



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

UNA-Canada Launches Model International Joint Commission (Model IJC) for Young Scholars Marking the 100th Anniversary of the IJC

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Lewiston, NY – The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) is hosting its inaugural Model International Joint Commission Conference this Thursday, June 11 through Friday June 12th on Niagara University campus in Lewiston, NY. The Conference is being hosted in conjunction with the centennial celebrations for the Boundary Waters Treaty – the treaty which created the real-life International Joint Commission (IJC), a bi-national organization responsible for settling water disputes between Canada and the U.S. Delegates will join in the centennial festivities this Saturday along the Rainbow Bridge.

Student delegates have gathered from across North America to replicate the International Joint Commission. Participants will take on a role in a committee and debate on issues related to one of our most valuable shared resources - water. They will also complete research, draft proposals and develop solutions to the same problems confronting the IJC. The simulation offers the opportunity for intergenerational dialogue between water experts and bright young students who are passionate about environmental issues.

UNA-Canada brings its expertise in hosting the world's largest bilingual Model UN to developing this unique simulation. Under its programme **The Ripple Effect** UNA-Canada shares its experience with delivering pan-Canadian water and sanitation initiatives engaging youth in exploring national and international water issues.

The IJCs support was integral to the success of this conference. “These young people will both experience the challenges facing the IJC and will impress the IJC with their understanding and contributions to bi-national water issues.” according to Kate White, Executive Director of UNA-Canada.

The UNA-Canada youth conference is sponsored by the **Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the Montreal Port Authority, the Drinking Water Source Protection Act for Clean Water, the United Nations University, International Network on Water, Environment and Health, and Laurier University.**

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