



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frank Bouchard of Ottawa, ON is the winner of the \$10,000 Manning Award for his Wipebook reusable, recyclable dry erase paper notebook

Ottawa, ON (October 19, 2016) – Frank Bouchard of Ottawa, ON has won the 2016 Ernest C. Manning Innovation Award for recognizing the need for a low-tech solution to a common problem – giving learners and creators erasability. His Wipebook invention is a reusable, recyclable dry erase paper notebook that allows users to create, solve, erase and start again.

The Innovation Award is one of four prizes the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation presents annually to talented Canadian innovators who are improving the lives of Canadians and others worldwide through their commercialized innovations. Frank Bouchard will receive his \$10,000 prize at the Foundation’s 35th Innovation Awards Dinner in Halifax on October 20, 2016.

“The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping build a culture of innovation by encouraging and rewarding outstanding Canadian innovators,” said Foundation President Jennifer Diakiw. “Our Awards celebrate innovators for the value they add to our provincial and national economies by creating jobs and wealth, and positioning our country as a global competitor. We consider them Canada’s most valuable resource.”

At a time when technology is becoming increasingly intelligent and complex, Frank Bouchard recognized the need for a low-tech solution to a common problem – giving learners and creators erasability. His Wipebook invention is a reusable, recyclable dry erase paper notebook that allows users to create, solve, erase and start again.

Developed initially as an entrepreneurial class project at the University of Ottawa, consumer demand for Wipebook was overwhelming. When Mr. Bouchard started a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$4,000 in pre-orders, the campaign raised an astounding \$424,000 in under 30 days. Today, Wipebook is sold in over 340 retail locations across Canada including chains such as Staples and Walmart and is shipped to 68 different countries.

The key innovation of this film technology, setting it apart from traditional lamination, is the inclusion of the aqueous water base layer, which prevents permeability. The synergy of this base layer with the UV coating mimics the properties of conventional whiteboards for a wide variety of applications from post-it notes to notebooks to flip charts.

Mr. Bouchard is committed to seeing Wipebook become a sustainable alternative to disposable notebooks and to ensuring that those students who could benefit most from it, have access to it.

Mr. Bouchard believes that awards like those presented by the Manning Foundation help showcase innovation and encourages others to follow their passion. “These awards help demonstrate the importance of innovation and show that it doesn’t have to be about electronics...innovation is really about having a purpose and finding a way to make things better.”

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 265 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. For more information, including the full list of 2016 Innovation Award winners, visit: www.manningawards.ca.