

UPDATE

A Newsletter for UNBC Alumni
and Friends – Spring 2007



Marketing Case
Competition

Presented by



1st Place
2007

Top Students

UNBC celebrates student successes

Ground-breaking Research

Terahertz, pollution, cancer,
and diabetes

Message from the President

I am pleased to present this spring issue of *Update*, one of our primary means of keeping in touch with alumni, donors, and other friends of UNBC. *Update* is full of incredible stories on research discoveries and outstanding student accomplishments. It is amazing what UNBC has accomplished over the last few months.

In addition to these success stories, UNBC's campuses have undergone several exciting changes. I was in Terrace during the winter to open a new UNBC campus there; one that will give us room to grow. Hundreds of staff and faculty have also been moving into the new Teaching and Learning Centre on the Prince George campus, a spectacular building that will enhance our capacity for teaching and research in a dozen degree programs. Also taking shape at the opposite end of the campus is the new Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre, set to open this fall. It will revolutionize sport development in our region and provide UNBC with an incredible asset to help attract and retain students.

Ultimately, attracting and retaining students is UNBC's top priority. Due to factors such as the booming economy, declining high school graduation numbers, and increased competition in the post-secondary marketplace, UNBC has experienced only modest growth in student population over the past several years. As a result, we are changing our long-term budget planning process to better prepare us for the future. Essentially, we need to direct our resources into areas that will have the greatest benefit for the university, our students, and the community.

We've re-structured our administration and some academic units to streamline our operations and create closer connections between departments that already work together. You can see the details at www.unbc.ca/budget.

This has no doubt been a very difficult process for us. However, we've been guided by UNBC's mission, the advice of many thoughtful people from the University and the community, and by a shared desire to make UNBC even better tomorrow than it is today. We have remained committed to minimizing the effects of these changes on our students.

The last few months have been marked by some incredible research successes and outstanding student accomplishments.



UNBC President Dr. Don Cozzetto

UNBC is poised for an exciting future. As of the 2007 Convocation ceremony, we have more than 6000 alumni making their mark in the North and around the world. We also have amazing opportunities related to the opening of the Northern Sport Centre, the mountain pine beetle epidemic, and

the growing public interest in the state of the environment. But we can't realize these opportunities alone. To that end, the UNBC Board of Governors has approved a comprehensive fundraising campaign that will strengthen UNBC's capacity to engage with industry, government, and citizens in realizing the potential of this University as a resource for the entire region. We're planning to provide more information on this campaign in the next issue of *Update*.

UNBC has scored some amazing achievements in a very short period of time. My hat goes off to the Founders who brought incredible vision and passion to create a university that is a tribute to the people of the North. Together, we'll make UNBC even better.

Thank you for your support of UNBC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Cozzetto'.

Dr. Don Cozzetto

For more information about Dr. Cozzetto, visit www.unbc.ca/president.

Student SUCCESSES

Taking Care of Business

The School of Business captured four top awards in western Canada's largest business competition, JDC West. The event, which was held in Vancouver in January, attracted 450 students from 10 western Canadian universities. The team competitions were based on a variety of academic case studies that drew on the students' skills in marketing, accounting, finance, entrepreneurship, international business, and more. UNBC won first place in both Marketing and Accounting and captured third in International Business and Participation – all in its first year participating. No other university captured more first place academic honours in the competition.



Two in a Millennium Psychology student Virginia Russell (photo) and International

Studies student Miriam Matejova are the UNBC students this year to receive a Millennium Excellence Award from the Government of Canada. The award is worth \$4,000.



Planning for the Environment

Environmental Engineering student Erin Bobicki won a first-

prize award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society for her research on slope stability. Meanwhile, Environmental Planning student Eric Chow was one of 15 students nationwide to receive an ECO Canada award for his research on the impacts of a gold and copper mine in BC's northwest.



Shooting for the Top Jaclyn Nazareno of the UNBC basketball team has been named an All-

Canadian after leading the Timberwolves to an 11-5 record. Named the BC Colleges Athletic Association Athlete of the Week twice this season, Nazareno averaged 20 points per game. Teammate Laurel Wallace has been named an Academic All-Canadian.



