



NEWS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF CITY'S \$20,000 BETTER AIR SCHOOL CONTESTS A HIT WITH ABBOTSFORD STUDENTS

Abbotsford, B.C., January 27, 2006 – During the official launch of the City of Abbotsford's "Better Air" School contests, City and One-Tonne Challenge organizers scored a major hit with the enthusiastic students, teachers and principals of Prince Charles and Godson Elementary schools. City of Abbotsford and One-Tonne Challenge representatives made the first presentations to the two schools to help promote the contests, which are open to Abbotsford students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. They were even able to drive the City's official One-Tonne Challenge "smart car," owned by Keith Hebert, right inside Godson Elementary's gymnasium, where excited students were able to view the ultra-fuel-efficient vehicle first hand and learn about its trip across Canada last summer from Victoria, BC to Saint John's, Newfoundland while using just \$290 in fuel.

Contest organizers will be visiting schools throughout the community during the next few weeks to provide students and teachers with contest details and furnish them with information on how Abbotsford residents can register for the One-Tonne Challenge and take action on climate change.

In the school contest series, elementary school students will have the opportunity to enter a poster design contest showing ways that Canadians can use less energy and be more earth-friendly; middle school students can participate in a T-Shirt design contest showing different ways of reducing personal greenhouse gas emissions; and secondary school students can enter a banner design contest depicting energy-efficient ways of getting around in our community. The contests officially commenced on Friday, January 27, 2006, with final submissions to be received no later than Friday, March 3, 2006. Copies of entry forms, contest details and posters are available for download on the City of Abbotsford's website at www.abbotsford.ca by clicking on "Service Directory" then on "O" for "One-Tonne Challenge."

The contests have been organized to promote the goals of the One-Tonne Challenge, a federally funded climate change initiative established to educate and encourage Canadians to save energy, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% or one tonne. Winners in each school will receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place. The first-place winners from every Abbotsford school – from Kindergarten to Grade 5, from grade 6 to 8 and from grade 9 to 12 – will then be eligible to win a \$1,000 Student Grand Prize for the top entry in each of the three grade categories. In addition, the elementary, middle and secondary schools with the highest percentage of submissions will earn a \$2,000 School Grand Prize.

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