

For Immediate Release

Superhero Winners in celebration for saving Climate

Vancouver, June 6th, 2008—Celebrations rewarding local Energy Superheroes have started this week, acknowledging students who most effectively carried out actions in their homes and changed their family lifestyles to reduce energy consumption. Over 8,800 Grade 5 and 6 students in the Lower Mainland spent this school year participating in this innovative contest to take action against global warming.

The Climate Change Showdown, an educational and outreach program created by the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), delivered over 550 free workshops in elementary school classrooms across the province, reaching over 14,000 households, and stimulating greenhouse gas reductions of over 7,500 tonnes. “We found a successful way to influence household behaviour and reduce carbon emissions; after our workshop the school children took the challenge home, worked with their parents for four weeks to reduce their emissions, and won prizes for becoming Superheroes,” reported Climate Change Showdown project manager Estella Bastidas.

Our Superheroes who scored the maximum points in Coquitlam are: Theo Papadogambros and Jaclyn Chin at Mundy Road Elementary. In Richmond: Montana Martin at Hamilton and Steven Chen at DeBeck. In New Westminster: Elena Pryadkina at Richard McBride. In Vancouver: Karanveer Dhaliwal at Sir Sanford Fleming and Carlton Duong at McKechnie Elementary.

Bernadette Fegarido, winning student at Vancouver-based Mount Pleasant Elementary, wrote: “In December I was invited to participate in a Climate Change Contest. When I started I thought it would be really difficult because there were so many things to do and it had to be done in just four weeks. ... It was pretty hard to do all of those but I got used to it and suddenly I was finished! My dad signed my sheet and together we bought some of the things that we needed like the low-flow showerhead, the energy efficient light bulbs and the foods that we needed. We even got corn from Chilliwack and vegetables from Langley. ... My dad and I now try to do everything we can to keep our Climate safe.”

Mrs. Hayes’ French Immersion class at Henry Anderson Elementary in Richmond; scored the most combined points along with Ms. Olsen’s class at Scott Creek Middle School in Coquitlam, Mrs. Boulanger’s class at Seaforth Elementary in Burnaby and Ms Clements’ class at Champlain Heights in Vancouver.

The BCSEA offered the Climate Change Showdown workshops thanks to generous contributions from Environment Canada, Vancity, City of Vancouver, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, City of Coquitlam, City of Richmond, Science World, Sport Mart and local sponsors in Richmond: ASPAC Developments Ltd. and Neptune Technology Group Ltd.

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Authorized photos for publication available upon request.