Best in Canada UNBC Commerce

student Jacqui Benson finished as the top racer among all college and

university competitors at the Cross-Country Ski Nationals in Quebec. She earned two gold and two silver medals at the event, which took place in March. Jacqui is a member of UNBC's Nordic Ski team.



Business students earned four top awards at JDC West.



UNBC researcher Dr. Matt Reid and Bruce Sutherland of Wolftek Industries

wave of the

X-ray vision is yesterday's news.

Terahertz technology is the wave of the future. Terahertz occupies space on the electromagnetic spectrum between microwaves and x-rays and that's where UNBC professor Matt Reid has focused his vision. He has just beaten a world record set in 1993, putting him in competition with researchers from MIT.

It was at the Advanced Laser Light Source facility in Montreal that UNBC's Matt Reid and his fellow researchers from UNBC, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec used ultrafast lasers to produce bursts of terahertz waves with the largest energies ever. This achievement means they can see right through objects in real time. Terahertz waves

have been the subject of research for about 20 years, but Dr. Reid's accomplishment opens up a whole new world for application of the technology.

Using new terahertz technology, Dr. Reid is working to provide forest operations with the ability to see inside wood.

"We're now at the cusp of translating our knowledge into industrial application," says Dr. Reid, a professor of Physics at UNBC. "Where we are right now with our development of terahertz technology is where other researchers were when lasers were first invented. Since then, lasers have been used in everything from industry to everyday life. The possibilities for terahertz technology are just as mind-boggling."

That's because terahertz waves have a unique quality. Like x-rays, terahertz signals provide opportunities to see through objects and also see features inside these objects. Unlike x-rays, they don't pose health dangers.

What are the potential applications? Airport security, identifying early-stage skin and breast cancer, and detecting pollutants in the atmosphere all come to mind. But Dr. Reid is focusing his attention on the backbone of the BC economy: the forest industry.

Working closely with UNBC Forestry professor Ian Hartley, student Tara Todoruk, and Bruce Sutherland of Prince George's Wolftek Industries, Dr. Reid is aiming to create devices that will utilize terahertz waves to provide forest operations with the



future

ability to see inside wood and determine the fibre quality of logs and processed wood products. The goal is to maximize the value of each tree.

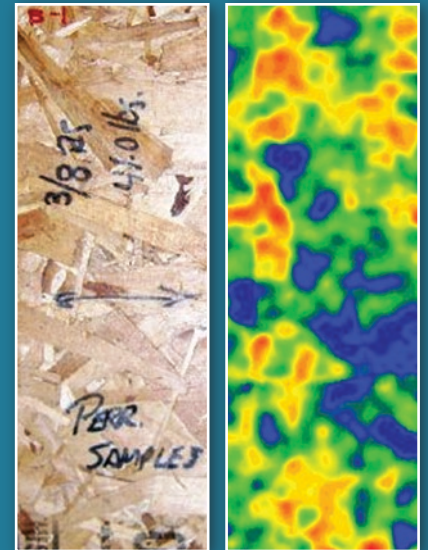
“The more we learn through this terahertz research, the more ideas we have for how to apply this technology in the field,” says Bruce Sutherland, Wolftek President. “For the industry, the possibilities are worth millions of dollars.”

Time is of the essence, thanks to the mountain pine beetle. Forest companies are scrambling for a way to see the insides of trees so that logs can be properly positioned in the mill for maximum efficiency. Just viewing the outside of a tree is no longer good enough, as pine beetle trees often have cracks inside that can greatly affect

the wood quality and potential products. Terahertz technology would essentially give mill managers x-ray vision.

“This is a terrific example of how world-class, fundamental research can have very direct application to industry and economic development,” says Dr. Reid, who graduated from D.P. Todd Secondary in Prince George, worked at a local sawmill, and was one of UNBC’s first students in 1994. “Right now, we’re leading the world and the challenge for us will be to stay at the forefront in commercializing the results of this research for the benefit of the local economy.” The BC forest industry is hoping that he’ll be successful.

Seeing Inside Wood



Example: Oriented Strand Board

Terahertz waves can identify several properties of wood including density, fibre alignment, and moisture.

The Terahertz image (above right) reveals the OSB’s fibre alignment.

Green: Good
Blue: Reasonable
Yellow: Poor
Red: Bad

About Matt Reid

Dr. Reid’s research interests are in the area of nonlinear optics of semiconductor surfaces including optical rectification and second harmonic generation from nanostructured surfaces. He works with other Canadian researchers at the Advanced Laser Light Source facility in Montreal to focus on the optimization, characterization, and applications of terahertz sources and detectors.

Matt received a BSc in Mathematics and Physics from UNBC and a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Alberta.



Alumni News & Events

Alumni to the Nth Degree BBQ

Celebrate with new grads, alumni, family, and friends at a BBQ in the Courtyard on May 25th. Enjoy great food, music, dancing, campus tours, and prizes. Festivities start at 4:30 pm. RSVP by May 16th for this free event. Call (250) 960-5620 or email communications@unbc.ca.

Annual Golf Tournament – Sold Out!

The 8th Annual UNBC Alumni Charity Golf Tournament is taking place on May 24th at Aberdeen Glen in Prince George.

Homecoming and NSC Opening

Get ready for the First Annual UNBC Alumni Homecoming and grand opening of the new Northern Sport Centre! Celebrations will take place in September. Visit www.unbc.ca/alumni for information.

iPod Winner!

Shawna Hartman (BSc Natural Resources Management '00) updated her contact information on the Alumni Association website and won an iPod. Shawna works as a biologist for Triton Environmental Consultants Ltd. in Terrace, BC.

www.unbc.ca/alumni



UNBC grads Ruth Mason (MEd '00) and Helen Domshy (MA Gender Studies '01) were honoured during an International Women's Day celebration for their passion to support and empower women and girls.



UNBC grad Tristan Pearce (BA International Studies '03) studies climate change as a researcher for the University of Guelph and spends much of his time traveling throughout the Arctic. He is currently working on community adaptation planning to climate change in Ulukhaktok, NWT. In the above photo, Tristan is surrounded by local Ulukhaktok children.

UNBC Alumni

A survey shows that 58% of UNBC grads from 2003 live in northern BC, 25% are in other parts of the province, and 13% live elsewhere in Canada or in another country.

David Hedalen (BA Geography '00) is an Account Manager with Investment Property Databank in London, England. David also completed a Master of Science degree in Spatial Planning from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden.

Christine Creyke (BA Geography '06) is the Land Stewardship Coordinator for the Tahltan Central Council. She is working on a land stewardship plan that will provide guiding principles for the management and protection of the Tahltan land.

Scott Palfreyman (BSc Biology '99) works for Environment Canada (Water Survey of Canada) as a Hydrometric Technologist in Whitehorse, YK.

Naaz Parmar (BSc Biochemistry & Molecular Biology '05) is a UBC medical student and was the first UNBC student to get into medical school before completing an undergraduate degree. She starts her residency in Internal Medicine next year.

Barry Selver (BA Geography '03) works for the Canada Border Services Agency at the Vancouver International Airport as an Immigration Officer.

Brenda Lewis (MSW Social Work '06) is the Acting Deputy Director for the Ministry of Children and Family Development in northern BC. She recently presented at a world forum in Vancouver on First Nations Child Care and received a Premier's Award for her leadership efforts.

Phillip Cox (BComm Marketing '00) is a National Director of Sales at Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Toronto. He recently traveled to the United Arab Emirates to facilitate a conference on collaborative customer planning and management.

Leo Johnson (BA Anthropology '97) is a dental officer at the Department of National Defence at CFB Petawawa. Leo obtained a Bachelor of Medical Sciences Degree in 2003 and a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree in 2005 from the University of Alberta.

Build it... And they will come.

By Tiina Watt, Mandy Jones, and Rupinder Basi
Graduates of UNBC's Environmental Planning Program

City planners tend to be drawn to those locales that are experiencing enticing new growth. Prince George is one such location, and we are three such planners. As graduates of UNBC's Planning program, our education is specific to Prince George and the region. We also happened to grow up in Prince George, so naturally, we have a deeply vested interest in the development of the community.

