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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BC STUDENTS AWARDED 22 MEDALS AND \$165,975 AT CANADA-WIDE SCIENCE FAIR

Vancouver, BC, May 20, 2008 – Seventy-one students from across British Columbia and the Yukon won a total of 46 awards at this year's Canada-Wide Science Fair held in Ottawa, Ontario, from May 10 to 18, 2008. Participating in a variety of categories from automotive to biotechnology and pharmaceutical sciences to computing and information technology, the students brought back five gold, five silver, 12 bronze, 24 honourable mentions, 17 special awards, and \$165,975 in scholarships, awards and total prize money.

Winners from the Canada-Wide Science Fair competition include:

Evan Woo and Tony Xiao's project, *Your life or your car? AirCrumble lets you have both* from the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair received a Gold Medal, a Silver Medal, three Special Awards and seven university scholarships.

Nicholas Randall's project, *Fungi MB*, from the Central Okanagan Regional Science Fair received a Gold Medal and a university scholarship.

Alice Jourmel's project, *Dynamic Testing of Strength and Vibration Properties of Hardwoods* from the Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair received a Gold Medal, two Special Awards and four University Scholarships.

Sarah Dalziel's project, *The Woad to a Sustainable Blue Colourant, Phase Two* from the West Kootenay and Boundary Regional Science Fair received a Silver Medal, a Bronze Medal and a university scholarship.

Grace Wang's project, *Sour Soil: The Resiliency of Nitrogen Fixation Capabilities of Rhizobia* of the South Fraser Regional Science Fair received a Bronze Medal, a Special Award and two university scholarships.

Casey Banner's project, *Neural Networks: Image Recognition 2* from the Pacific Northwest Regional Science Fair received a Bronze Medal and two university scholarships.

Ashley Anderson's project, *Predicting Penalty Minutes* from the Central Interior Regional Science Fair received a Bronze Medal and a university scholarship.

David Lister's project, *Electricity from Snow* from the Yukon/Stikine Regional Science Fair received Honourable Mention and a Special Award.

Christina Noel's project, *Busting a Bridge: Only the Strongest Will Survive* from the Cariboo/Mainland Regional Science Fair received an Honourable Mention Award.

Brenna Schild's project, *The Curing Clove!* from Northern BC Regional Science Fair received an Honourable Mention.

"Participating in Science Fairs has been a great learning experience for me, both academically and socially. I get to take ideas and concepts from class and apply them in ways I wouldn't be able to in school," said Mark Stothers, Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary School. "Doing this has opened so many doors for me and it wouldn't be possible without the support we get from community events like the PMC-Sierra Fun Run and Science Fair Foundation BC."

You can help support students develop an interest in science and technology as a future career by participating in the PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run on Sunday, May 25, 2008 at 9:00am. The run starts at the TELUS World of Science and winds around beautiful False Creek. All proceeds from the Run go to The Dr. Michael Smith Endowment Fund to support the promotion and development of Science Fair Programs throughout the province. For more information on the run, go to:

<http://sciencefairs.ca/funrun/>.

About the Science Fair Foundation^{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 our web site at: www.sciencefairs.ca.