



PRESS RELEASE
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Recognition for the best industrial innovation scholarship trainee

Québec, December 22, 2008 – The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Fonds de recherche sur la nature et les technologies (FQRNT) announce today the creation of a recognition to reward the top trainee taking part in the Industrial Innovation Scholarship (IIS) Program.

This prize aims to reward a research trainee who delivers the best results and whose contribution has the greatest impact on their industry. The winner will be announced at the 2009 Association de la recherche industrielle du Québec (ADRIQ) Gala.

Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President of NSERC, declared: “NSERC and the FQRNT are proud to partner in recognising the excellent work and technological advancement achieved by trainees who develop their know-how in the industry through the IIS Program.”

In 2007-2008, more than 40 scholarships have been granted under the program and the goal for 2008-2009 is to offer 80 to 100 IIS scholarships. Pierre Prémont, President of the FQRNT, adds: “The needs for on-the-job training are greatly increasing, and these scholarships can also attract foreign students.”

“The NSERC-Québec regional office and the FQRNT will jointly establish the selection parameters for this recognition,” said Alex Navarre, Manager of NSERC-Québec: “This activity illustrates the great collaboration that prevails between both federal and provincial subsidiary agencies.”

The IIS Program provides financial aid to highly-qualified students registered in a Québec university graduate program in sciences and engineering, and who develop a research project with an industrial partner in Québec.

The aid allows students to acquire an industrial research experience while pursuing graduate studies in the province of Québec. These scholarships encourage students to consider a career in research in industry, where they will contribute to the furthering of Canadian innovation.

About FQRNT

Created in 2001, the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies is a public agency operating under the aegis of the Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade. The mission of the FQRNT is to promote and contribute financially to research and to the training of researchers, and to disseminate knowledge in the fields of natural sciences, mathematics and engineering www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca

About NSERC

NSERC is a federal agency whose vision is to help make Canada a country of discoverers and innovators for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency supports some 26,500 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 11,800 university professors every year and fosters innovation by encouraging more than 1,400 Canadian companies to participate and invest in university research projects. www.crsng.qc.ca

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