

Leading Edge

ENDOWMENT FUND

Leading Edge Endowment Fund

Presentation to Cabinet

June 30, 2004

Dr. Martha Salcudean, Chair

What is the **Leading Edge Endowment Fund?**

- **Created in 2002 by the Provincial Government to promote BC as a world-class centre for research**
- **20 Leadership Research Chairs and 6 Regional Innovation Chairs**
- **Research areas: health, environment, technology, economic development, and social development (including early childhood development)**

What are LEEF's objectives?

- **Attract world-class researchers to BC**
- **Promote economic growth and job creation**
- **Strengthen BC's position as a centre of excellence in research**
- **Match government funding with money from the private sector and individual donors**
- **Promote the unique roles that our colleges play in innovation for BC**

How do we award the chairs?

- **Competitive and open process**
- **Proposals are evaluated by independent peer review committees**
- **Ron Woodward, President of Red Deer College, chairs the Regional Innovation Review Panel**
- **Dr. Bernard Shapiro, former Principal of McGill University, chairs the Leadership International Review Committee**

New Chairs Announcement

Preliminary proposals have been approved for:

- **11 Leadership Research Chairs**
- **6 Regional Innovation Chairs**

How does research benefit us?

Depression Research, UBC

- 500,000 British Columbians suffer from depression
- Depression results in an estimated \$1.5 billion dollars of lost productivity each year in Canada
- A Chair establishing a 'Centre of Excellence of Depression' will conduct research to improve treatment for depression

How does research benefit us?

Cattle Industry Sustainability, University College of the Cariboo

- Families throughout the province, particularly in the Peace, Cariboo, and Thompson-Nicola, depend on the cattle industry
- Wildfires, droughts and BSE-caused trade barriers illustrate the need for research to support this \$1.4 billion cattle industry
- A Regional Innovation Chair will conduct research into key challenges facing the industry

How does research benefit us?

Aboriginal Early Childhood Development, Malaspina

- Infant mortality rates in the Aboriginal population are two to three times the national average
- There are growing concerns about the incidence rates of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Working with Aboriginal partners, this Chair will design programs that support young Aboriginal families

Newly Approved

Health (5 Chairs)

- **Depression Research, UBC**
- **Genetic Medicine, UBC**
- **Prostate Cancer Research, UBC**
- **Aboriginal Environmental Health, UNBC**
- **Aboriginal Prenatal Health, UCC**

Social (4 Chairs)

- **Aboriginal Early Childhood Development, Malaspina**
- **Early Childhood Development, UBC**
- **Cognitive Neuroscience in Early Childhood Health & Development, SFU**
- **Addictions Research, UBC**

Newly Approved

Economic Development (3 Chairs)

- **Cattle Industry Sustainability, University College of the Cariboo**
- **Columbia Basin Chair for Rural Economic Development, Selkirk**
- **Tourism & Sustainable Rural Development, Malaspina**

Environment (4 Chairs)

- **Sustainable Horticulture, Kwantlen (Langley Campus)**
- **Salmon Conservation, SFU**
- **Marine Eco-Systems, UVic**
- **Transportation Studies, UBC**

Technology (1 Chair)

- **Integrated Energy Systems, UVic**

The Next 12 Months...

- **Organize second competition for 8 more Leadership Research Chairs**
- **Award the 17 Leadership Research Chairs and Regional Innovation Chairs that are currently under review**

In Summary, LEEF ...

Has provided preliminary approval for \$32.25 million to endow research chairs in:

- **Health**
- **Social**
- **Economic Development**
- **Environment**
- **Technology**

...enhancing BC as a world-class centre for research

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