



Science Fair  
Foundation<sup>BC</sup>

1455 Quebec Street      Tel: [604] 443-7557  
Vancouver, BC              Fax: [604] 443-7430  
Canada V6A 3Z7            E-mail: [scifair@scienceworld.ca](mailto:scifair@scienceworld.ca)

**Science Fair Foundation  
of British Columbia**

Founding Patron  
Dr. Michael Smith (1932 – 2000)  
Nobel Laureate

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**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

Contact: Patti Leigh

(604) 443-7557

[pleigh@sciencefairfoundationbc.ca](mailto:pleigh@sciencefairfoundationbc.ca)

### **Team Canada-ISEF 2007 Announced**

Two British Columbia students join the team of sixteen of Canada's brightest high school scientists that have been selected by Youth Science Foundation (YSF) Canada to represent Canada at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF) May 13 – 19 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Intel ISEF is the world's largest science fair.

Thomas Sun & Robyn Thom attend Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School in Vancouver. Their project is entitled *Diblock Copolymers and Epoxidized Carthamus tinctorius Oil as Novel Polyvinyl Chloride Plasticizers*. PVC (Polyvinyl chloride) is among the top three most widely used plastics globally, yet its plasticizer is a known toxin and carcinogen. Thomas and Robyn have attempted to replace the commercial plasticizer with a safe and biodegradable alternative. They did this by chemically altering a vegetable oil and eventually found that their product was actually of higher performance than that of the original.

Team Canada was selected by a distinguished panel of 16 university faculty, industry researchers, educators and team Canada alumni through a competitive national selection process that began in December and concluded today as part of Youth Science Month.

'Through scientific research, Science Fair participants are able to gain important life and job skills which help reveal where new career opportunities exist' said Patti Leigh, Executive Director, Science Fair Foundation of BC. 'Science fairs allow students to stretch their imaginations and intellect, and they also provide a chance for young scientists to network with their peers and with potential mentors.'

British Columbia regional science fairs are supported by the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia, a non-profit organization whose vision is to sustain and enhance the science culture of the youth of British Columbia.