

# Call for Young Leaders!

Apply to join Waterlution's National Youth Advisory Board!

[Click Here to Apply!](#) Applications are due Saturday, July 31st, 2021 at 11:59PM PT.

Youth Advisory Board members (YAB) (ages 19-29) facilitate the Young Water Speaks Youth Storytelling Contest by running virtual workshops for youth in schools and communities across Canada. Join this country-wide community to inspire future water leaders to share their stories.

Length of term as a YAB is 8 months (July 11, 2021- March 31, 2022). **Approximate time commitment is 4-10 volunteer hours per month.**

## Young Water Speaks- Youth Storytelling Contest

Young Water Speaks is a national storytelling contest connecting youth across Canada with water. Using online webinars and workshops, the YAB help youth (ages 7-18) grow as storytellers and encourage them to share fiction and non-fiction stories inspired by the rich history and culture as well as their personal experiences and memories that flow through Canada's waters.

- YAB members assist with **promoting and delivering** the program's content and resources
- YAB members support the delivery of the contest by **leading school group virtual storytelling training workshops.**
- YAB members will provide support by **creating educational and engaging online program content** (water/nature/cultural photos and videos with educational context, their own water stories, as resources for the youth participants & project promotion).

## Are you the right fit for the Youth Advisory Board?

You are a young leader **aged 19-29 living in Canada** and are passionate about water AND at least one of the following: environmental education, reconciliation & Indigenous knowledge, creative writing, working with youth, culture & communities, film, photography, theater, art, and/or social media.

You can commit on average **4-10 hours of volunteer work per month during your term** which include email/phone communication with the YAB coordinator, teachers and project

partners, team video calls, spending time outdoors capturing photos or videos, and hosting webinars and in school workshops during the 2021/22 school year (**YAB Term: July 11th, 2021 – March 31st, 2022**).

You are eager to work and develop a community with other YAB members locally and across the country as a peer, mentor or mentee to share knowledge and skills.

You are self-disciplined, driven, and committed. Volunteers must be able to work remotely from their computers and visit schools virtually.

You are passionate about how water and culture connect us all and are eager to share your knowledge with schools.

You are willing and eager to be showcased online as a young water leader (YAB members are featured on social media pages, making short videos & sharing photos of themselves outside).

You are social media savvy and love to capture beautiful photos or videos of water and nature.

You are looking to build your network, develop leadership skills, be involved in your community, expand your water knowledge, and add experiences to your resume.

Note: YAB that commit and complete their term with the program can request Waterlution as a job application reference.

**As a YAB member you will contribute your unique skill set to Waterlution and Waterlution will build your skills, network and capacity to compliment your career aspirations.**

## **Each YAB member contributes over 9 months by:**

- 1) **Recruiting a minimum of 5 classes/school groups** who will participate in the contest, **corresponding with teachers & group leaders to organize logistics.** *Note: Waterlution has great network of classes and teachers, yet depending on where YAB live, new classes are recruited each year.*
- 2) **Host one workshop or webinar for each school group (a minimum of 10).**
- 3) All YAB members will **create a total of 3 educational videos** for the project.
- 4) All YAB members will promote Young Water Speaks by submitting photos of themselves and their own water stories [Waterlution's Instagram](#) and other social media accounts throughout the term to promote and showcase the storytelling contest. You will work closely with Waterlution's social media team and be credited for your photos.
- 5) **Committed and dedicated YAB members can apply to attend an in-person team training and retreat in either September 2021 or March 2022 (if it is safe to do so). Waterlution retreats are sought after trainings and take place over an entire weekend in a beautiful nature setting.**
- 6) All YAB members are strongly encouraged to participate in a crowdfunding campaign

during their term.

## What will YOU gain from this volunteer experience?

1) **Transferable skills** for your resume and a certificate acknowledging that you have completed training based on the following six training themes!

- **Leadership Training:** Explore what it means to be a leader, know when to step back, when to step up and how to support others. Through training opportunities focused on personal leadership growth, systems thinking, and expanding horizons around cultures & diversity.
- **Workshop Facilitation & Youth Education:** Receive coaching from Waterlution facilitators to build your workshop delivery skills and personal style. Learn how to pivot and adapt according to group dynamics. Build tools for public speaking, and group engagement strategies. Gain hands-on experience by leading workshops and webinars for youth.
- **Networks, Connections & New Opportunities:** Connect, collaborate and network with a diverse group of like-minded individuals passionate about water. Waterlution offers volunteers career-building with regional/international delegation opportunities, summer job opportunities and much more!
- **Partnerships, Outreach & Engagement:** Learn about strategic partnerships and tackle the challenging work of outreach and engagement. Learn about liaising and ask for support from stakeholders.
- **Media & Social Media:** Learn about the power of social media as an outreach and communication tool. Build your photography, video and editing abilities. Learn how to capture and create engaging content online.
- **Communication & Event Planning:** Deepen your communication skills by working with a collaborative and dynamic team spanning the country. Learn the importance of communicating to various audiences and active listening. Gain event planning and coordination skills by organizing your own workshops and webinars for youth (with mentorship and reference materials/guides).
- **Water Knowledge:** At the heart of all of Waterlution's programs and activities is a connection to water. Develop, deepen and enhance your relationship with water. Understand and learn of water related issues and problems from mentors, special guests, other YAB members and workshop participants. Guide and adapt workshops as your understanding of issues and concerns deepens.

2) You will **grow your network** by joining a community of outstanding young water leaders, connecting with like-minded youth from across Canada! All current and past YAB have a

shared FB group, where support, jobs, events, and more is shared.

3) You will receive **a reference letter from Waterlution** acknowledging your volunteer work and your specific skills and successes and we can act as a reference as you seek future employment (we can often open doors here too!)

4) Dedicated YAB can apply to attend an in-person **training and retreat** (costs to be determined upon confirmation of dates) finalization of training, local transport, meals and accommodations covered by Waterlution, support for travel to retreat location will be assessed on a case by case basis).

5) YAB may be **rewarded with gift cards and other prizes** for their outstanding work.

6) You will **inspire the next generation of Canadian water leaders!**

7) You will **gain access to Waterlution's global network** and other training programs if you wish.

8) You will receive a Waterlution 21st-Century Skill Training Completion Certificate for your resume & portfolio

**Please contact Laina Timberg, School Program Coordinator, if you have any questions: [laina.timberg@waterlution.org](mailto:laina.timberg@waterlution.org)**

Applications will be reviewed on an on-going basis. **Applicants will be notified if they are selected by Tuesday July 6, 2021 with an invitation to the virtual YAB training on Sunday July 11, 2021 and a detailed schedule about the volunteer role and training plan.**

**[Click Here to Apply!](#) Applications are due Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 11:59PM PT.**