

Responsible Initiatives for a Viable Environment, the Canadian Unified Students Environmental Network, the Canadian Youth Foundation, and Canada World Youth.

Environmental

A Lack of Respect and Awareness

The environment, whether local, regional, or global, is a major concern for many young Canadians. They see current practices that show a lack of respect for ecosystems and a misuse of resources. They see problems in our society's systems, as well as a lack of awareness at an individual level. Many youth are concerned that most people are not aware of the impact they have on the environment and the delicate balance that exists between people and the environment. The challenge for many young people and their organizations is to make these issues real for others.

Young sustainable development activists draw attention to planning processes that encourage urban sprawl that can overtake farmland and natural habitats. They also highlight or draw attention to other possible byproducts, such as industrial pollution, poor waste management, inefficient transportation systems, and deforestation.

For most of us, our home is something person-defined. The natural world has not been taken into consideration when we choose the boundaries. These considerations were anthropocentric when they drew up our communities; there were religious or political impositions of borders on the land. (Ottawa Youth Bioregional Initiative)

People and Nature

Young people emphasize the need for a much stronger consideration of the relationship between people and the environment when dealing with resource development issues. Many young people in Canada argue strongly that many