

Alberta students win \$12,000 for environmental initiatives

CITY OF WETASKIWIN, ALBERTA, MAY 9, 2025 - The top ten finalists in the Caring for Our Watersheds contest showcased their creative ideas for environmental initiatives at an event hosted by the Battle River Watershed Alliance at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum in Wetaskiwin, Alberta last Friday.

For the contest, students are asked to submit a proposal that answers the question, “What can you do to improve your watershed?” As part of the competition, students must research their local watershed, identify an environmental concern, and come up with a project proposal to implement a realistic solution in their watershed.

This year, 264 students submitted proposals to positively impact their watershed. Participants represent six of the 11 major watersheds in the province, including the Battle River, Beaver River, Bow River, North Saskatchewan River, Red Deer River, and South Saskatchewan River. The top ten finalist schools were from Calgary, Lloydminster, Medicine Hat, and Millarville. The finalists received a cash prize plus a matching amount for their school – \$12,000 was awarded. Along with the cash prizes, the contest sponsor (Nutrien) also provides an additional \$10,000 to help contestants implement their ideas. The top three finalists included a project from Bishop Lloyd Middle School in Lloydminster that created an educational board game that teaches players how they can care for the watershed, a project from Trinity Christian School that revolved around promoting sugarcane utensils at local restaurants, and a project from Millarville School that focused on entrainment of trout in irrigation canals and protecting fish populations.

The finals included a lineup of judges from the Battle River Watershed Alliance, Alberta Council for Environmental Education, North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, Nutrien, a former MLA, municipal council member, and more.

Caring for Our Watersheds is an international program. Students in Canada, the United States, and Argentina are engaged in improving their watersheds through this program. The Canadian contest started in 2007 through the Battle River Watershed Alliance with support from the Battle River Community Foundation in Camrose, Alberta.

Thank you to all the students, teachers, and volunteers who participated in this year’s Caring for Our Watersheds contest, sponsored by Nutrien and hosted by the Battle River Watershed Alliance.

The success of Caring for Our Watersheds relies on teachers, students, and community volunteers. If you would like to be involved in the 2025-2026 contest, please visit caringforourwatersheds.com or contact Sarah Skinner, sarah@battleriverwatershed.ca

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Final Placements

	PROJECT NAME	TEAM MEMBERS	SCHOOL
1	RIVER RESCUE	DUTCH	BISHOP LLOYD
2	SUGARCANE: SWEET & SUSTAINABLE	LUKE & OSADOLOR	TRINITY CHRISTIAN
3	GET TROUT OF HERE	IKALE	MILLARVILLE
4	BEE INN	LAUREN & LILY	CRESCENT HEIGHTS
5	RAINWATER GARDENS	MANDY, ANDIE, & OLIVIA	TRINITY CHRISTIAN
6	LIFE ON THE EDGE	DARIUS, GRAYSEN, & EASTON	TRINITY CHRISTIAN
7	BUBBLE TROUBLE	ELLY & SLOANE	CRESCENT HEIGHTS
8	CAPTAIN CLEARWATER	ELLA & KAITLYN	TRINITY CHRISTIAN
9	LIFESTREAM	HUDSON & EVAN	BISHOP LLOYD
10	SNOW-TO-WATER FILTER	AVA & BRANDON	JOANE CARDINAL-SCHUBERT