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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students receive awards at the 2017 Northern Ontario Enterprise Olympics

A group of Rainy River District School Board's Fort Frances High School students recently joined their peers from across Northwestern Ontario to compete in Enterprise Olympics, a two-day business pitch-off competition held at Confederation College and Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

The students had a post-secondary experience by staying in the dormitories at Lakehead University, while spending their days at the College listening to keynote speakers' inspiring stories and being taught the components of a perfect business product pitch. Students then worked in teams, based on one of six business sectors – Health and Wellness, Retail, Technology and Innovation, Arts and Culture, Social Enterprise, and Mining and Forestry – to develop a business idea, prepare a rudimentary business plan and execute an elevator pitch to a panel of judges.

The winning team from each sector of interest wins \$500, with each group member receiving \$100. This year, the Fort Frances High School students winning \$100 at the top of their sectors were Peirce Gushulak, Chance Windego, Joelle Tibbs, Mira Donaldson, Andrea Schram, and Maria Harrisson. The top six teams were then eligible to compete for a \$1,000 bursary towards tuition at a participating post-secondary school in Northern Ontario for each member of the team. Joelle Tibbs and Mira Donaldson each earned the \$1,000 bursary for their winning business idea.

The goal of this Northern Ontario Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative is to motivate and inspire young people to search within themselves for entrepreneurial qualities and characteristics, leading them towards a rewarding and gratifying career as their own boss. This event gives students a chance to explore this opportunity and connect them with business opportunities in Northern Ontario.

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Mission: *"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

Vision: *"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."*

This publication is available in accessible formats upon request.