



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Mathematics



© Copyright 2006 Mitchell Odyssey Foundation



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



BC Science Outreach Workshop

- **About Mitchell Odyssey Foundation (MOF)**
- **Odyssey Schools Program**
- **What we currently measure**
- **When we measure**
- **Issues in measuring**



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



About Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

- Established 2004
- Chairman and Founder Ross Mitchell
- 100% Financed by Ross Mitchell
- Six Volunteer Directors
- One Employee
- \$500,000/annum budget
- “Stimulate adolescents’ interest in science and technology”



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Odyssey Schools Program

- The **Odyssey Schools Program** is the Foundation's flagship initiative that enables educators within public schools to *enrich the learning experience* for students by funding *enhancements* to their Science, Technology and Mathematics Programs.
 - *Primary focus is Grade 7 to Grade 10 students*
- Students are engaged by innovative learning through a variety of stimulating activities that promote interest in science and the pursuit of careers in science and technology



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Odyssey Schools

2004 2 Vancouver School Board (VSB)

2005 4 Additional VSB

1 Catholic School District
(London, Ontario)

2006 4 Additional VSB

5 Delta School District
4 Richmond School District
2 Surrey School District
3 Thames Valley District (Ontario)

2007 (25 New Schools)

5 Additional Surrey School District
5 Coquitlam School District
4 Burnaby School District
2 Langley School District
3 Victoria School District
6 Central Okanagan School District

50 Odyssey Schools Covering 11 School Districts

“More Than 10,000 Students Wild About Science!”



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Odyssey Schools Program

- Each school receives up to \$25,000 over a three to five year period to implement a program unique to their school.
- Committed educators create an Odyssey program they feel will be most beneficial to their students needs.
- Odyssey activities are uniquely “teacher defined” to ensure lasting positive results and designed to impact the greatest number of students possible.



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Odyssey Schools Sample Expenditures

- Lab Equipment, Materials & Supplies (20%)
- Hardware & Software (10%)
- Field Trips & Outreach Programs (30%)
- Science, Technology & Math Club Activities (15%)
- Extra-Curricular Activities - Science Fairs, Competitions (5%)
- Guest Speakers & Outside Personnel (10%)
- Teacher Release Time (5%)
- Professional Development (**5%**)



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Performance Measures

What

Anecdotal

Qualitative

Quantitative

When

**Annual Reports
School visits**

**Application
Annual Reports
School visits
Surveys**

**Application
Annual Reports
School visits
Surveys
School stats
School board**



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Program Application Process

Focus on Project Impact & Performance Measures:

- Outline the expected positive impacts of the Odyssey project and indicate how these will be measured
- Identify expected student participation rates for each year of the program (by grade level)
- Describe how student participation will be promoted, maintained and/or increased over the project duration

***Annual reports outline project impacts
& track performance measures***



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Anecdotal Measures

- Letters and thank you cards from participating students
- Letters and quotes from:
 - School Board administrators
 - Principals and Vice Principals
 - Participating Teachers

All very supportive and give MOF Board level of comfort

Adequate as long as privately/single source financed?



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Qualitative Measures

- Promises of change in culture of S & T at school
- Observations during Odyssey school visits:
 - Student engagement & exploration
 - Hands-on, interactive discovery
 - Enthusiasm & excitement about science
- Letters from students & teachers
- Survey(s) of science and science career attitudes

***All acceptable measures as long as Foundation
is privately, single-source supported***



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Quantitative Measures

- **Number of participating students:**
 - *Projected and actual*
- **Science 11 and 12 participation rates:**
 - *Prior to and after MOF support*
- **Post-secondary educational choices:**
 - *Reverse the trend of declining S & T enrollment*

***Some measures “under development”
since MOF only 4 years old***



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Impact Measurement Issues

- **Attribution**
- **More important if external financing/support sought**
- **Available Resources**
 - **Actual (1 employee, 6 directors)**
 - **Priority (Assess or support?)**



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

Creating Opportunities for Kids in Science, Technology & Math



Mitchell Odyssey Foundation Contact

Rick Warner/ Director

Email: rick.warner@nserc.ca

Phone: **604.666-8818**

Cheryl Kristiansen / Managing Director

Email: ckristiansen@m-o-f.org

Phone: **604.889.0530**

Mitchell Odyssey Foundation

PO Box 19043, RPO 16,

Delta BC V4L 2P8

www.m-o-f.org