

“From Canada’s Lakes to the World”: An essay/video contest for IISD-ELA’s 50th anniversary RULES

IISD Experimental Lakes Area is turning 50!

After 50 years of researching fresh water like no other place on earth, the world’s freshwater laboratory is asking Canada’s young people to share what research they think should be done to keep the world’s water clean for the next 50 years and beyond....

We are asking Canadian high school students to write an essay, or shoot a short video, to tell us **(1) which issue should be researched next at IISD-ELA; and (2) how we should do that research.**

You could win an all-inclusive trip for two to IISD Experimental Lakes Area to learn first-hand how we carry out our unique brand of freshwater research.

Contest Rules

Eligibility

The IISD Experimental Lakes Area “**From Canada’s Lakes to the World**” essay or video contest is open to residents of Canada who are currently enrolled in Grade 9–12 at a Canadian institution, and are returning to school in the fall of 2018. Students should have a designated teacher to guide them through the process and review the materials before submission.

Contest Period and Entry

To be eligible for the contest, contestants **must** submit all of the following documents:

- their entry for one of the two categories (**either** essay or video);
- the completed [entry form](#); and
- the completed [consent and agreement form](#).

Entries must be submitted no later than **February 16, 2018, at 11:59 p.m., Central Time.**

The contestant must submit either a written essay or a video that follows the guidelines below:

If choosing the written essay option:

1. The contestant must:

- a. Choose an issue or scientific question that is currently important to freshwater science, and could be researched at IISD Experimental Lakes Area.
 - b. Explain why this issue is important and of concern to Canadians and the world more broadly.
 - c. Outline how this issue could be researched at IISD-ELA, drawing on knowledge of the type of science currently conducted there.
Your plan must be supported by current scientific knowledge.
2. The essay entry:
 - a. Must not exceed 2,000 words in length (excluding references);
 - b. Should be written in 12-point font, single spaced with one-inch margins and numbered pages;
 - c. Should include a cover page;
 - d. Must be submitted as a PDF file to education@iisd-ela.org; and
 - e. Must be in English or French.
 3. Only one entry per person is permitted.

If choosing the video option:

1. The contestant must:
 - a. Choose an issue or scientific question that is currently important to freshwater science, and could be researched at IISD Experimental Lakes Area.
 - b. Explain why this issue is important and of concerns to Canadians and the world more broadly.
 - c. Outline how this issue could be researched at IISD-ELA, drawing on knowledge of the type of science that is conducted there.
2. Your plan must be supported by current scientific knowledge.
3. The video entry
 - a. must not exceed three minutes in length;
 - b. must be uploaded to YouTube, either as a public link or private link; and
 - c. must be in English or French.
4. Only one entry per person is permitted.

Prizes

There are two prizes available this year:

1. There will be **two individual winners** selected—one per category. This years' prize is an **all-inclusive trip for two (winner + guest) to IISD-ELA!** We will cover the cost of flights to Winnipeg, transportation to the IISD-ELA facility, meals and accommodations, and educational programming. This experience will offer a unique opportunity to interact with our researchers, scientists, and students working at IISD-ELA. You will receive hands-on experience in environmental science—notably: limnology, the “whole-

ecosystem” concept, chemistry, ecological interactions and more!—a great chance to enhance your resume and post-secondary applications!

2. Honourable mentions for the runners-up in both categories will also be selected. They will be awarded with a participation certificate, and their video/essay will be published on our website.

Judging the Entries

Entries will be judged by a panel of judges composed of IISD-ELA researchers and scientists.

Judging Criteria

Below is the rubric by which essays will be graded. The description outlines the desired **minimum** standard for each set of criteria.

Criteria	
Issue (/10)	The author/videographer explores relevant aspects of their freshwater issue intelligently. A strong understanding of the issue discussed informs relevant and appropriate inferences.
Science (/10)	The author/videographer proposes creative or innovative freshwater research options. Proposed research addresses the freshwater issue with a plan that is practical and supported by science.
Creativity (/10)	The author/videographer creatively describes the issues and the possible science, engaging the reader/viewer and inspiring them to learn more or get involved.
Format (/10)	Narrative and flow is concise and well organized. Understanding of scientific topics is apparent, and science is discussed intelligently in the context of the topic. All scientific claims and citations are referenced in a consistent format.

Finalists and Final Winners

The two individual winners will be notified no later than **March 23, 2018** that they have been selected, and of the procedure to follow to claim their prize.

Questions

If you have any further questions, please contact Pauline Gerrard:

Email: education@iisd-ela.org

Phone: +1 (204) 958-7700 ext. 727

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IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA) is a world-renowned freshwater research facility located in northwestern Ontario, Canada. IISD-ELA is an exceptional natural laboratory composed of 58 small lakes and their watersheds set aside for scientific research. It is one of the only places in the world where it is possible to conduct experiments on whole ecosystems.

Operated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), a policy think-tank headquartered in Winnipeg. In its 50-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, and hydroelectric damming, among others.