

## Minister Duncan Provides Encouragement for CWSF Grand Award Winners

Wed, 2017-07-12 16:50 -- Alisha Bainbridge

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June 28, 2017 - The 2017 Canada-Wide Science Fair grand award winners were pleasantly surprised with a phone call from the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Canada's Minister of Science, Wednesday, June 28, a month after the fair. Minister Duncan, a proud supporter of Youth Science Canada and the Canada-Wide Science Fair (CWSF), is a fierce advocate for opportunities in STEM education and engagement for Canadian youth. She called to congratulate the Platinum award winners and voice her excitement for their passion and dedication to science.

Danish Mahmood, a grade eight student from Ontario and the Junior Platinum award winner at the 2017 CWSF said it was "a great honour" to get the call from Minister Duncan. "It was amazing to be recognized for my success by [Minister] Duncan" she is helping drive forward Canada's impact on science and technology" said Mahmood.

Danish said the Minister's call was very motivating and that he plans to continue to "pursue [his] passion for science technology and introduce [his] innovative ideas to the world". Danish's winning project at the 2017 Canada-Wide Science Fair was a Wireless Interconnected Non-Invasive Triage System or W.I.N.T.I.S. This low-cost system he developed will measure and communicate vital signs wirelessly, simplifying the process of monitoring triage patients. Danish says he "hopes to implement [his] innovation to help improve healthcare and emergency response". He is looking forward to pursuing a career in medicine in the future.

The three grand award winners: Danish, Colette Benko, Senior Platinum and Best-in-Fair award winner, and Crystal Radinski, Intermediate Platinum award winner, will be traveling to Tallin, Estonia in September, to represent Canada at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS). Minister Duncan offered words of encouragement to the Grand Award winners on their journey to this international science competition; "I hope you know what a big deal this is, representing Canada in EUCYS 2017".

Minister Duncan's conversation with the 2017 CWSF Grand Award winners reflects the active and engaged members of the Canadian Government who are dedicated to providing youth in our country with education and opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Minister Duncan, along with everyone at Youth Science Canada are very proud of these dedicated young scientists!

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