

CWSF 2016 - Montreal, Quebec



Matthew Condappa

Spruce it Up 2!

Challenge: Health

Category: Senior

Region: Frontier Schools

City: Norway House , MB

School: Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre

Abstract: Many people spend money on medical care when there are natural medicines available that have been used for generations by our Indigenous people. Among the First Nations people of Canada, the gum resin from the black spruce tree is known for healing skin infections. My project shows that the resin inhibits the growth of bacteria that are the causal agents in skin infections in humans.

Biography

My name is Matthew Condappa and I am a 16-year-old year grade eleven student at Helen Betty Osborne Ininiw Education Resource Centre (HBOIERC). I am a member of the school's basketball and volleyball team as well as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. I love sports because I am good at it and I get the opportunity to be an ambassador for my school. I also play the piano fairly well but it is more to please my mom. I also do the science fair to please mom but I also know that it offers a unique learning experience that helps me to develop intellectually and provides an opportunity to meet many interesting people. The inspiration for my project came while living in a First Nations community. I became interested in indigenous medicine and the spruce gum. I was encouraged by many people to share what I discovered with others and the science fair gave me an opportunity to show what I learnt about spruce gum. I encourage anyone who has a project to enter it in a science fair and see where it will take you.

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