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NEWS RELEASE
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Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation

Fort St. John student wins Year of Science scholarship

VANCOUVER - Jacquie Gulevich, a Grade 11 student from North Peace Secondary in Fort St. John, won a \$25,000 scholarship today as the grand prize winner of the Year of Science "Choose Science, Go Far, Win Big" contest.

Dr. Moira Stilwell, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, Research and Innovation, made the presentation to 17-year-old Gulevich, who was elated with the win. Gulevich is undecided about which B.C. university to attend, but plans to use the money to study health sciences and eventually medicine.

Contest judges evaluated 85 YouTube video entries. Six semi-finalists were chosen and awarded a \$250 science-themed prize package. Gulevich won the competition with a video submission that asked this question, "Can naturally occurring blue-green lake algae be turned into green gold in the form of biofuel?"

Entries were judged based on enthusiasm, originality of idea and ability to carry out the idea as an experiment or put a 'mythbusters' type of question to the test.

The Year of Science is holding its Grand Finale today at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Quotes:

Dr. Moira Stilwell, Parliamentary Secretary for Industry, Research and Innovation -

"I am delighted to award this prize to such a gifted student, and pleased that so many young people took the time to investigate some very imaginative science questions. British Columbia needs bright young minds

like these to direct their passion and curiosity towards science-related activities and careers."

Pat Pimm, MLA for Peace River North -

"I want to congratulate Jacquie on a job well done on submitting such a thought-provoking and imaginative question. I'm sure a successful career in science awaits all the applicants who took the time to participate in this contest."

Dr. Sandy Eix, science learning lead, community engagement, Science World -

"One of the best things we can do to develop young scientists is to encourage them to ask questions about the world around them and to take those questions seriously. It was great to see curiosity about such a wide variety of topics, from the strength of hair to global environmental concerns."

Quick Facts about the Year of Science:

* Last fall, the Province proclaimed the 2010-11 school year the Year of Science in B.C. to raise awareness among B.C. families, particularly young people, about the many exciting, and rewarding careers in science-related fields.

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

* With its partners - Science World, Vancouver Aquarium and the Science Fair Foundation - the Year of Science took science on the road to communities throughout B.C.

View the winning entries under "Results" on the Year of Science YouTube page:

www.youtube.com/yearofsciencebc

For more information on the Year of Science, go to:

www.yearofsciencebc.ca

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