



Science Fair
Foundation^{BC}



Fostering
curiosity

Building
the future



Who We Are

Partners in Knowledge

The Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia (SFF^{BC}) is a non-profit society committed to the promotion and development of Science Fair Programs in the province. Founded in 1998, our mandate is to ensure ongoing financial support for these programs by offering partnership opportunities to organizations who understand the value of fostering an interest in science and technology among the youth of British Columbia.

Ensuring a Legacy for the Future

Science Fairs provide students the opportunity to experience the thrill and challenge of scientific research. They also help young people to develop important skills. Critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and personal management are essential in order to thrive in today's society.

Corporate and Community Partners

In order to build on past success, the SFF^{BC} is seeking support from B.C.'s science, technology and business communities. We offer companies and organizations an opportunity to establish partnerships with science education and the academic community, while helping to encourage students to pursue their interests in science and technology. And when our young people thrive, our businesses and communities thrive.

The Dr. Michael Smith Science Fair Endowment

An ardent supporter of the Science Fair Program, Nobel Laureate and honorary patron Dr. Michael Smith has endorsed the establishment of an endowment in his name to assist the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia in securing stable funding well into the future.



"Science now plays an increasingly important role in society. To really understand science, you must do and experience it. Science Fairs are important, not only in developing the careers of young scientists, but also in developing a society that is truly literate in science."

Dr. Michael
Smith,
Nobel Laureate,
University of
British Columbia,
Vancouver, B.C.



What We Do

Stimulating Knowledge, Encouraging Success

Science Fairs provide an exciting, extra-curricular environment in which students from grades four to twelve explore their interest in science and technology. By encouraging leadership and community involvement, Science Fairs help young people to develop the attitudes and abilities needed to become leaders in the knowledge-based economy. Science Fair winners are regularly recruited by top university science faculties. Half of all Science Fair participants are young women, and many choose careers in science.

Valuing Ideas

Participation in Science Fairs is a challenging and rewarding experience. Students work on long-term projects of personal interest, and then present them within a set time frame to their peers and professionals. They learn to communicate their ideas effectively and to interact on a professional level with participants, judges and the public. Most importantly, young people learn that their ideas and efforts matter.

Recognizing Achievement

All students are recognized for their participation in Science Fairs. Outstanding achievement is recognized by the SFF^{BC} Provincial Awards Program, The Science Council of B.C.'s annual awards dinner, and advancement to national and international competitions. In 1999, sixty-six students were selected to represent British Columbia at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, where they captured 52 awards. The Provincial Awards Program is supported by over 19 individual organizations, and recognition at the Science Council of British Columbia's annual awards dinner includes considerable media coverage.

"As we move into the twenty-first century, science is becoming an icon of this information-and-technology age. In order to prepare the students of today for jobs tomorrow, they need to be science literate."

Sophie Weirich,
a former student of
Yale Secondary,
Abbotsford, B.C.,
and recipient of a
\$125,000
scholarship at
Harvard University



Fostering exploration in science
and technology among the young people
of British Columbia

Regional Models

British Columbia's Science Fair Program was established in 1984 with three regional fairs. Now, sixteen years later, it has become one of the most successful science fair programs in Canada, with thirteen regions—and over 60,000 students from 800 schools—participating annually. Focusing on regional rather than provincial fairs ensures involvement from each community and allows more students to participate at the national level.

Community Involvement

B.C.'s Science Fair Program owes a large measure of its success to the dedication of our volunteers. More than 1,000 educators, professional scientists, engineers, technologists, and corporate individuals volunteer as judges, mentors and role models for B.C. students. In turn, student exhibits and recognition promote pride in local endeavors, and this helps to increase public awareness of science and technology.

B.C. Program a Model for Canada

All regional fairs in the province have a volunteer committee that organizes the events. The SFF^{BC} works with each region to provide guidance on program structure, organization, communication, and promotion, in order to ensure a high-quality standard of events. This co-ordination across the provincial network has resulted in an extremely efficient use of human and financial resources. As a result, our program has become a model for Canada that is being adopted by other provinces.

"My small town is not the hub of scientific activity ... but students anywhere can develop a keen interest in science. In real science not all roads lead to foreseeable destinations. Science Fair project development helps students learn to refine data and to use knowledge meaningfully. Completion of a project brings a great deal of satisfaction as well as visions for future careers. Science and technology are our future!"

Johan Foster,
a grade 12 student
from McBride, B.C.,
speaking at the 1996
B.C. Science and
Technology Awards
Dinner



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What We Plan to Do

The SFF^{BC} is seeking corporate and community partners in order to:

- Ensure that all eligible students are able to attend the national competition
- Finance new and expanded programs
- Establish core funding for existing programs
- Increase community awareness of, and support for, the SFF^{BC} and B.C.'s Science Fair Programs
- Build the Dr. Michael Smith Science Fair Endowment fund

How You Can Help

Cash donations to the SFF^{BC}, a registered non-profit society, generate tax credits which can be applied against a maximum of 75 percent of net income and can be carried forward for up to five years.

Benefits of Partnership

Partner recognition is commensurate with the level of support and includes corporate identification on promotional material, use of Foundation and Science Fair material in corporate publications, and membership in the Corporate Advisory Council. Sponsorship recognition spans two calendar years, from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Partners have the option of supporting the SFFBC's operating budget, student travel to Canada-Wide Science Fairs, the awards program, or the endowment fund.

Donor Levels:

Platinum	\$10,000 and over
Gold	\$5,000 to \$10,000
Silver	\$2,500 to \$ 5,000
Bronze	\$1,000 to \$ 2,500

By supporting B.C.'s Science Fairs, you have the opportunity to build partnerships with science education and to create a significant and positive impact within the community. An investment in our young people ensures that we have the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global arena. It is an investment in the future of our province.

"Science and technology represent the future in terms of economic growth and career opportunities. Science Fairs provide students with an opportunity to explore, develop and demonstrate their skills in this field while helping to prepare them for careers in science."

Vic Tyson
Senior Manager
Knowledge-Based
Industry
Royal Bank of
Canada



Who to Contact

For further information on the benefits of partnership and on methods of contributing to the Science Fair Foundation of British Columbia, please contact:

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Our Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the following partners for their generous support.

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 **ROYAL BANK**

Gold

BCAA 

Silver



Government, Agencies and Non-government Organizations


BRITISH COLUMBIA
Information, Science and Technology Agency




**Science Council
of British Columbia**

"Where else can a young person talk one-on-one with university professors and professional scientists, develop teaching and public-communication skills, make lifelong friends, and (in my case) combine the topics of astrophysics, thunderstorms, lie detectors, and white rats? Even after 25 years, I retain vivid memories of my Science Fair experiences. My desire to become an astrophysicist was launched by the pioneering space exploration of the 60s, but my career prospects were truly put into a stable orbit by the Science Fair experience."

Dr. Jaymie Matthews,
UBC Astronomy Professor, mission scientist for the MOST project to launch Canada's first space telescope, and Science Fair participant, 1972-1975

