



## SCIENCE FAIRS AND THE BC CURRICULUM

- Inquiry is a critical component of the BC Curriculum
- Science Curricular Competencies is a 100% match for the process of a science fair project
- “*Secondary Science Curricular Competencies Learning Map: Standards-Based Assessment for Science Fair*” created by Morgan Whitehouse (SD73)  
\*see attached resources





## THE ROLE OF TEACHERS

- Teachers are under heavy strain and may be reluctant to change their existing lesson plans to something new and different due to a lack of time and resources
- The key is showing them that a science fair activity in their class is PART of what they have to teach
- When reaching out to schools and teachers, make sure your communication is clear and that they understand you are there to help and guide them if they require assistance in doing a science fair at their school

*\*see attached resources*





## HOW TEACHERS CAN BRING SCIENCE FAIRS TO THEIR SCHOOLS

- Teachers don't have to organize a full grade or school science fair for their involvement to be successful
- Teachers can run science fair-like projects in their classrooms and register only the students who show an interest in competitive fairs for the regionals





### EXAMPLE CLASS/SCHOOL FAIR

In the past, my school would have external judges come to judge all Science 9 projects (about 80 kids). This became too much so I modified it to an in-house fair:

- All 80 students build science fair-like projects
- Students self-identify if they are interested in advancing to the competitive fair, OR if they want a live judging experience
- Roughly 25 self-identified students are judged by grade 10, 11 or 12 students
- The strongest are selected to go to regionals









### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Projects advancing from school fairs to regionals don't have to be extremely strong every time
  - All students started somewhere with the help of a teacher to support them
- Encourage students who are passionate and interested in science fairs to move onto regionals
- Discuss ethics with teachers, but if they are new to science fairs or feeling overwhelmed, encourage them to not accept projects with animals or humans
- Science Fair Foundation BC programs can also support teachers in science fairs:
  - Ethics Committee
  - STEM Project Grant for students
  - Workshops, Videos and Podcast