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For Immediate Release

## **UBC geological engineering students walk away with two 2013 Vale Undergraduate Engineering Scholarships**

**(Renfrew, Ontario):** Volunteers, leaders in their communities and ambassadors for the engineering profession – these qualities are exemplified by **University of British Columbia geological engineering students Hilary Wong (second year) and Heidi Manicke (third year)**. These two outstanding women are chosen recipients of the 2013 Vale Undergraduate Engineering Scholarships and were selected from applicants from across Canada.

These prestigious \$10,000 scholarships are awarded annually to the most promising women in an accredited undergraduate engineering program in Canada who are interested in the mining and metallurgical fields. Competition was fierce this year, with many outstanding applicants. However, even among the very best, Hilary and Heidi shone.

Both are actively involved in their communities, volunteer many hours to helping others and are strong role models for the mining engineering profession.

Ms. Wong is in her second year of geological engineering student at UBC. Her interest in mining engineering was sparked by a high school geography course and led her to pursue a degree in engineering. She received her pilot's license before her driver's license and volunteers as a familiarization pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

“Most students are unsure about what direction to choose for their futures like I once was. What helped me to make my decision was connecting with professionals and students and hearing a different perspective. I think the best way to connect with students is to talk to them one on one; I want to make a difference, however small.” says Ms. Wong.

Ms. Manicke is a third-year geological engineering student at UBC who also holds a BA and an MA in German Studies. Her extracurricular activity list is vast, and includes volunteering for the North Shore Mountain Bike Association, working as a junior program climbing coach, and donating her time as a mentor for a first year engineering student.

“I feel that many women who would not initially be drawn to engineering would relate to my experiences, and those who are already interested in engineering would be encouraged by my passion and enthusiasm for engineering. I settled on geological engineering as the balance of earth sciences, physics and mathematics seemed very appealing, and the possibilities within the field were endless. After two summers of working in the industry, I know I have made the right choice,” says Ms. Manicke.

Since 1990, the Foundation has promoted engineering as a career choice for young Canadian women through its extensive scholarship program, a website that attracts thousands of new visitors a month, social media programming, and via scholarship winner presentations to high school students. Vale was a founding partner with the Foundation and it is through Vale’s support these two important scholarships are available.

“Vale would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Hilary and Heidi – their commitment to the community, serving others and passion for engineering will make them leaders in the mining profession,” says Wayne Scott, General Manager Base Metals Human Resources Solution Center for Vale. “At Vale, we are committed to building a better future – investing in youth and education is just one of the ways we give back to the communities we serve.”

Along with the financial support, Vale may also offer a summer job opportunity to its scholarship winners.

Thanks to Vale’s support, Hilary and Heidi will receive their scholarship certificates at the CEMF *Networking and Award Event* held in conjunction with the Engineers Canada AGM. The ceremony will take place in Yellowknife, NWT this June.

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**For more information or for interviews with any of the scholarship recipients, please contact Meghan Howard, executive director at 1-866-883-2363, [info@cemf.ca](mailto:info@cemf.ca), [www.cemf.ca](http://www.cemf.ca).**