

ESL news for Monday, May 16th.

Story One: Vancouver firefighter asks girlfriend to marry him

A Vancouver firefighter named Bryan Gillan wanted to ask his girlfriend, Marie-Ann Lenko, to marry him. He climbed up a firefighter's ladder to the window of her office building in downtown Vancouver. When he got to her window, he saw that she was busy on her computer. He waved to her. Some of her co-workers came to the window to look at him. Finally, Marie-Ann looked out the window and saw Bryan. He opened his jacket. Under his jacket was a big sign that said: "Will you marry me?" Marie-Ann was really surprised. When she went out of the building, Bryan Gillan was standing on the stairs. He knelt down and asked her again: "Will you marry me?" Of course, Marie-Ann said "Yes!"



Bryan Gillan climbing the firefighter's ladder

Story Two: Young Vancouver teens win science award

Two teenage scientists from Vancouver, Raymond Wang, 17, and Nicole Ticea, 16, have each won a science **award**. They beat 1,700 of the world's best young scientists to win their awards. The top prize of 75,000 dollars went to Wang. He wanted to know why it is so easy for people get sick on an airplane. He found a way to improve the **flow** of air in airplane cabins so that passengers can breathe fresh air. At the same time, he found a way to **reduce** the amount of bad **germs** in the cabin air. His **device** stops the spread of serious illnesses among airplane passengers and could save thousands of lives. Ticea developed a device to test people for AIDS in poor countries. The device doesn't use electricity and can be thrown away. It is cheap and costs less than 5 dollars.



Raymond Wang on the right with Nicole Ticea

Story Three : BC raises fines for distracted driving



A distracted driver using his cellphone

Do you drive and use your cellphone to text and talk? If you do, watch out! The province of British Columbia has just **raised** the **fine** to 368 dollars. The **distracted driver** will also have to pay an extra 175 dollars for **penalty points**. This brings the total to 543 dollars if it is the first time the person is caught. The fines and penalty points will go up each time the police catch a driver using their cellphone. The government says that if a person is caught using their cellphone twice in one year, that person could be **banned** from driving. Graduated Licensing Program drivers (new drivers) could also face a driving ban of 6 months if they are caught texting and talking. The new rules will start on June 1st.

Story Four: Young mother gives birth to quadruplets in Alberta BC



Bethani and Tim Webb

A young mother has **given birth** to four baby girls who all look the same. Four babies born at the same time are called **quadruplets**. If they look the same they are **identical**. The babies were born naturally. A nurse said that the chances of giving birth to quadruplets naturally are one in 67 million. The young woman, called Bethani Webb, and her husband Tim, are from a town called Hythe in Alberta. The couple has moved into Tim's mother's house because they were living in a one-bedroom apartment. The babies' names are Emily, Grace, Mckayla and Abigail. The babies will stay in the neo-natal (baby) unit of the hospital for another month. The people of the town of Hythe are very excited and have been collecting money and diapers for the new babies.