



Fort St. John, B.C elementary school challenges all Canadian schools to compete in the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge

Ottawa, January 13, 2014 – While gas prices may be plunging many schools continue to face high energy costs, but one teacher in northern British Columbia is changing that. Christine Todd, Vice-Principal at Duncan Cran Elementary School in Fort St. John BC is helping her school to become a leader in school energy conservation in Canada, and is reaping the awards to prove it. For three years running this school of 276 students, of which 30% are of First Nations' ancestry, has won the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge's Top School Prize. Todd wants more schools to join Duncan Cran Elementary in the Challenge. "Our school is proof that any school, no matter where they're located, can become energy conservation ambassadors. Winning a national award three years running is a win on many levels: we've cut energy costs, we have won funding for our school but best of all is the pride on our students' faces and their can-do attitude," says Vice-Principal Todd.

The Classroom Energy Diet Challenge (CEDC) is a national school energy conservation program that teaches students how to reduce their carbon footprint and become stewards of their school environment. The program is divided into three streams with 40 prizes totalling \$40,000. Now in its fourth year, this popular program has won a national environmental award for its leadership. The CEDC is presented by Shell Canada and Canadian Geographic Education. For more information about the program, please visit our [Energy Diet](#) website, or on [Facebook](#) or send us a tweet [@Energy_Lit](#)

Word is getting out among Canada's teaching community about this national competition. Last year thousands of students participated in the CEDC and over 600 teachers have already signed up to compete this year. While the prizes are great, it's the student's burgeoning environmental awareness that's impressive. Last year's participating schools reduced their power consumption by 1,036 hours, or just over 43 days; seventy-three classrooms saved a total of 2,091.94 kg of trash from entering a landfill and fifty-eight new gardens were flourishing last year at schools across the country. "This program has produced so many positive results for our students, school and community," says Christine Todd. "I encourage all schools to register and reap the benefits."

"Energy literacy is becoming increasingly important for all Canadians," says John Geiger, CEO of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). "Giving students the opportunity to learn about how to reduce their energy consumption through the Classroom Energy Diet Challenge, is a win for the environment, for the schools and most important, for our students." The RCGS and CG Education, the Society's educational committee, are dedicated to imparting a broader knowledge and deeper appreciation of Canada to Canadians.

Schools need to act quickly. The Classroom Energy Diet Challenge deadline for registration is **January 18, 2014**.

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