

# News Release Communiqué



Ministry of  
the Environment

Ministère de  
L'Environnement

Ministry of Research and  
Innovation

Le ministère de la Recherche et  
de l'Innovation

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## **YOUNG ONTARIANS SHOW McGUINTY GOVERNMENT THEIR IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Students Across Ontario Win Prizes For Art, Essays And Videos On How To Stop Climate Change*

TORONTO — Ontario Premier and Minister of Research and Innovation, Dalton McGuinty, along with Environment Minister Laurel Broten, today announced the winners of province-wide climate change contests.

"I am pleased to congratulate the winners and all the participants of this year's Clean Air and Climate Change student contests," said Premier McGuinty. "These exceptional students have taken the time to show Ontarians what actions we can all take right now to fight climate change and ensure our kids have all the opportunities we dream for them."

Sponsored by the ministries, the contests, which ran earlier this year, asked Ontario's students to "*Show us how you can save the planet*" by coming up with their own solutions to climate change and air pollution. The submissions were in the form of artwork for primary schools and essay or videos for secondary schools. The Ministry of the Environment received almost 3,500 submissions within six weeks of launching the contests.

"The fact is, if each one of us takes both big and small (but important) steps to reduce our environmental footprint, it's going to add up. It's going to make a big difference ... for our planet ... and for future generations of Ontarians," said Broten. "The McGuinty government understands this. Thousands of informed and engaged youth across Ontario are telling us that they get it too."

The contests were judged by Carolyn Rayfield, Executive Director of Sci-Tech Ontario (<http://www.scitechontario.org/>) and Denny Manchee, Learning Grounds Deputy Program Manager at Evergreen (<http://www.evergreen.ca/>).

In addition, the art contest was judged by Douglas Worts, Interpretive Planner of the Art Gallery of Ontario's Education Division (<http://www.ago.net>), the video contest was judged by Candida Paltiel, Festival Director, Planet in Focus environmental film festival and the essay contest was judged by Sara Graham, Managing Editor, Youth Culture Group (<http://www.youthculture.com/>), publishers of *Vervegirl*, *Fuel*, *desperado* and *B-Zone* magazines for children and youth.

"These contests gave us a glimpse into the creative minds of Ontario's future environmental leaders," added Broten. "If this work is any indication, the province is in very good hands."

For more information, including the complete list of contest winners bios and work, please see the attached Backgrounder: *Climate Change Contest Winners*.

Winning entries are available for viewing online at [obviously.ca](http://obviously.ca), [Ontario.ca/ezone](http://Ontario.ca/ezone) and [sharedair.ca](http://sharedair.ca).

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