project will allow us to find ways to improve students' academic achievements while encouraging physical activity."

Peace River North school board chair Heather Hannaford -  
"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and their students and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* The Province is investing \$5.7 million to renovate vacant space at the new Pomeroy Sports Centre that will add eight new secondary classrooms to the Peace River North school district.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX;](#)  
**Subject:** NR: Peace River South schools benefit from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:49:36 AM

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NEWS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0047-000638  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Peace River South schools benefit from innovation grant

DAWSON CREEK - The Peace River South school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the rural districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The project will focus on Project-Based-Learning, an innovative model to engage all students in the district with academic, workplace and citizenship skills for post-secondary success. Students will be presented with topics for study that address real world problems and questions, with the goal of increasing the relevance of learning to students.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 province-wide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Peace River South MLA Blair Lekstrom -  
"This pilot project will allow our students to learn from direct experience and from the rich knowledge base within our communities."

Peace River South School Board Chair Richard Powell - "We are excited to see project-based-learning introduced to our district and to see the positive impact this new approach is having on teachers and students."

Quick Facts:

\* This project will start in Dawson Creek Secondary School by outfitting the classrooms for Project Based Learning and developing digital portfolios for students and teachers.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Prince George school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:50:43 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0041-000632  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Prince George school district benefits from innovation grant

PRINCE GEORGE - The Prince George school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The Placed-Based Learning project in Mackenzie Schools will see high school students and seniors working together to landscape a newly constructed senior housing facility with raised beds, a gazebo, trees and shrubs. A second project involves grades K-12 students creating murals and/or decorative wooden art that will become attached to chain link fences that surround two large empty lots on the main street in town.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Prince George-Mackenzie MLA Pat Bell:

"This pilot project will allow Mackenzie students the opportunity to explore the benefits of personalized learning and engage students and their families in a meaningful community learning project."

School board chair Lyn Hall:

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in

support of rural schools and the community and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* All members of the community will be able to participate in the chain link fence decoration project.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

Learn More:

Learn NowBC's Rural Education Strategy:  
[www.learnnowbc.ca/educators/Rural\\_Education/](http://www.learnnowbc.ca/educators/Rural_Education/)

Contact:  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Sea to Sky school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:50:58 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2011EDUC0044-000635

June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Sea to Sky school district benefits from innovation grant

SQUAMISH - The Sea to Sky school district is receiving \$12,500 through the

Growing Innovation Program as one of the districts selected for a research

project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The "Connections Project" provides opportunities for dialogue between Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal students and the Squamish First Nations' community. Elders and community members will be invited to share their philosophies and understanding of successful learning and teaching with students.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

West Vancouver-Sea to Sky MLA Joan McIntyre -

"This pilot project will allow the Squamish First Nation to share its successes and vision for learning with all of the District educators to improve and enrich our education system for the benefit of all local students."

Sea to Sky School Board Chair Rick Price -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and First Nations students and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Sooke school district benefits from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:53:24 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0057-000649  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Sooke school district benefits from innovation grant

SOOKE - The Sooke school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

Beginning September 2012, the Sooke School District intends to develop a Full Day Nature Kindergarten program that provides kindergarten children the opportunity to learn in a natural setting where outdoor exploration is the foundation of all learning.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Education Minister George Abbott -  
"This pilot project will enhance early learning by tapping into a young student's sense of wonder with the natural world."

Sooke school board chair Wendy Hobbs -  
"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and our youngest learners and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* For almost fifty years there have been forest preschools in Northern Europe. Now, these kindergartens are also found in Australia, the UK, New Zealand and Ontario.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Vancouver Island North schools benefit from innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:52:26 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

2011EDUC0052-000643

June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Vancouver Island North schools benefit from innovation grant

PORT HARDY - The Vancouver Island North school district is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the districts selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The Collaboration Without Boundaries project will compile a team of educators from across the district. Each educator is developing a unique approach to help increase the role of families in the education of their children. Family participation will be encouraged through a log of comments, both digital and verbal, as well as hits to online projects.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Minister of Education George Abbott -

"This pilot project will encourage and support a greater participation from families in the education system and welcome them as vital partners in the process."

Vancouver Island North school board chair Leighton Wishart -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and families and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Funding will be divided among 4 different sites; Port Hardy Secondary and Eagle View Elementary in Port Hardy, AJ Elliott in Sointula and Alert Bay Elementary school.

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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Ministry of Education  
250 356-5963

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**From:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Hawryluk, Kerri GCPE:EX](#);  
**Subject:** NR: Zeballos Elementary Secondary school gets innovation grant  
**Date:** June 3, 2011 6:53:51 AM

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011EDUC0055-000646  
June 2, 2011

Ministry of Education

Zeballos Elementary Secondary school gets innovation grant

ZEBALLOS - Zeballos Elementary Secondary school is receiving \$12,500 through the Growing Innovation Program as one of the schools selected for a research project on how to boost student engagement and improve achievement for rural learners.

The goal of this project is to incorporate Personal Learning into the school through a more student-centred program transforming student learning by focusing on purposeful, relevant, real-world experiences. Studies highlight the benefits of matching powerful teaching with the most needy students as a key strategy to reducing the achievement gap.

Last March, the Ministry of Education and the University of British Columbia (UBC), through the office of the Eleanor Rix Professorship for Rural Teacher Education, teamed up to launch Growing Innovation. The \$300,000 provincewide program provides grants to the districts selected so they can bring their innovative ideas to life and enhance rural learning.

UBC graduate students will offer support and provide resources that may help districts and schools assess the effectiveness of their projects allowing schools throughout the province to learn from one another.

Quotes:

Minister of Education George Abbott -

"This project will allow teachers and students to experiment with Personalized Learning, an exciting approach that puts the students first by building their studies around subject matter that excites them."

Vancouver Island West school board chair Jessie Smith -

"We are very proud of the work being done here in the district in support of rural schools and our students and we look forward to sharing our findings with educators across the province."

Quick Facts:

\* Sixty-one grant submissions for Growing Innovation funding were received from 36 rural districts. Seventeen were selected with a focus on their impact on students in rural communities, innovation, and potential for research.

\* The research agreement between the Ministry of Education and UBC will see UBC graduate students guide and document research in the districts this fall. In May 2012, schools, districts and researchers will share information at a symposium at UBC.

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