

Youth Voices Matter When it Comes to Climate Change

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Youth Recommend Solutions to Move to a Low-carbon Ontario

TORONTO, ON –(Marketwired – May 30, 2016) – Giving youth a voice for change, GreenLearning Canada, with support from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change, is **engaging youth across the province to develop recommendations to address climate change in Ontario.**

The Ontario Youth Dialogue on Climate Leadership project gives youth an informed, constructive voice in shaping a sustainable future for the province and its future generations.

Twenty-eight high school classes in five communities across the province (Eastern Ontario, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, London and Toronto), representing over 630 students, investigated the impacts of climate change in their communities and the measures required to address challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

“Empowering students to feel like they can effect positive change has engaged learners who would otherwise not connect strongly with climate change,” says Julie Vander Meij, an Instructional Leader with the Toronto District School Board. Madeleine, a Grade 10 student in Sudbury summarized the experience, “Learning about climate change made us passionate and invested in creating a green future.”

As part of their investigations, students were tasked with using data and resources from the Ministry and from local community partners. They worked collaboratively in four community virtual seminars to shape their consensus on the issues and recommendations to address climate change in Ontario, and to move toward a low-carbon economy.

“GreenLearning believes youth are critical in creating a more sustainable future,” says Gordon Harrison, Director of Climate Change Education at GreenLearning Canada. “The project aims to make learning about climate change relevant and focused on solutions, so that youth are empowered to discover ways to minimize our carbon footprint.”

The project culminated with student leaders gathering over a weekend to draft a white paper: *Moving Toward a Low-Carbon Ontario – a Youth Agenda for Change*. **Youth will speak with Glenn Thibeault, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change** to discuss their ideas on how to move to a low-carbon economy in a final **Virtual Town Hall on May 30 at 1pm.**

Members of the public are invited to weigh in on the conversation and support the students on Twitter using #CCWIL. For more information, visit greenlearning.ca, follow us on Twitter [@GreenLearning](https://twitter.com/GreenLearning) and LIKE us on Facebook at facebook.com/greenlearning.canada.foundation.

The **GreenLearning Canada Foundation (GLCF)** is a leader in energy-sustainability education in Canada, highly respected and supported by educators, the industry, governments and civil society organizations. We have over 25 years of experience and expertise, on the ground, working with teachers to educate and engage young people.

We develop eLearning, web-based curriculum programs and provide teacher training and support. We work with an extensive network of teachers, school boards, faculties of education, teachers’ professional organizations and departments of education. We collaborate with environmental and environmental education NGOs. Through our network of community partners, we are building school-community capacity to affect change.

Contact Information

- **Media contact:**

Gordon Harrison
Director, Climate Change Where I Live
613.256.1487
gordonh@greenlearning.ca