

## Another Calgarian Wins Canadian Geographic (Can Geo) Challenge

Ottawa, June 5, 2016 – For the second year in a row a Calgarian has won the Canadian Geographic Challenge. After two hours of intense questioning about every aspect of geographical study, Jack Cheng, 15, is our new national geography student champion. “I’m glad I won,” said Cheng. “But this competition was also about meeting new friends, learning more about the world and visiting Ottawa, which is the first time for me.” The Western Canadian High School student will be bringing home more than just the pride of winning the national title, he also has a cheque for \$5,000. Jessica Cao of Thornhill, 15, is runner-up and won \$3,000. William Chapman, 13, of Stittsville, placed third in the competition and won \$2,000.

In front of an audience of over 150 people, the top five contenders had to answer 45 geography questions in a live game show format. A highlight was the video questions posed by famous Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) Fellows such as former PM Kim Campbell, and astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar.

While Jack Cheng emerged as the clear winner there was a nail-biter tie-breaking round between former Ontario champion Jessica Cao and William Chapman. Jessica was able to identify Lunenburg as the Canadian World Heritage site that is an example of an original British colonial town and the building site of the Bluenose, edging her to a second place finish. The two-day competition wasn’t all work and no fun. All 20 contestants had time to visit Parliament Hill, the Supreme Court of Canada, enjoy a leisurely bus tour of Canada’s capital city, and cap off their visit with a tour of Canadian War Museum.

“The Canadian Geographic Challenge brings students from coast to coast to coast to share an exhilarating experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.” says Beth Dye, Chair, Can Geo Challenge Committee, and Governor for The Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). “What’s encouraging to me is that the number of school involved in the Challenge keeps growing. We have more young Canadians learning more about Canada and our world’s geographic issues.” This year, over 20,000 students from 600 schools across Canada participated in the Challenge.

The live, face-to-face game show style competition was made possible by RCGS Honorary President Alex Trebek, through the Trebek Family Foundation. Google, provided support to refresh the quiz materials to ensure they dovetail with current trends in geography teaching. VIA Rail and Canadian North, the travel partners, brought students to Ottawa safely, and EF Tours provided the students with great gifts. The Canadian War Museum hosted the event in the Barney Danson Theatre.

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