Over the course of our lives, various changes have occurred in Prince George – we've seen periods of recession and economic growth. But now, more than ever, the city is developing into an important regional centre.

The perception of what growth means has changed through the shifting uses and opportunities that have begun to develop through a broad range of amenities in Prince George. We are seeing expansion in commercial, industrial, recreational, and institutional areas to serve northern residents (post-secondary education, health care services, and transportation infrastructure to name a few). These areas are creating

opportunities for increased residential development that provides a wide range of housing options – all while striking a balance with our natural environment.

With growing concerns for environmental protection and quality of life, we as city planners need to advocate on behalf of the community through policy, regulation, and review of development proposals. One such issue that has become a mainstream concern is climate change and our impact on the environment, economy, and social fabric. This

is a prime example of how people's priorities have shifted; therefore, we must also shift to keep up with changing values. Planning for climate change is the

People's priorities have shifted; therefore, as city planners, we must also shift to keep up with changing values.

main topic of discussion at the annual Planning Institute of British Columbia conference that will be held in Prince George next year. This conference is one such venue for planners like us to acknowledge the past and prepare our communities for the future.



UNBC Donations

Office of University Advancement

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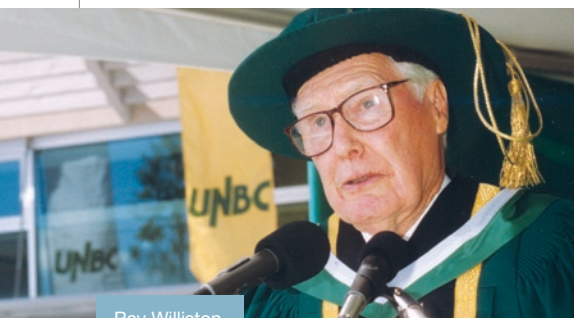
We are now located at UNBC's Prince George campus in room 1065 on the main floor of the Administration building.



Your support makes a difference. Psychology grad Jennifer Scammell of Mackenzie received a UNBC Scholars Award, the Kenneth Wong Memorial Scholarship, and the Ann McQuaid Memorial Scholarship.

Giving to UNBC

Supporting UNBC can be as simple as going online. Visit the Giving website at www.unbc.ca/giving.



Ray Williston

A Tribute to Ray Williston

A visionary supporter of UNBC passed away in December 2006. Ray Williston had a profound impact on the development of British Columbia – especially northern BC.

Foremost, he was an educator and understood that learning unleashes the potential in our youth. Beginning in 1953 and for 19 years, Ray was a cabinet minister and an MLA for Fort George. During that time, he championed the concept of a northern university and set aside the lands for what is now UNBC.

After UNBC was established, Ray lent his name to the Williston Circle which recognizes annual donors of \$1,000 or more. 178 Williston Circle donors gave more than \$2 million last year and over \$6.9 million in since UNBC's inception. Ray also personally supported UNBC generously. He is a Partner in the UNBC Chancellor's Circle for lifetime giving.

"Ray's vision and commitment to UNBC will endure. The University and all of Northern BC will be the beneficiary of this magnificent statesman and friend."

- Dr. Don Cozzetto, UNBC President

Northern Sport Centre

The beautiful wood foyer at the entrance of the **Northern Sport Centre** hosted a major event at the end of April, when **Canadian Forest Products Ltd.** (Canfor) announced \$500,000 to support the facility's construction. The gift is the largest received to date for the NSC, which will open this September. To date, Canfor has contributed more than \$1.5 million to UNBC for student awards, research, a lecture series, and capital construction.

NMPT Success

Burns Lake has become the second northern BC community to realize its full pledge amount in support of the **Northern Medical Programs Trust**. Two-dozen communities around the North have pledged to support the recruitment, training, and retention of health professionals in the North. Tumbler Ridge was the first community to fully contribute its pledge amount. The NMPT goal is \$6 million and two-thirds of that amount has been raised or pledged to date.

Awards for Health Science

London Drugs is establishing a \$75,000 endowment to fund awards for students enrolled in health science programs.

