

ESSAY CONTEST

How can we improve Canada's fresh water?

IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) wants to hear from you! The world's leading whole-lake freshwater experimentation site is asking you to come up with science-based solutions for Canada's bodies of fresh water. Canada is home to 20 per cent of the world's fresh water. In celebration of **Canada's 150th anniversary** we want to hear from high school students about the best ways we can continue to sustainability manage our fresh water for the next 150 years

TWO INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

will be selected to attend the Blue Cities Conference in Toronto on May 19, 2017!

Who can submit?

Students must be enrolled in Grade 8, 9, 10, or 11 and be returning to high school in Fall 2017.

How do I develop and submit my essay?

- Choose a freshwater body in Canada and propose a plan of action for its sustainable management.
- Explain the importance of this freshwater body to Canadians over the past 150 years.
- Outline a plan of action that addresses a significant anthropogenic (of human origin) threat to that freshwater body's ecosystem.
- Your plan must be supported by current scientific knowledge, with the goal of ensuring that everyone can continue to use this resource for the next 150 years.
- Essays must be submitted as a pdf to education@iisd-ela.org no later than 11:59 p.m. CT on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017**. Emails electronically time-stamped with a later date will not be considered.

What are the guidelines?

Essays must be in English and may not exceed 2,000 words excluding references. Students are reminded that good scientific writing is concise; length does not necessarily equal quality. Essays should be written in 12-point font, single spaced with one-inch margins and numbered pages. A cover page should give the essay a title; identify the author, their school and school board; and provide a contact number for both the student and their teacher.

The full essay rubric that will be used to evaluate submissions is available at <https://www.iisd.org/ela/educational-resources/essay-contest-can-improve-canadas-fresh-water/>.

What can I win?

Winners of the essay competition will be notified on March 17, 2017. **Two individual winners will be selected to attend the Blue Cities Conference in Toronto on May 19, 2017 (bluecities.ca)**! Your conference experience will be facilitated by IISD-ELA, which will cover the cost of flights, accommodation and conference registration. You will have a unique opportunity to interact with professionals and experts working on urban water issues across Canada, and boost your resume and post-secondary applications!

ONE WINNING SCHOOL

having participated exceptionally in the essay competition, will be awarded the opportunity to send two students to the two week Experimental Lakes Student Experience field course at IISD-ELA in July 2017.

Who is hosting this essay contest?

IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) is a world-renowned freshwater research facility in Northwestern Ontario. It is operated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), an international policy think-tank headquartered in Winnipeg. In its 48-year history, IISD-ELA has served as the site for landmark whole-ecosystem studies focusing on the causes and ecological impacts of eutrophication, acid rain, heavy metal contamination, hydroelectric damming and synthetic estrogen pollution.

Each summer, IISD-ELA hosts the two-week Experimental Lakes Student Experience field course on aquatic ecology and environmental science for a small group of select high school students. This course provides a unique opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience in biological fieldwork, complete an independent project at a globally unique outdoor research facility, and work alongside and interact with some of the world's leading freshwater scientists.

This project is supported by the RBC Blue Water Project.

