



*Photo contributed*

**Middle and high school students from Penticton had the chance to pitch their business ideas to a judging panel at Penticton Secondary in the Windward Software Young Entrepreneurs Dragons Den Competition. Among those in contention for a share of the \$2,500 prize purse is the business Rose and Cons with owners Poonam Chahal, left, a Princess Margaret Secondary student and Rose Harnes, who attends Pen-Hi. The two developed a T-shirt business, painting artistic designs on them and selling them to students and friends.**

# Kids are all right

**By Penticton Herald Staff**  
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Young entrepreneurs pitched their business ideas to a judging panel to win a share of \$2,500 in the Windward Software Young Entrepreneurs Dragons Den Competition.

The event began three months ago when middle and high school students began developing their business before presenting it Wednesday at Penticton Secondary School for the final judging round.

Their final task will be to prepare a marketing plan to launch their entrepreneurial businesses. Students had already demonstrated the financial feasibility of their business as well as present their concepts to local business leaders.

The cash prize will be distributed to the top three teams of high school students, which they can use to launch their new business. Middle school students will receive a \$500 prize.

The competition involves a three-way partnership with Okanagan College's Students in Free Enterprise, School District 67 and Penticton Economic Development Services and brings together entrepreneurial-minded school students with Okanagan College Business students and leaders in the community.

Other local support comes from the Penticton Chamber of Commerce, BMO Penticton, Penticton Okanagan Rotary Club, Ramada Penticton and Berry & Smith Trucking Ltd.

The winner will be announced at the final banquet at the Ramada Inn on May 17 and is sponsored by Rick and Yasmin Thorpe and Friends and Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen.