

October 6, 2005

## **Week celebrates a century of science and technology accomplishments**

### **Family activities and events happening across Alberta, October 7 - 16**

Calgary... Alberta students are encouraged to imagine their future as Science and Technology Week 2005 kicks off across the province.

Sci Tech Week, October 7-16, will feature a host of activities and events to inspire Alberta's future innovators and bring science to life for Albertans of all ages. This year's theme, *Imagine Your Future*, honours Alberta's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

"Science and technology are all around us," said Victor Doerksen, Minister of Innovation and Science, during the Sci Tech Week kick-off at the University of Calgary. "Celebrating this special week is a great way to make young people aware of how science and technology impact our world and how they can have a role in creating the innovations that will shape our future."

"This is a great opportunity for students to experience the possibility of an exciting, vibrant career in science. Having the students on campus, doing hands-on scientific experiments may be the beginning of their journey in an innovative, life-long career in the sciences," said Dr. Harvey Weingarten, President, University of Calgary.

At the kick-off, Doerksen unveiled the Sci Tech Week website at [www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca](http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca) and the 2006 *Imagine Your Future* calendar showing how Alberta youth are discovering science and technology. The website includes a 100-year timeline of innovation in Alberta, as well as a link to videos and stories about a century of innovation at [www.innovation2005.ca](http://www.innovation2005.ca).

The 2006 *Imagine Your Future* calendar features 12 science education programs, from Science Alberta Foundation's Chemistry and the Chocolate Factory, to the University of Calgary's Minds in Motion All-Girls Science Camp, to the Treaty 7 Science Fair. Albertans can order free copies of the calendar online while quantities last. Last year 10,000 online orders were received within the first six days!

Community events celebrating science and technology will take place across the province throughout October. From the Grande Prairie Regional Festival of Science to the Praxis Family Science Olympics in Medicine Hat, families can participate in science education and awareness events and have fun while they learn. To find out more, visit the online calendar of events.

To learn about world-class science achievements by Albertans, watch *Alberta Innovation 2005* on Global Television, Saturday, October 15 at 7 p.m. This documentary showcases the nominees for the Alberta Science and Technology (ASTech) Awards and is developed by Global TV in cooperation with Alberta Innovation and Science and Western Economic Diversification Canada. Similar documentaries produced from 2001 to 2004 are available online.

Science and Technology Week 2005 is supported by the following sponsors and partners: **Titanium -**

Alberta Ingenuity Fund, Alberta Science and Research Authority, Global Television, iCORE, Pfizer Canada Inc; **Gold** - Syncrude, SMART Technologies Inc, Calgary Herald, Edmonton Journal; **Silver** - Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, Petro-Canada, Sharp's Audio Visual Ltd., Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary; **Bronze** - APEGGA, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge; **Partners** - PRAXIS, and Science Alberta Foundation.

Visit [www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca](http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca) for events, activities or to view the 2001 to 2004 documentaries.

- 30 -

### **Media enquiries may be directed to:**

Anne Marie Resta  
Public Affairs Officer  
Alberta Innovation and Science  
Cell: (780) 718-6578  
[AnneMarie.Resta@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AnneMarie.Resta@gov.ab.ca)

Grady Semmens  
Media Relations Advisor  
University of Calgary  
Ph: (403) 220-7722  
Cell: (403) 651-2515  
[gsemmens@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gsemmens@ucalgary.ca)

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Attachment:

## **Backgrounder**

---

### **Science and Technology Week 2005**

#### **What is Science and Technology Week?**

Science and Technology Week celebrates the achievements of Alberta's science and technology communities, and promotes their contributions to Albertans' quality of life. Individuals and organizations across the province hold science and technology-related activities throughout the week. Alberta Innovation and Science is a proud supporter of Science and Technology Week.

#### **What is Alberta Innovation and Science?**

Alberta Innovation and Science brings together all research and technology activities and initiatives within the Alberta government under one organizational structure. Under the leadership of the Minister Victor Doerksen, the ministry includes some of the province's leading science and research agencies and organizations, including the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the Alberta Ingenuity Fund, the Alberta Science and Research Authority, the Alberta Research Council, iCORE Inc. (Informatics Circle Research Excellence Board), the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute, the Alberta Energy Research Institute, and the Alberta Forestry Research Institute. These organizations work collectively to ensure Alberta innovation and its scientific community stay strong and continue to grow.

#### **How can I get involved in Science and Technology Week?**

Activities are happening around the province and you are invited to join in the fun. Learn more about the important role that science and technology play in your daily life. Explore a career in science and technology, plan an event, conduct an experiment, surf the web - your imagination is your only limitation!

A list of events is available online at [www.scitechweek.ab.ca](http://www.scitechweek.ab.ca).

## **What contests are available to Alberta school children during the 2005 campaign?**

Details and entry forms for each of the following contests are available at [www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca](http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca):

- **Mascot Design Contest for Elementary School Students**  
(runs until February 28, 2006)

Elementary school students are being encouraged to think about science and technology, and about the important role they play in their lives, then to design a mascot for the Science and Technology Week campaign in 2006, and send it to Alberta Innovation and Science. The winning entry will win a LEGO™ MindStorms Robotics Invention System Set worth \$300! With this LEGO kit, you can design and program real robots!

