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**PROVINCE ENCOURAGES YOUNG WOMEN TO PURSUE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,  
ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS CAREERS**

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**International Day of the Girl Celebrated Tomorrow: Minister Irvin-Ross**

The Manitoba government is commemorating International Day of the Girl with a special event celebrating women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), at the Legislative Building tomorrow, Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross, minister responsible for the status of women, announced today.

“Education is key to social change and integrating girls and women in all sectors of society,” said Minister Irvin-Ross. “This event to mark International Day of the Girl highlights some of the many exciting academic and career paths available to girls in science and math.”

The event will begin at the Legislative Building with a profile of research done by some of Manitoba’s top women scientists from Brandon University, University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg.

Among the top researchers on hand to mentor girls will be:

\* Dr. Melanie Martin, who is working on developing a non-invasive way to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease and other nervous system disorders;

\* Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, who is working to improve water and sanitation security in First Nations; and

\* Dr. Sarah Plosker, who is using mathematics to research the principle of quantum superposition, seeking to answer if something can be in two places at the same time.

Following the event, 30 high school students will go on special tours of the University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg in departments focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Participants from high schools were nominated by superintendents, school administrators and teachers from across Manitoba, and selected for the promise and interest they show in STEM fields.

“At Brandon University, women scientists are making a significant mark on innovation and research at a national and global level. Manitoba post-secondary institutions are leading the way in research and innovation,” says Dr. Gervan Fearon, president and vice-chancellor, Brandon University. “Women scientists are forging new ground in many areas and their success points to a bright future for girls in science and many other fields.”

“This event allows established female scientists to showcase their research to the next generation,” said Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst, prairie chair for women in science and engineering, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. “There are already many of us in STEM fields, but we are working hard to increase our numbers. Greater participation of women in STEM will lead to better products and services for society. Maximizing diversity in the workplace is an important goal and leads to enhanced results.”

The event honours International Day of the Girl, which was declared by the United Nations in 2012. Canada led the call to raise awareness about the particular challenges girls face around the world and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. Celebrations of International Day of the Girl give an opportunity to highlight the rights of girls, and to advocate for greater action and investment to enable girls to reach their full potential.

For additional information on International Day of the Girl, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/msw](http://www.gov.mb.ca/msw).