



## **Virtual Expert Clinics Selected from Best of the Best Canadian Companies to Attend Venture Forum**

*Canadian Venture Forum selects Virtual Expert Clinics as one of the best of the best companies in Canada of interest to investors.*

(PRWEB) May 23, 2006 -- VEC is a New Brunswick company that has developed an innovative technological platform that revolutionizes the way society approaches clinical guidance. Its first product, AutismPro, is a subscription-based online program for providing educational therapy support to families, educators, and therapists of children with autism.

“The world-wide growth in the incidence of autism is alarming and it’s causing a great deal of stress on the financial and human resource capabilities of governments and other service providers,” said Cynthia Howroyd, President and CEO of VEC. “AutismPro’s low-cost and Internet delivery model position VEC both as a quality assurance tool for existing therapy programs and a clinical guidance tool where no services exist.”

Canadian internet-based software developer Virtual Expert Clinics (VEC) was chosen from amongst the best companies in Canada to attend the 2nd Annual Canadian Venture Forum (CVF) in Toronto. “We have selected the best of the best companies to be represented in this year,” said Richard Zurawski, Chair of the Toronto Venture Group.

The Canadian Venture Forum is co-hosted by Toronto Venture Group and Thompson. The three day event gives a select group of entrepreneurs the chance to meet with top-tier North American investors. Participating companies are thoroughly screened from a field of well over a hundred candidates. “Every year, CVF top-grades our selection committee to ensure that we are able to continue to access truly great investment opportunities for our audience,” said Sean Wise, Chair, Selection Committee. “This year was no exception.”

VEC, voted one of the “Top 25 Canadian IT Up and Comers” by the Branham Group, recently won a Knowledge Industry Recognition Award (KIRA) for Most Promising Start-up. “Being selected to participate in the Canadian Venture Forum is further recognition that we have a great product-market mix,” said Ms. Howroyd. “The potential for developing our current technology platform into an entire suite of products for special needs children is tremendous.”

“The forum was a wonderful opportunity to meet interested investors and begin to forge alliances with other entrepreneurs,” said Ms. Howroyd. “We have had a number of investors who have followed up with us, some of whom have a parent of a child with

autism in their firm and have personal experience with the enormous market pain I described in the presentation.”

#### About Virtual Expert Clinics

Virtual Expert Clinics (VEC) delivers online programs to support individualized educational planning for children with special needs. VEC is located in the National Research Council Building on the University of New Brunswick campus. AutismPro is a subscriber-based online program that guides users in planning and carrying out a program for teaching children with autism. The program will be ready for commercial release later this year. Plans are in place to create future programs for developmental disorders using this system.

#### About the Canadian Venture Forum

Canadian Venture Forum is the place to be for entrepreneurs and the investment community. Attendance at Canadian Venture Forum was over 500 last year and since the year 2000 presenting companies received funding of over \$1 billion. This year Canadian Venture Forum will be larger than ever. Once again, a top-tier Selection Committee of Investors and Advisors will volunteer their time to carefully screen and select over 60 quality investment opportunities.

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