



THE GREENBELT YOUTH CHARTER



AUDIENCE. To the Premier of Ontario, the Minister and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Provincial Parliament and other stakeholders in the 2015 Coordinated Review including residents, landowners, corporations and other for-profit organizations, non-government organizations and grassroots activists:

AUTHORS. We are Youth Ambassadors for the Greenbelt who care about the environment and represent the current and future communities in the Greenbelt. We are future voters whose voices are missing from the 2015 Coordinated Review and we have to answer to the consequences of decisions being made today.

IMPORTANCE. The Greenbelt provides us with many life essentials such as clean air, clean water and delicious food. It is home to many diverse ecosystems which support a rich biodiversity. The Greenbelt protects us from natural disasters and has the ability to nurture our physical and spiritual health. It represents a place where people of all ages can come together and coexist, strengthening our communities and preserving the long history and untold stories of the landscape. If we lose the Greenbelt, we lose parts of our history as well as our future.

NEED. The health of the Greenbelt directly affects the health of our communities. Our livelihood and our economy depend on the Greenbelt's natural resources. The Greenbelt is threatened by environmental hazards, invasive species, pollution, urbanization and uncontrolled urban sprawl, driven in part by greed, ignorance and unsound political agendas. Despite that, we have set a strong precedence of diligence and environmental stewardship to inspire others to follow in our footsteps.

LEGACY. The Greenbelt is an oasis away from the city where people can connect with each other and nature and engage in learning and adventure. The Greenbelt is more than lines on a map; it is a vast part of Ontario's environment, chock-full of special memories. Everyone needs to know about the importance of the Greenbelt and the role it plays in our livelihood; decision makers cannot even think about changing it until they have been there and truly understand its necessity.

The Greenbelt has inspired us to continue to learn about and explore this large and beautiful landscape and to get involved to protect and preserve it through organizations like EcoSpark. It is a place for us to live, study, work and play. As Greenbelt Youth Ambassadors, we will continue to spread the word to protect it.

Our Greenbelt Youth Charter will stand as a testimony to the power of concerned youth in stewarding our environment and serve as a reminder to decision makers to think and act selflessly about future generations. Our legacy will be a Greenbelt that we are all connected to emotionally and physically, a Greenbelt that fosters our Canadian identity, and a Greenbelt that is preserved, protected and expanded for future generations to enjoy.

For more information about the Ontario Greenbelt Youth Charter visit:
www.ecospark.ca/greenbelt-youth-charter



Possibility grows here.

MAKING OF THE ONTARIO GREENBELT YOUTH CHARTER

The Ontario Greenbelt Youth Charter represents youth who care about the Greenbelt. It is a testimony to the power of concerned youth in stewarding our environment and a reminder to decision makers to think and act selflessly about future generations.

In September 2015, high school youth ages 13 to 17 from across southern Ontario joined EcoSpark for a bus tour of the Ontario Greenbelt. For many of them this was their first time seeing it! Over two days students explored different and iconic areas of the Greenbelt and learned of their significance. We visited six unique places, each highlighting just what makes the Greenbelt such a special place to live, work, learn and play.

As a result of this experience, our Greenbelt Youth Ambassadors worked together to provide their unique perspectives on how to preserve and protect this beautiful landscape and created the first ever Ontario Greenbelt Youth Charter!

MEET THE GREENBELT YOUTH AMBASSADORS

- **ADIBA ALIF**
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School, Peel
- **ANDREW FRYER**
Dunbarton High School, Durham
- **ANGELA LIN**
Milliken Mills High School, York
- **ANGILEA SINGH**
R.H. King Academy, Toronto
- **BRIAN LEW**
SATEC at W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute, Toronto
- **CODY KHAN**
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School, Peel
- **DANI GONZALEZ**
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School, Peel
- **DASHA DEGTEARIOV**
Richmond Hill High School, York
- **DAVID QUAN**
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School, Peel
- **EDWARD HEWITT**
Dunbarton High School, Durham
- **ILAKKIYAN JEYAKUMAR**
R.H. King Academy, Toronto
- **KRISTAL RAMNARINE**
Dunbarton High School, Durham
- **MICHELLE SONG**
Woodlands School, Peel
- **MONICA BRIGHTON**
R.H. King Academy, Toronto
- **SINTHUYAN UTHAYANAN**
St. John Paul II Catholic Secondary School, Toronto
- **SUJITHAN NAVAKUMAR**
W.A. Porter Collegiate Institute, Toronto
- **TAIYA TALBERT-MCSHERRY**
R.H. King Academy, Toronto
- **WEI EN DU**
Bur Oak Secondary School, York

Support the Ontario Greenbelt Youth Charter!

Sign the charter and show decision makers that current and future generations care about the Greenbelt, and that the youth of today should have a voice in the future of our Greenbelt. The Greenbelt Youth Charter will be shared with schools, municipalities and the province during the review.

To sign the charter visit, www.ecospark.ca/greenbelt-youth-charter

The Ontario Greenbelt Youth Charter is a project of EcoSpark, generously supported by Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.



Possibility grows here.