Annual Campaign 06/07

The **Annual Campaign** raised a total of \$400,000, exceeding its goal of \$375,000. UNBC President Don Cozzetto contributed \$10 for each faculty, staff, and alumni member that donated to UNBC from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. In total, 56 faculty members, 57 staff members, and 97 alumni donated nearly \$120,000. Noreen Rustad was the Annual Campaign Chair.



Dr. David Suzuki

Ewert Event

The **3rd Annual Dr. Bob Ewert Memorial Lecture, Dinner, and Dance** raised \$20,000 and was attended by a record 640 guests, including keynote speaker Dr. David Suzuki. Medical students and volunteers from UNBC sold 138 David Suzuki books, earning proceeds of \$1,115 towards the Northern Medical Programs Trust.

Husky has contributed \$100,000 towards the cost of acquiring a mass spectrometer, a necessary piece of equipment for biomedical and environmental research.



Fighting Pollution

In the future, when UNBC researchers make new discoveries about the health of northern residents or identify the presence of minerals in the ground that are vital for biodiversity, they can thank Husky Energy.

Husky has contributed \$100,000 towards the cost of acquiring a mass spectrometer, a necessary piece of equipment for biomedical and environmental research. The mass spectrometer is able to detect incredibly low levels of metals and minerals in samples ranging from hair and blood to soil, plants, and even snow. The equipment is so sensitive, it can measure concentrations in parts per billion.

Among the UNBC researchers eager for the arrival of the mass spectrometer is Laurie Chan, a professor in Health Sciences and the Dr. Donald Rix BC Leadership Chair in

Aboriginal Environmental Health. Dr. Chan has worked in communities across northern Canada and is an expert in assessing the effects of environmental pollutants on human health. He was recently one of 40 leading scientists worldwide to contribute to an international declaration aiming to reduce mercury pollution. He has seen the effects first-hand, discovering that even low levels of mercury in the body can affect the biochemistry of the brain and possibly slow the communication between brain cells.

But mercury is just part of the problem. Thanks to prevailing winds and cold temperatures, the North has become a dumping ground for heavy metals, dioxins, and PCBs that originate in industrial sites and southern metropolitan centres. They end up on land or in water, consumed by plants and animals and in the animals that

consume them. What is the danger posed by each pollutant? What are the effects of rising northern temperatures? How do these chemicals affect a northern aboriginal population that is already confronting major changes in diet and activity? Laurie Chan and other UNBC researchers are at the forefront of answering these questions. Husky Energy is giving them an essential tool to continue their work.



Above: UNBC has state-of-the-art equipment for analyzing mercury levels, but the mass spectrometer will benefit a broad range of health research activities. Background: Laurie Chan analyzing a hair sample.



“ We’re really excited with what we have discovered, especially when you consider that this research mostly involved students and it was done entirely in Prince George. There are only three other cancer research teams in the world looking at the same proteins as we are, and they are in the US, Greece, and Denmark. ”

– Dr. Chow Lee

UNBC professor Dr. Chow Lee

Cancer Discoveries

Chow Lee's biochemistry research team has made some important cancer research findings. The research focuses on two naturally occurring proteins that make cancer grow faster and resist treatments like chemotherapy. Their research has identified an enzyme that can destroy these proteins. While the research is significant, it's going to be some time before the findings can be applied in humans. "Our findings can only be demonstrated in a test tube, not in the body – at least not yet," says Dr. Lee. "If we continue having success with our research, we'll eventually test our hypotheses in actual human cancer cells."

Farmers' Markets Lucrative for Communities

Research conducted at UNBC has indicated that BC's farmers' markets have a significant economic impact on the province, over and above their value to community-building and local food production. The research was led by David Connell, a professor in UNBC's School of Environmental Planning. He examined 28 markets from Terrace to White Rock and found that British Columbians spend \$65.3 million directly at farmers' markets and an additional \$53.2 million at neighbouring businesses on market days; a total of \$118.5 million.



Nationally Renowned Scholar to be UNBC's Fourth Chancellor

A former UNBC professor who has dedicated his academic career to making peoples' lives better has been elected to be UNBC's next Chancellor.

Alex Michalos will be installed as Chancellor during the May 25th Convocation ceremony. Dr. Michalos has been a prolific academic during his career of measuring peoples' quality of life, writing 22 books, authoring more than 90 articles, and founding or co-founding six academic journals.

