

## THE 2016 EASTERN NEWFOUNDLAND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR

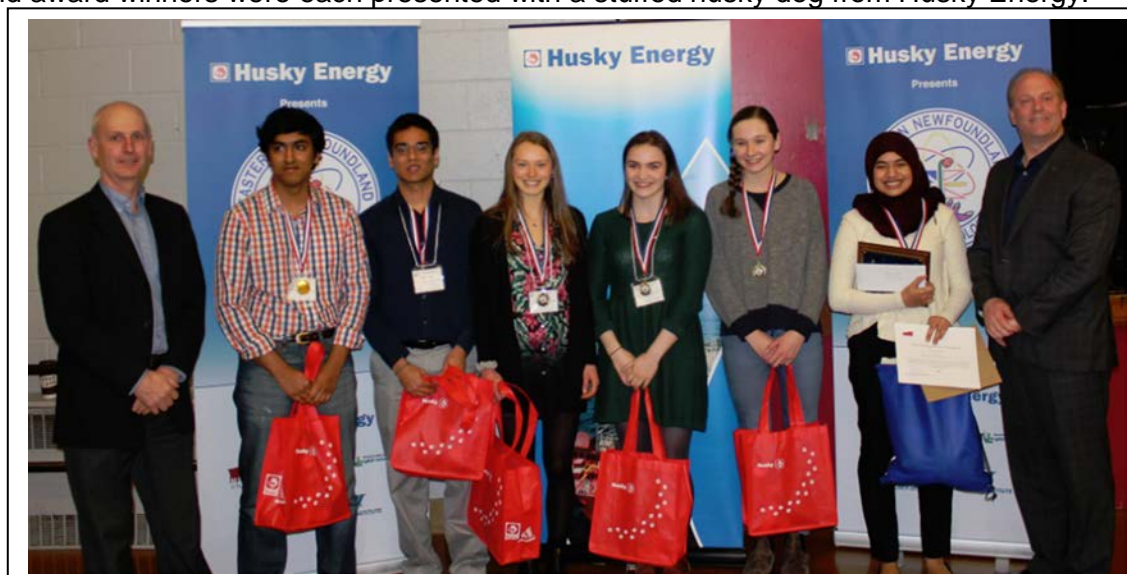


For the first time in its history the Eastern Newfoundland Science and Technology Fair was hosted by MacDonald Drive Junior High School. Husky Energy was again our title sponsor. The fair was held on Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23. On Friday morning students attended tours. Tours were offered from several departments and research facilities at Memorial University, College of the North Atlantic (CNA) St. John's campus, and the Ocean Sciences Marine Centre in Logy Bay. Tours were followed by judging in the afternoon. There were over 80 judges, many of whom are professors, instructors and graduate students at MUN. There were 186 students from 17 schools on the Avalon Peninsula, both junior and senior high, competing. These schools included Amalgamated Academy, Gonzaga, Holy Heart, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Lakecrest, MacDonald Drive, Mobile Central, Mount Pearl Intermediate, Mount Pearl Senior, St. Bonaventure's College, St. Kevin's Junior, St. Michael's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Villanova and Waterford Valley.

On Saturday, the public viewing and awards ceremony was attended by approximately 500 people. The emcees for the ceremony were Ms. Erin Baker, Co-Chair and Ms. Yvonne Dawe, past chair and current communications officer of the Eastern Newfoundland Science Fairs Council, the group of volunteers that organizes the fair each year. A number of representatives from the major sponsors of the fair also attended and assisted with the presentation of awards. These included Mr. Ken Dyer, Vice-President Operations, Atlantic Region, Husky Energy, Dr. Mark Abraham, Dean of Science, MUN, Dr. Jane Gamberg, Dean, School of Health Sciences, CNA; Mr. Todd Woodland, Science Program Specialist, NL Dept of Education and Mr. Jeff Thompson, Associate Director of Education, NL English School District.

One of the highlights of the awards ceremony was the awarding of the grand awards which includes the selection of the 6 students that would represent Eastern Newfoundland at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Montreal, PQ, in May. These included Nitish Bhatt from Gonzaga, as well as Dina Shehata, Caitlin Pratt, Nora Boone, Grace Clarke and Ameer Farrukh, all students of Holy Heart. In addition, Dina was awarded the "Best of Fair" for her project "Low Cost Phantom Model for Point of Care Ultrasound Training" as well as a scholarship from MUN's Faculty of Science which provides tuition for first year studies in the science faculty.

Of the 145 projects, over half were recognized with medals and awards. There were 16 honourable mentions and 72 medals presented (19 gold, 31 silver and 22 bronze). As well over 50 special awards from a number of MUN faculties and departments (Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Engineering, Medicine and Ocean Sciences) and other organizations (NAACAP, CMOS, IEEE, RAS, Conservation Corps, NL Institute of Agrologists, NL Lung Assoc, NL College for Medical Lab Sciences and Neety Panu) were presented with a total monetary value of over \$25 000.00. As well, the 6 grand award winners were each presented with a stuffed husky dog from Husky Energy.



Dr. Mark Abrahams, Dean Of Science, MUN, Ameer Farrukh, Nitish Bhatt, Nora Boone, Grace Clarke, Caitlin Pratt, Dina Shehata, Mr. Ken Dyer, VP Operations, Husky Energy

## THE 2016 CANADA WIDE SCIENCE FAIR



Congratulations to the 6 students who represented Eastern Newfoundland at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Montreal, PQ, in May. The team spent a week at McGill University in Montreal along with chaperones and ENSFC Co-chairs, Ms. Erin Baker and Ms. Natasha Janes.

The team (pictured above holding their Husky dogs): Nitish Bhatt, Ameer Farrukh, Dinah Shehata, Grace Clarke, Caitlin Pratt and Nora Boone. This is Nitish's third CWSF and Dina's second. The team came home with 1 silver medal (Ameer), and 3 bronze (Dina, Nitish and Caitlin). Nitish also received the physics prize valued at \$2000 and Caitlin won 1 of 3 Stockholm Water prizes. Caitlin subsequently won an essay competition, which entitles her to represent Canada at the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition in Sweden in August. It's the first time a student from NL has represented Canada at this international fair. It will be a busy summer for some of the other students as well. Nora Boone will spend 2 weeks with the "Students on Ice" Arctic enrichment program, while Dina will attend the 6 week STEM enrichment program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. These enrichment programs, each valued between \$13,000 and \$15,000, are supported by the NL Research and Development Corporation and are 2 of the 15 Research Inspired Student Enrichment (RISE) Awards presented this year. It's been quite a year for our 6 students especially Dina who not only won the Atlantic BioGenius Canada Competition in April but also the Commercialism award, a prize worth \$2000 at the National Biogenius competition in early May. This is the first time a student from Atlantic Canada has won a major award at the national level. The award is given to the project that is closest to being available commercially.

***On behalf of the Eastern Newfoundland Science Fairs Council and the 6 students who attended the 2016 Canada Wide Science Fair we extend a sincere thank you for the generous support of our major sponsors:***

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