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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Science Fair Students Awarded 31 Medals and \$137,700 at National Canada-Wide Science Fair**

**VANCOUVER, BC** – Seventy-four students across British Columbia and the Yukon won a total of 64 awards at this year's Canada-Wide Science Fair held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from May 9-17, 2009. Participating in a variety of categories from earth and environmental sciences to engineering and automotive, the students brought back **5 gold, 11 silver, 15 bronze, 15 honorable mentions, 13 special awards, and 65 scholarships for a total of \$137,700** in scholarships, awards and prize money.

The Science Fair Foundation of BC is celebrating a record growth in the number of student participants in its Science Fair Program due to the Foundation's partnership with the BC Innovation Council (BCIC). Compared to last year, there was a one-third general increase in science fair activity resulting from the expansion of science fairs throughout all regions of BC. More than 10,000 students are reached overall.

BCIC also awards scholarships in each of the 14 science fair regions in BC. "Congratulations to the BC and Yukon champions who are paving the way for our future knowledge economy", said Dean Rockwell, CEO of BC Innovation Council. "BCIC is committed to creating future science and technology entrepreneurs for the province by inspiring their curiosity and imagination through initiatives such as science fairs."

Winners from the Canada-Wide Science Fair competition include:

**Steven Zhu's project**, *Fabulous Fiddleheads* from the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

- Involved researching the marketability of the fiddlehead as a commonly-consumed vegetable.

**David Lister's project**, *Electricity from the Waste Heat of an Engine* from the Yukon/Stikine Regional Science Fair

- Examined whether the waste heat of a small engine can be used to create a useable electricity using Peltier modules and if this method could be applied to vehicles to replace alternators.

**Perri Tutelman's project**, *Cancer-Killing Combinations* from the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair

- Introduced a novel treatment to breast cancer by combining medicinal herbs with standard treatments.

**Chadi Saad-Roy's project**, *Le Neodyme: utile dans le transport?* from the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair

- Investigated the effects of friction and space between magnets.

**Chris Schoepp's project**, *You Can't Hear That?* from the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair

- Studied how age affects the ability of people to hear high frequency sounds.

"Being able to participate in Science Fairs has definitely been a highlight of my school year. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and learn from the science and technology community and my fellow

peers”, said Claire Longcroft, Collingwood School. “This has been a positive learning experience and Science Fairs have taught me to strive for excellence wherever my life takes me.”

“British Columbians can support students to actively pursue science and technology as a future career by participating in the **PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run** on Sunday, May 31, 2009”, said Patti Leigh, Executive Director of the Science Fair Foundation of BC. The Fun Run is the largest timed 5K race in BC and is one of the technology industry’s largest fundraising events. All proceeds go to The Dr. Michael Smith Endowment Fund to support the promotion and development of Science Fair Programs throughout BC. For more info, visit: <http://sciencefairs.ca/funrun/>.



**British Columbia team at the 2009 Canada-Wide Science Fair in Winnipeg, Manitoba**

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**About the Science Fair Foundation of BC**

The Science Fair Foundation supports science education through The Science Fair Program to foster curiosity and build for the future. The Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia (SFF BC) is a non-profit charitable organization incorporated in February 1998 to support and promote science fair activity in British Columbia. The Foundation is committed to ensuring ongoing financial support in order to build a stronger and more visible Science Fair Program throughout the province. To learn more about the Foundation, please visit [www.sciencefairs.ca](http://www.sciencefairs.ca).

**About the BC Innovation Council**

The British Columbia Innovation Council (BCIC) is the lead organization charged with advancing the commercialization of innovation in British Columbia. BCIC is focused on accelerating the growth of our science and technology communities and competitively positioning British Columbia in the global science and technology economy in order to provide significant employment opportunities and a high standard of living for British Columbians. BCIC is a Crown agency of the Province of British Columbia. For more information about BCIC, visit [www.bcic.ca](http://www.bcic.ca).