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## **BC, Saskatchewan and Ontario teams win top awards at the Impact Microcredit Competition**

**Vancouver, BC** – Students from Walter Murray Collegiate Institute in Saskatoon are winners of the Studentawards.com National Champion award in the Impact Microcredit 2009 competition, a youth entrepreneurship competition organized by the Impact Entrepreneurship Group and sponsored by Studentawards Inc. The team made over \$2400 in one week by selling advertising on ecologically friendly shopping bags that were then distributed to local businesses. Two other teams across Canada garnered top recognition in the competition. Killarney Secondary in Vancouver, British Columbia won the BC Innovation Council Award while Bowmanville High School in Bowmanville, Ontario won the Encounters with Canada Business and Entrepreneurship Award. All teams started with only \$100 in seed funding.

The Impact Microcredit competition, developed by the Impact Entrepreneurship Group, provides \$100 microloans to help aspiring high school entrepreneurs generate as much profit as possible in just one week. With \$25,000 in available scholarship prizes and venture funding, the competition drew over 1600 registered participants and 100 teams across Canada, over double the size of last year's competition. This year's participating teams generated a total profit of \$40,000, again exceeding last year's profit of \$15,000.

“Impact Microcredit is a creative endeavor aimed at cultivating youth entrepreneurship, fostering innovation and supporting leadership. Now in its second year, the competition is an excellent example of how encouraging the next generation of business leaders to work together among themselves and local community can produce extraordinary results,” said Alex Shipillo, President, British Columbia, Impact Entrepreneurship Group.

“We think our greatest achievement through this competition was helping raise awareness of the ecological impact of businesses in Saskatoon. The process of setting up our own venture has definitely sparked our interest in considering further entrepreneurial ideas,” says Andrew Plishka of the Walter Murray Collegiate Institute team, which included teammates Ryan Yee, Ronelle Calver and HyungJin Kim.

The competition is sponsored by Title Partner Studentawards Inc., and Supporting Partners Ashoka's Youth Venture, the British Columbia Innovation Council, Certified General Accountants Association of British Columbia and Encounters with Canada.

For more information about the Competition, please visit <http://microcredit.impact.org>.

### **About the Impact Entrepreneurship Group**

The Impact Entrepreneurship Group is Canada's largest non-profit, student-run organization dedicated to encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit amongst youth in Canada and becoming a starting point and catalyst for youth interested in entrepreneurship and leadership.

### **About Studentawards Inc.**

Studentawards.com is a FREE scholarship search service devoted to helping high school seniors, university and college students find information on scholarships, bursaries, grants and other forms of financial assistance. We also offer unique scholarships to our online members that are only available on studentawards.com. Sign up today and start finding money for school at studentawards.com.

### **Contact:**

Impact Entrepreneurship Group  
Alex Shipillo  
alex.shipillo@impact.org  
604-339-9546

Studentawards Inc.  
Tessa Mintz  
tessa@uthink.com  
416-322-3210 ext. 233