



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saskatchewan to host National Biotech Conference

January 21, 2009 (Saskatoon, SK) Science and Innovation City is hosting a national educator's conference about biotechnology. The 2009 National Bioscience Educators Conference (NBEC) will be held simultaneously in three locations across Canada on February 20-21, 2009: Toronto, Halifax, and here in Saskatoon. It is an initiative of the Canadian Biotechnology Education Resource Centre (CBERC) and is supported locally by Genome Prairie.

Although open to all, the event is targeted at high school science and biology teachers, and will offer the opportunity to hear from leading bioscience researchers about biodiversity, biopharmaceuticals, bioethics, agri-foods, and nanotechnology. Presenters will talk about activities and resources for the classroom, career choices for students and professional development opportunities for teachers. There will also be several workshop sessions where participants can gain hands-on experience in lab activities.

"Saskatoon is known for its rich biotechnology cluster so our city is the perfect venue for this national event. We're excited to host this conference in Western Canada for the first time.," said Carol Reynolds, Director of Corporate Development & Communications for Genome Prairie, the sponsor of the western segment of the event. "We want to get teachers, students and the public excited about the economic and career opportunities in biotech."

Headlining the program is Bob McDonald, the well-known host of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks* show, who will offer a journalist's perspective on the revolution in science as he sees it. "We live in remarkable times," he said. "The most powerful tools humanity has ever known are now in our grasp. Do we have the wisdom to use these tools wisely?" McDonald's session will occur at 9AM on Saturday, February 21 at the College of Education Building on the University of Saskatchewan campus. This session is open to the public.

Additional featured presentations on the program include:

- Bob Adamson (Winnipeg, MB) - "Biotechnology on a Shoestring"
- Joyce McCallum (Morden, MB) - "Dreaded Red: A Classroom Simulation Based on SARS"
- Carol Barash (Boston, MA) – "Ethics of Genetic Technologies "
- Jerome Konecni (Saskatoon) – "Careers in the Bioeconomy"
- Blaine Chartrand, Joanne Post (Saskatoon) - Lab Session on Recombinant DNA
- Scott Napper (Saskatoon) "Chronic Wasting Disease"
- Tracy Walker (Saskatoon) – "Bioscience at the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron"
- Michael Rogers (Saskatoon) – "Food Nanotechnology: Delivery Agent for Health"

There will also be a session on "Cutting Edge Research on the Prairies" which will feature three industry leaders in bioscience, Dr. Andrew Potter – Director/CEO, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization; Dr. Reno Pontarollo - Chief Scientific Officer, Genome Prairie; and Dr. Murray McLaughlin – Director of Business Development, Canadian Light Source.

Full details on the program and how to register are available on the CBERC website: www.cberc.ca/.

- 30 -

For more information

Penny Eaton

Event Coordinator
2009 National Bioscience Educator's Conference –
Saskatoon Venue
Tel. 306-652-1299
Email: penny@eatonassociates.ca
Conference Website: www.cberc.ca

Carol Reynolds

Director, Corporate Communications
Genome Prairie
Saskatoon, SK
Tel. (306) 668-3570
Email: creynolds@genomeprairie.ca