

Canada Water Agency discussions with ADSB students

October 26, 2021 | 10-11am **morning session**

AGENDA

Black text = together in the online meeting

Red text = teachers to facilitate in their own classroom

0:00-0:05 Introductions and why we are here

0:05-0:10 Logistics (including sharing the link to the document the teachers will collaboratively write on) and question 1 overview

0:10-0:25 Teachers facilitate discussion 1 with their classes, taking notes on the collaborative document

0:25-0:35 Brief recap together in the main Zoom room, question 2 overview

0:35-0:45 Teachers facilitate discussion 2 with their classes, taking notes on the collaborative document

0:45-0:50 Brief recap together in the main Zoom room

0:50-1:00 Final question all together, any other thoughts

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS

- Each question begins on a new page (beginning on Page 2).
- Please record notes of each class discussion under the header for each question (either Question 1 or Question 2).
- Our co-op student, Celeste, will take notes for Question 3, so you don't need to capture anything there.

Thank you for your participation!

QUESTION 1 (TEACHERS): What does a water secure future look like for everyone in Canada? (15 minutes)

- Drinking water is safe for everyone to drink regardless of where they live in Canada
- Accessible water for everyone - it doesn't run out (wells)
- Legal personhood for water to give it rights that can be protected in a court of law so that it can be kept clean, accessible and safe for everyone
 - Elaine says: this has *just* started in Canada (with [a river in Quebec](#))
- Honor original treaties between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people for water protection.
 - Elaine says: can you name treaties in the area, and/or name the nations that live(d) here?
- Work to dismantle exclusive property ownership over water
- Limit water pollution so that aquatic animal populations are stable
- Good/comprehensive government control for water safety
- Confidence that our water is clean and drinkable regardless where you are in Canada
 - Elaine says: does this mean community monitoring to test water quality? What would instill confidence?
- Country-wide standard for clean drinking water
 - Elaine says: more information [here](#) and [here](#)
 - Maybe a more holistic approach that looks at water quality standards that put the rights of the water before human needs
- Technologies for improving drinking water such as iron removal
- Control water levels in Great Lakes for salmon spawning - so that the spawning can be consistent from year to year
- Protection for vulnerable species (aquatic and those who rely on aquatic environments)
- Accountability for "big polluters" - whether through legislation, fines, etc
- Controls/regulation for road salt applications that lead to Chloride pollution"
- Preventing mercury exposure by regulating output for everyone who uses it.
- Maintaining sustainability for areas who experience low levels through year.
- Preserving ecosystems.
- Allowing everyone access to water for drinking, washing & recreation usage.
- Sustainable access without fear of running out.
- Ensuring back up plan for emergency situations.
- Proper irrigation to prevent damage /contamination to water table.
- Ensure that regulatory systems are maintained to ensure water cleanliness and that filtration systems are secure.

QUESTION 2 (TEACHERS): Why is Sault Ste. Marie a great place to have the Canada Water Agency? (10 minutes)

- There's LOTS of water here
- It is centrally located on the Great Lakes - The "heart" of the Great Lakes
- Good balance between "city" and "rural" in this area
- Access to Lake Superior, Lake Huron, and many inland lakes in Algoma District.
- Border town to United States so it's great for collaboration and partnership for protection/conservation and education - St Mary's River - "area of concern"
- Sault Ste. Marie is on the main highway so easily accessible
- Presence of Steel Plant - can be useful in monitoring effects of factories on water
- Home of Algoma University and Sault College so students could work/learn/collaborate with the Agency
- Locks here - another area that could be studied
- Sault Ste. Marie is a good fit for the "Three Key Themes" that the Agency wants to focus on: agriculture, climate change, and Indigenous Reconciliation
 - Elaine says: how so? (I don't disagree - but expand?)
 - Home of Batchewana First Nations, Garden River First Nation key partners for water protection
 - Elaine says: you might be interested in [this Declaration](#) by local First Nations groups from 2008
- We have all four seasons with lots of snow in the winter
- We have lots of fish species here also
- Home of some Conservation Authorities who could work with agency

QUESTION 3 (CELESTE): Is there anything else anyone would like to share about the Canada Water Agency and our water future? (10 minutes)

- Limited perspective due to smaller city, important to outsource from other locations
- Political affiliation of Sault Ste. Marie being more neutral therefore more potential agreements to policies, procedures
- Maintaining sustainability and reassurance of access to enough clean water
- Back up plan and emergency procedures
- Important representations from Indigenous leaders in Sault Ste. Marie
- Controlling contaminants in well water ; Sulphur
- Prevention of mercury poisoning

ATTENDEES

Ms. Pelland's class - 19

Ms. Willoughby's class - 28

Ms. Keranen's class - 19

Ms. Maclachlan's class - 20