

New award for young innovators debuting at 2017 Canada Wide Science Fair

FOR RELEASE (March 1, 2017) -- Bright young stars in science who are competing at Canada's national science fair this May in Regina, got a major boost of support and funding today from The Gwyn Morgan & Patricia Trottier Foundation.

The Foundation is introducing its *Youth Can Innovate* awards, 20 special awards for 16 students valued at \$41,000. In addition to 20 cash awards, 8 senior recipients of *Youth Can Innovate* awards will be included in a social media awareness campaign and an outreach initiative to hometown news outlets.

"One of the key goals of our Foundation is to encourage and support Canadian students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, commonly known as STEM," said Gwyn Morgan in announcing the awards.

"We believe championing Canada's young innovators encourages them and provides them with financial support as future builders of Canada," said Patricia Trottier.

The *Youth Can Innovate* awards adopt and enhance the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation Young Canadian program. The program began in 1992 and ended in 2016.

Reni Barlow, Youth Science Canada managing director welcomed the *Youth Can Innovate* awards. "We're thrilled to welcome this new partnership recognizing outstanding STEM innovations by Canadian youth. Every teen in this country needs to know that their ideas and solutions can make a difference, so we're looking for, and rewarding great projects," he said.

The *Youth Can Innovate* awards are offered to students selected to compete at the 2017 Canada Wide Science Fair. Students can self nominate their projects when they register on the Canada Wide Science Fair website: <http://cwsf.youthscience.ca>. More information about *Youth Can Innovate* can be found at youthcaninnovate.ca and [Facebook/YouthCanInnovate](https://www.facebook.com/YouthCanInnovate).

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About Youth Science Canada: Established in 1962, Youth Science Canada engages Canadian youth in developing inquiry and critical thinking skills through science. It is Canada's leading organization in the promotion of innovation and the celebration of excellence in youth science and technology. With over 500,000 kids doing STEM projects every year – about the same number of Canadian youth as are registered in minor hockey – the programs represent the largest extra-curricular youth STEM program in the country.
<http://youthscience.ca>

About the Canada-Wide Science Fair: A week-long, national event held every May since 1962, the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF) brings together 500 top grade 7-12/Cégep students with 400 projects from every province and territory to compete for medals, cash prizes, scholarships and exclusive science opportunities. CWSF finalists are selected from approximately 25,000 young Canadians who present projects at over 100 regional science fairs across the country. This year's Fair is in Regina, at the University of Regina, May 15 to 20. <http://cwsf.youthscience.ca>

About The Gwyn Morgan & Patricia Trottier Foundation: The Gwyn Morgan & Patricia Trottier Foundation is a private family foundation based in Calgary, Alberta. Established in 2005, it focusses on education, wellness initiatives and leadership development. In education, the foundation gives priority to initiatives that encourage and support students pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) careers. The Foundation's STEM support currently includes the recently established *Youth Can Innovate* awards, 20 awards which are given annually to 16 innovative projects at the Canada-Wide Science Fair; and, the Gwyn Morgan **Be An Engineer** bursaries awarded annually at 15 Canadian universities and the Gwyn Morgan Centennial Bursary.

Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trottier rose from modest roots in rural Alberta and learned at an early age the value of education. Mr. Morgan CM, devoted three decades to building Canada's largest energy company and was recognized as Canada's Outstanding CEO and Most Respected CEO. He also served on the board of five global corporations. During her career, Ms. Trottier was a well-known investor relations specialist. She served on publicly-traded and not for profit boards and led national and community non-profit initiatives.