People in the News

An online survey held in January revealed that 60% of visitors to UNBC's website are current students. Visit www.unbc.ca/survey to see the detailed results.

Reducing Vehicle Collisions with Wildlife

A group of UNBC researchers has been instrumental in developing and implementing a high-tech tool to try to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions in northern BC. Researcher Roy Rea's team has equipped transport trucks with mobile GPS units that allow the drivers to select the time, date, and location when they see moose or deer, alive or dead, along roads. The information is then downloaded to a computer for further analysis and mapping.



Olympian Joins UNBC Board

Charmaine Crooks, a five-time Olympian and a member of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Organizing Committee, is the newest member of the UNBC Board of Governors. With the Charles Jago Northern Sport Centre opening this fall,

Ms. Crooks says, "it's an honour to be part of building a sport legacy that will benefit the University and the whole region."

Reducing Rural Poverty

Geography professors Greg Halseth and Catherine Nolin provided invited testimony to a standing Senate committee on agriculture and forestry that is looking at ways to reduce rural poverty in Canada. Drs. Halseth and Nolin provided information on rural immigration and increasing the capacity of rural regions to be more involved in their own futures. The committee will release its findings in a final report due this spring.



Honorary Degree for UNBC Professor

UNBC History professor Bill Morrison will receive an Honorary Doctor of Literature from Brandon University in May. Dr. Morrison has taught for more than 38 years, 20 of them at

Brandon University. His field is Northern History and he has authored and co-authored 12 books on the subject.



Publications & Pontifications

- **Geography professor Catherine Nolin's** new book, *Transnational Ruptures: Gender and Forced Migration*, is being honoured this spring by the American Association of Geographers (photo).

- **International Studies professor Don Munton** has co-authored a book on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis that attempts to provide a short history of the event, taking into account recently released documents that shed new light on what exactly happened.
- **Senior Lab Instructor Lynda Williams** launched *Righteous Anger*, the second volume in her Okal Rel science fiction saga.
- **Economics professor Paul Bowles** has contributed to a series of books on "big ideas." His topic is Capitalism and joins other titles exploring such issues as environmentalism, feminism, and terrorism.

Map Quest

Scott Emmons and his team from UNBC recently won the Collaborative Research Award at the Northern British Columbia Business & Technology Awards for PlanMapper, an internet-based mapping and database query tool. The online device was designed to assist stakeholder access to land use planning information in BC.



No Research like Snow Research

Canada Research Chair Stephen Déry is leading research on how climate change at high elevations may be affecting the snow pack and its contribution to our supply of

fresh water. "Many scientists predict that the mountainous regions of western North America will experience rates of climate change much higher than the global average," says Dr. Déry. "This has huge implications for our most precious natural resource: fresh water."

Thank you for your support

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The Diabetes TSUNAMI

Can our health care system survive?

