

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Provincial Government Cancels Support for Science Literacy Program for BC Children and Families

VANCOUVER, BC—The provincial government has decided to cancel funding for a popular province-wide program delivered by Science World British Columbia that, for the past seven years, introduced science and technology to hundreds of thousands of children and families across the province.

“The provincial government’s decision to cancel funding comes as a huge blow,” says Andrew Harries, Chair of the Board of Directors of Science World. “This science-literacy program has been key to stimulating interest in science and technology in British Columbia, both among schoolchildren in the Lower Mainland who have been supported in visiting our False Creek facility and among students and parents across the province who have participated in Science World outreach activities in their home communities. Science World’s engaging approach to inspiring youth about the wonders of science is a key component of developing the science and technology workforce of tomorrow in our province.”

Over the past seven years, the provincial funding has enabled Science World to reach an average of 190,000 people annually in such far-flung communities as Dease Lake, Haida Gwaii and Invermere. Science World, through the financial support from the provincial government, has not only provided stimulating hands-on activities throughout the province, it has encouraged local organizations—innovation councils, community colleges, First Nations bands, and school districts—to work together and interact with residents to highlight the importance of science and technology to their local economies.

Science World’s outreach activities have become an established support to teachers in enhancing the science curriculum in their classrooms. The funding provided an annual class trip to TELUS World of Science at no admission cost to the students or the school. It also allowed Science World to take its travelling science shows to schools across the province, working with local partners to stage science celebrations for entire communities.

“The presentations, activities and resources that Science World brings to our schools are annual highlights,” says Grahame Rainey, President of the BC Science Teachers Association. “Students are inspired by the engaging experiments and demonstrations that make them more eager to learn once back in the classroom. It’s important that Science World continues to be supported in providing quality outreach opportunity to schools throughout our province. Students in rural areas need access to the same experiences as those located in the Lower Mainland.”

The funding cut will deeply affect not only the schoolchildren and families of today, but the British Columbia economy of the future.

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Backgrounder

Program History

Provincial funding for Science World's programs began in 2005 with the British Columbia Program for the Awareness and Learning of Science (BC PALS). In the 2010, the activities were supported as part of the Year of Science. Since 2005, over 1,000,000 people in in over 1,000 communities have been involved in engaging programs that promote a wider understanding of the excitement and contribution of science and technology and have been introduced to science and technology as the foundation of viable and fascinating career paths.

Activities affected by these cuts include:

Big Science for Little Hands	Hands-on professional enrichment workshops for early learning educators, and resources and activities for parents and their preschool-aged children.
Community Science Celebrations	Week-long series of entertaining and engaging science outreach activities culminating in community-based free family celebrations showcasing local industry, business, government agencies, schools and organizations promoting science and innovation.
Free Fieldtrips to Science World	Free fieldtrip experiences to TELUS World of science for Kindergarten to Grade 7 students.
Night of Family Science Events	Evening events for families to build, experiment and explore hands-on science activities together and profile local science.
Opening the Door	Career networking events allowing high-school students to learn more about career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by connecting students with local leaders.
Science World on the Road	Travelling innovative curriculum-relevant science shows presented at school assemblies and supported by teacher resource materials for Kindergarten to Grade 9 students.
Scientists and Innovators in the Schools	Classroom presentations and hands-on workshops delivered by established passionate scientists, engineers, technologists and technicians in response to teacher-requested needs.

About Science World British Columbia

Science World British Columbia is a non-governmental not-for-profit organization that engages British Columbians in science and inspires future science and technology leadership throughout our province.

Communities Visited

Below is a selection of communities visited in the past seven years, as part of this program. For more detailed information, please contact Barb Adamski.

100 Mile House
Abbotsford
Agassiz
Ahousat
Alert Bay
Alexis Creek
Barriere
Bella Coola
Campbell River
Castlegar
Chase
Chemainus
Chemainus First Nations
Chilanko Forks
Chilliwack
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Dease Lake
Dog Creek
Duncan
Enderby
Fort Nelson
Fort St. John
GitwinsiHkw
Haida Gwaii
Hanceville
Hartley Bay
Hazelton
Invermere
Kelowna
Kelowna
Ladysmith
Lantzville
Lax Kw Alaams
Lower Post
Lytton
Masset
Moricetown
Mount Currie
Mount Currie
Nanaimo

Nelson
North Vancouver
Old Massett
Oliver
Parksville
Penticton
Port Alberni
Port Hardy
Prince George
Quesnel
Savona
Shalalth
Skidegate
South Hazelton
Telegraph Creek
Terrace
Vernon
Waglisla
Williams Lake