

and behaviours, according to a new Canadian survey of teachers, principals and school boards (professional services firm, Deloitte, conducted a pro-bono assessment and survey of close to 200 education professionals currently involved with the Rick Hansen School Program). The survey found that respondents not only reported a decrease in bullying after using the program, but several other positive results as well, including increased willingness to help others and initiatives to improve the classroom, school and community.

The **Rick Hansen School Program** provides teachers across Canada with free resources that tie into provincial curricula. It supports teachers to raise student awareness of the potential of people with disabilities, and empowers students to create accessible communities. It includes lesson plans, activities, videos, speakers, online content, books, presentations and posters, which build on Rick Hansen's unique story to bring the issue of disability to life for students.

rickhansen.com/our-work/school-program

Canadian Finalists for Global Teacher Prize

Three Canadian teachers have been chosen as finalists for the inaugural \$1,000,000 **Global Teacher Prize**, the equivalent of the Nobel Prize for Education. Over 5,000 submissions from 137 countries were short listed to 50. From the 50, 10 will be chosen to go to Dubai to the Global Education and Skills Forum in March 2015, and one of those teachers will receive the \$1,000,000 prize. The three finalists from Canada are Steve Revington, Emily Carr Public School, London, ON; Glenn Wagner, Centre Wellington District High School, Mount Forest, ON; and Mark Reid, Vancouver Technical Secondary School, Vancouver, BC.

globalteacherprize.org/top-50-finalists

Alzheimer Youth Organization

Alzheimer's disease is a growing problem in our society and many students are not aware of it. The **Alzheimer Youth Organization**, a registered non-profit organization, is looking for dedicated teachers to supervise and initiate Alzheimer's clubs at their schools. The organization offers a club toolkit which consist of fifteen t-shirts, brochures, and a club manual and guidance to successful launch Alzheimer's clubs. For more information, contact the organization (alzheimeryouthorganization@gmail.com) or visit alz youth.org.

Draw for Book Money from Orca Book Publishers

Each month, Orca Book Publishers randomly selects one response from their Feedback Survey and rewards the sender with \$50 to spend on Orca books. To enter this draw, visit orcabook.com.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition

The new Royal BC Museum season began December 12, 2014 with Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2014 contest winners from London's Natural History Museum and BBC Worldwide. Launched 50 years ago in 1965 and attracting just 361 entries, today the competition receives almost 42,000 entries from 96 countries highlighting its enduring appeal. The striking exhibition features 100 large-scale, back-lit photographs. Categories include: the People's Choice Award (new for 2014), Gerald Durrell Award for Endangered Wildlife, Wildlife Photojournalist of the Year, and World in Our Hands. This is the fourth

year of all-new images at the Royal BC Museum—and the worldwide stories behind them—continuing to April 6, 2015. royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

Inspirational Presentation for School Groups

Life changed for a young Kevin Brooks when a traumatic vehicle accident left the athletic, active young man in a wheelchair. Overcoming physical and mental obstacles, Kevin emerged from the aftermath of this event determined to help others learn from his story. He now makes presentations to school groups touching on such topics as impaired, distracted and dangerous driving; depression and suicide prevention; bullying, peer pressure and decision making, overcoming obstacles and coping with tragedy; and leadership and bringing positive change to communities. For more information or to book a presentation at your school, visit kevinbrooks.ca.

CTF Sounds the Alarm on Wi-Fi

A Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF) Brief **The Use of Wi-Fi in Schools** (2014) is sounding the alarm on Wi-Fi in schools, stating that "Teachers are rightly concerned for their personal safety and the safety of children in their care." The CTF Brief calls for Wi-Fi to be turned off when not in use, resources to educate the public about ways to reduce exposure from Wi-Fi and wireless devices, and for updated federal guidelines on microwave radiation.

The World Health Organization classified Wi-Fi and wireless frequencies as a Class 2B carcinogen in the same category as lead and DDT, and scientists now say the dangers are much greater than originally thought. While the CTF recommends reducing exposure, other countries such

as France and Switzerland recommend banning Wi-Fi in schools altogether, instead opting for Ethernet (hard wired) connections.

The CTF reports that Health Canada's 40 year old guidelines on microwave radiation fail to consider biological effects, which scientists say put the public and future generations at risk. The American Academy of Pediatrics agrees, advising that standards need to be updated in order to protect children from harm. Canadians for Safe Technology, led by former president of Microsoft Canada, point out that countries such as China, Russia, Italy and Switzerland have exposure guidelines 100 times safer than Canada.

The CTF calls for resources to educate the public on the safe use of wireless technologies. Students must be made aware of important safety information in user manuals, so they do not exceed our government's exposure limits while using wireless devices at school. For instance, BlackBerry warns "Use hands-free operation if it is available and keep the BlackBerry device at least 0.98 in. (25 mm) from your body when device is turned on" and iPad manufacturers warn to keep antenna away from the user's body.

Canadians for Safe Technology urges governments and Boards of Education to take action to protect students' health by ensuring that Wi-Fi and wireless technologies are turned off when not in use and ensuring that all students are equipped with information on the safe use of wireless technologies as recommended by the CTF. For more information, visit c4st.org.



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