- **Essay Challenge for Junior High School Students**  
(runs until May 31, 2006)

Junior high school classes are being challenged to view the

*Alberta Innovation* video series online at [www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca](http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca), then write an essay about their favourite Alberta innovator and image how their innovation could be expanded to improve the lives of Albertans and people all over the world. The winning entry will receive a prize worth over \$3,000 for their classroom ... a SMARTBoard interactive whiteboard donated by SMART Technologies, and projector donated by Sharp's Audio-Visual!

- **Sci Tech Week Scavenger Hunt**  
(runs until October 28, 2005)

The ever-popular online scavenger hunt is back. Tour the Sci Tech Week website, learn about science and technology in Alberta, and enter to win great prizes donated by the

*Edmonton Journal* and *Calgary Herald*.

- **Research Quiz**  
(runs until December 31, 2005)

Learn more about Alberta's world-class medical researchers through the online quiz hosted by the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research ... with the chance to win great prizes from the Foundation.

- **What is the *Imagine Your Future* calendar?**

This is the fourth year that Alberta Innovation and Science is distributing a calendar to schools, science promotion organizations and Albertans across the province as part of Science and Technology Week celebrations.

The 2006 *Imagine Your Future* calendar features outstanding science awareness programs across the province. From Fort Macleod to Fort McMurray, these programs have a common message: it doesn't matter who you are or where you live...you can get involved in science and have fun!

Past calendars have profiled Alberta researchers along with young scientists of tomorrow (2005), students who are excelling in their pursuit of scientific fields of study (2004), and Albertans who are excelling in their science-related careers (2003).

The national and international demand for the calendar grows each year. Requests for the 2005 calendar were received from throughout Canada, all the American states, and 44 other countries.

### • **What events are taking place in Alberta during Science and Technology Week?**

For more information on these and other events, visit the online calendar of events at [www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca](http://www.scitechweek.gov.ab.ca), which is regularly updated as more information becomes available:

#### • **October 6:**

The official launch of Science and Technology Week at the University of Calgary will celebrate scientific innovation in the province with the launch of a new website for kids and a 2006 calendar featuring young Albertans enjoying great science awareness programs.

#### • **October 7-9:**

The *Alberta Science Fair Showcase* will celebrate Team Alberta's young scientists who represented Alberta at the 2005 Canada Wide Science Fair in Vancouver by exhibiting their award-winning science fair projects at the TELUS World of Science Edmonton.

#### • **October 8**

: The Edmonton Science Outreach Network is hosting *Flash, Bang, Boom: The World of Chemistry* at the Grant Macewan CN Theatre.

#### • **October 11-13:**

*Netera Days 2005* in Calgary and Edmonton, with videoconference links in Lethbridge and Banff, is celebrating research in the province. Multi-disciplinary sessions on the theme "Exploring New Tools for Research" will cover a wide variety of topics.

#### • **October 13**

: Come to the *Grande Prairie Regional Festival of Science Opening Ceremonies* and listen to Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman in space, as she talks about her exciting journey on the space shuttle.

#### • **October 13 - 15:**

The Festival of Science in Grande Prairie will put on a *Carniville of Wonders*. Have fun exploring this bright and bold exhibition. The festival will also be *Plugging In* and exploring the potential of alternative energy. Explore the different energy resources available through hands-on activity centres.

#### • **October 14**

: The Festival of Science in Grande Prairie will be hosting *Science in the Movies*. A local scientist will share fun facts about science and magic before and after a showing of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

#### • **October 15:**

APEGGA will host their annual *Rock & Fossil Clinic* in Edmonton and Canmore. Professional geologists and university geology students will be on hand to identify rocks and fossils brought in by the public.

• **October 15:**

Ever wondered if that special rock or fossil you have is an extinct species, an exotic rock or mineral ... or even a dinosaur bone? Bring your mystery rocks and fossils to the *Fall Rock 'N' Fossil Show* at the Thorn Hill Public Library in Calgary and find out!

• **October 15**

: Enjoy a *Family Fun Day* in Grande Prairie including local company exhibits and the launch of Science Alberta Foundation's *Camp ISS: Life Onboard the International Space Station*.

• **October 22:**

The University of Calgary is holding its *14<sup>th</sup> Annual Chemistry Show*. Free demonstrations and hands-on activities for people of all ages.

• **October 22:**

The Praxis Science and Technology Hotline is hosting the *Praxis Family Science Olympics* in Medicine Hat. Flex your brain power and participate in 10 science and technology events.

•

-

30-

For more information contact: Anne Marie Resta, Alberta Innovation and Science

Ph: (780) 427-4498 Cell: (780) 718-6578

---

Alberta Government Home | Ministries Listing | Innovation and Science Home Page | News Releases [Top of Page](#)

---

Send us your comments or questions

Copyright(c); 2005 Government of Alberta

Return to Government Home Page

Return to [Government Home Page](#)