By Hanh Huynh,
Assistant Professor, Northern Medical Program

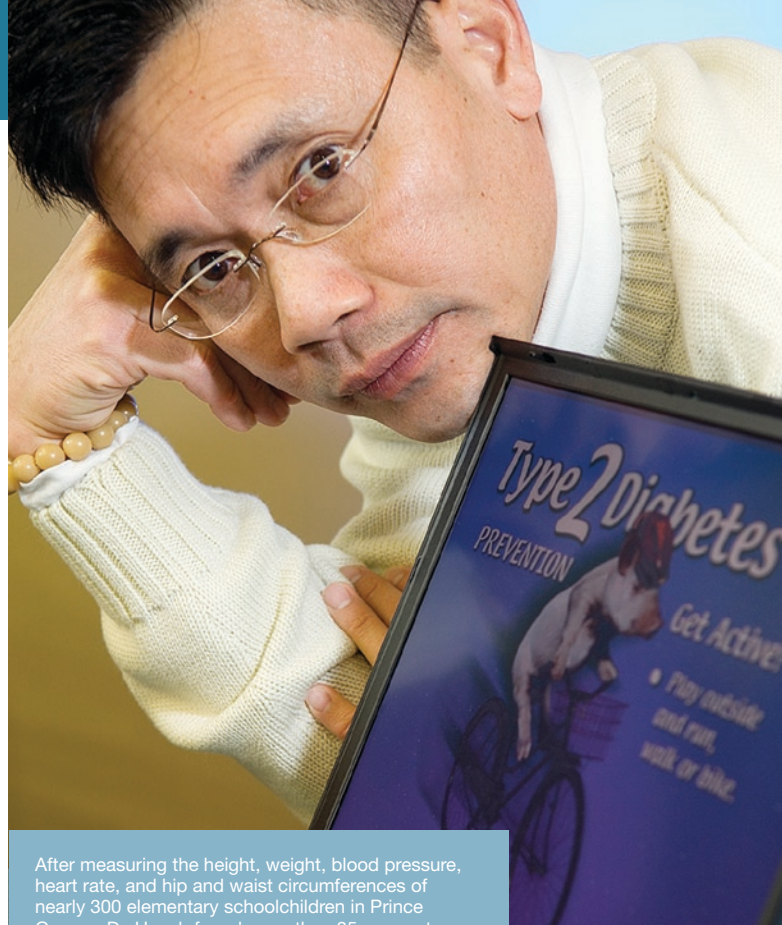
The youngest type 2 diabetic patient in BC is eight years old, a frightening fact the medical community didn't think possible 15 years ago.

Our human race is facing a tsunami. Diabetes – a chronic and preventable disease – has reached a global epidemic, affecting millions of Canadians and claiming more and younger people every year. The implications are staggering and threaten a core foundation of Canadian life: universal health care.

The International Diabetes Federation estimates 380 million people will have diabetes by 2025. Currently, more than 1.2 million Canadians have diabetes and that number is growing rapidly. The most recent survey in Ontario (*Lancet*, March 2007) reported the increase in the diabetes rate between 1995 and 2005 has already surpassed the World Health Organization's projected rate for 2030.

As recently as 15 years ago, type 2 diabetes was considered an adult disease; however, with the increase in the number of overweight and obese youth, more and younger children are being diagnosed. The youngest type 2 diabetic patient in British Columbia is eight years old, a frightening fact the medical community didn't think possible. My early research with children in grades one to six shows Prince George is on par with obesity rates in Vancouver, but because many heavy children declined to participate in the study, the number is likely much higher.

The costs of diabetes – both human and financial – are enormous. The disease wracks the body with heart complications, kidney failure, blindness, and decaying limbs, and these symptoms seldom occur individually. It costs approximately \$100,000 per year to dialyze a patient with kidney failure, another \$100,000 per year for a heart attack patient, and over \$200,000 per year for a stroke patient. A simple calculation between the rate of increase in diabetic patients in Canada and the cost of care indicates that without dramatic change, we will bankrupt our health care system. Our children will no longer enjoy this mainstay of good Canadian life so many of us take for granted.



After measuring the height, weight, blood pressure, heart rate, and hip and waist circumferences of nearly 300 elementary schoolchildren in Prince George, Dr. Huynh found more than 25 per cent are overweight and more than nine per cent are obese.

The effort to implement local solutions has already started:

1. Screensavers promoting the benefits of eating healthy foods and staying active are being installed in elementary school computers and are freely available to the public (a collaborative project between Concept Design Ltd. and myself with the support of the Vancouver Foundation).
2. Tae Kwon Do in Ron Brent Elementary has attracted many students and is free to students who attend class regularly.
3. A proposed Healthy Weight Centre in Prince George (a project involving the provincial government, the Prince George YMCA, the Shape Down Center in Vancouver, and myself) as a referral centre for families with weight problems.

Can we preserve the universal health care system for our children? YES. We can slow, if not stop, the rising tide of this global epidemic, but it requires the efforts of individuals along with family and community support. Societal supports for low-income families to access healthy foods are desperately needed. Together, we CAN prevent type 2 diabetes in ourselves and our children.

Hanh Huynh

Dr. Hanh Huynh has been an Assistant Professor with the Northern Medical Program at UNBC since the program's inception in 2004. His current research interests involve the prevention of chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes in children and adults. Dr. Huynh has medical doctorates in Neuroscience and Pathology.