



Rami Ghanem, 16, is a Calgary high school student and the first announced winner of the Future Dragon Fund Contest. Dragons' Den investor Kevin O'Leary is giving 10 prizes of \$5,000 to student entrepreneurs. COURTESY RAYRAYPHOTO.CA

Calgary student gets \$5K Dragon boost for app

Future Dragon Fund Contest. Idea for more efficient punch clock intrigues Kevin O'Leary

It took just 16 months of working at a Tim Hortons for Calgary high school student Rami Ghanem to come up with an award-winning idea for efficiency.

Thanks to a \$5,000 cheque from Dragons' Den heavyweight Kevin O'Leary, Ghanem's idea for a modern method of employee check-in may soon appear in fast food franchises everywhere.

On Tuesday, the 16-year-old was announced as the first of 10 winners in the Future Dragon Fund Contest, a search for student entrepreneurs by O'Leary and the

popular reality show on CBC.

"I was going to scream and shout but I had to calm down because I was on my way to bio class," Ghanem said, reflecting on the moment he got the news last week.

The teenager's video entry was among hundreds received by the show after the contest was announced in October.

When he first got the part-time job at Tim Hortons in late 2011, Ghanem noticed a bulky machine at the back.

At first, he didn't know what it was for. He soon discovered it was where employees punched in for their shifts.

They found their name on a list, entered a PIN, then had to confirm twice that they wanted to clock in.

"It came to me that there needs to be something better,

Who is Rami Ghanem?

The Grade 11 student at Lester B. Pearson High School is in an advanced baccalaureate program and lives with his parents and younger brother and sister.

faster and more responsive, he said. "I wanted to make something like an iPad app that would allow employees to clock in and out using facial and voice recognition."

If he can make his vision a reality, employees will stand in front of a screen that will automatically pull up their profile.

"The \$5,000 from Kevin will allow me to jumpstart it into developing the app," he said.

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