



# Environmental Studies Association of Canada - l'Association canadienne d'études environnementales

## CALL FOR PAPERS – 2015 Annual Conference

University of Ottawa  
June 2–4, 2015

The Environmental Studies Association of Canada (ESAC) is pleased to invite you to participate in our Annual Conference at the University of Ottawa ([www.uottawa.ca](http://www.uottawa.ca)) as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences 2015 (<http://congress2015.ca>).

As Canada's leading association of interdisciplinary researchers and practitioners involved in a diversity of environmental fields, ESAC facilitates networking and dialogue across environment-related fields and practices. Our 2015 conference is an excellent opportunity for delegates to take part in a lively exchange of ideas relating to the environment among academics, students, researchers, members of NGOs, community groups, the public and private sector, practitioners, policy-makers and activists. All are encouraged to make submissions on a broad range of issues, themes and case studies, including (but not limited to):

Knowledge and environment	Sustainable livelihoods	Climate change
Environmental education	Resilience	Community sustainability
Politics of environmental knowledge	Sustainable development	Environmental or ecological economics
Environmental policy	Sustainable food systems	Gender and environment
Marketing sustainability	Resource management	Environmental psychology
Consumption/production	Political ecology	

This year's conference theme, *Capital Ideas*, refers to the power of ideas. As the Congress organizers have noted, "ideas captivate our hearts and minds; ideas connect people and ignite discussions and debates; ideas create knowledge and spark discoveries. Ideas represent an invaluable currency capable of changing our lives and our world." Reflecting this theme, ESAC keenly invites new ideas in scholarship and practice to engage with, and address the vital environmental opportunities and challenges facing the world today. We invite proposals for paper presentations, pre-organized panel sessions, poster presentations, or—new this year—3-minute thesis presentations by students.

### Submission instructions

All proposals must be submitted by **Friday, January 23, 2015**. The conference organizing committee is accepting four distinct types of proposals:

1. Individual paper presentations of 15-20 minutes. Presenters will be placed in the most appropriate session available based on the topic or method.
2. Pre-organized panel sessions of 1.5 hours. Sessions may include a series of papers (each 15–20 minutes long) on a single issue (with or without a discussion of the issue by a panel) or a workshop addressing a specific topic. Sessions must have a coordinator. The coordinator organizes the session, ensures their contributors are registered to the conference and are members of ESAC, and informs them of scheduling, etc. As part of the session proposal the coordinator should submit an abstract for the session along with the names of all contributors. Coordinators will then be required to follow up with a more detailed write-up, including abstracts for each contribution, by the end of March (to be used for the conference extended program).
3. Conference poster (and presentation): the **ESAC Poster Competition** is open to all undergraduate and graduate students. Posters will be displayed and authors will be available for informal discussion during ESAC's wine and cheese event on June 2. For further details when available, see [www.esac.ca](http://www.esac.ca).
4. 3-minute thesis presentations are open to graduate students and presented on June 3.

All submissions should clearly state the type of submission (ie. individual paper, pre-organized session, conference poster, or 3-minute thesis, etc.) and include an abstract of 300 words or less including:

- The object of study or theme of session
- Theoretical framework, concept or research question/objective
- Methodology or practice
- Main conclusions
- Relevance to the theme of Capital Ideas
- At least three keywords to assist the conference committee in assigning your paper to an appropriate session if not a self-contained panel or workshop proposal
- The institutional affiliation and contact email of the contributor(s).

Submissions should be sent by email to [ESACconference2015@gmail.com](mailto:ESACconference2015@gmail.com) by **January 23, 2015**. Acceptance e-mails will be sent out in March 2015.

### Membership and registration

You must be an ESAC member in good standing to present at the conference. Presenters not possessing membership will be removed from the program. Please visit <http://www.esac.ca/join-esac/> for details on joining ESAC. All delegates must also register for both ESAC and Congress through the Congress registration [website](#).

**June 2:** ESAC opening plenary and program, poster competition, wine and cheese, Eco-Award

**June 3:** ESAC program, 3-minute thesis presentations

**June 4:** ESAC program, banquet

**Keynote speakers** already confirmed include:

*John Bennett, Executive Director, Sierra Club of Canada*

John Bennett has a long history of campaigning on energy and environmental issues. In the 1970s, John co-founded the first Greenpeace office east of the Rockies and launched Greenpeace's first nuclear power campaign. He created a media session by leading a trio of Greenpeace activists who canoed into the Bruce Nuclear Power Plant to prove it lacked security. John was communications director for the Green Party of Canada, including the 2008 campaign in which the Greens, led by Elizabeth May, won nearly a million votes and was the only party to increase its total. His experience has demonstrated the importance of collaborating with other groups and including as many people as possible, and their ideas, in whatever work must be done. That was especially obvious in the creation of the Green Budget Coalition, which analyzed federal budgets in terms of their impact on environmental concerns. He also wants the knowledge he and others have gained to be passed on to younger people, particularly those in the Sierra Youth Coalition, "to ensure there's someone to take up the torch." ([www.sierraclub.ca/en/users/john-bennett](http://www.sierraclub.ca/en/users/john-bennett))

*Dave Ireland, Managing Director, Centre of Biodiversity, Royal Ontario Museum*

Dave Ireland unites his passion for conservation and biodiversity efforts with his commitment to public environmental awareness, launching well-received and powerful exhibits such as Wildlife Photographer of the Year and the Carbon 14: Climate is Culture Exhibit and Program Festival at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Before joining ROM in 2011, Mr. Ireland designed and delivered conservation education programs for the public at the Toronto Zoo. In addition to his professional positions, Mr. Ireland is also well-known and well-respected for his leadership in and founder of the Ontario Road Ecology Group (OREG), which he also chairs, and for which he won ESAC's ECO-Award in 2014. OREG works with multiple stakeholders to protect biodiversity from the threat of roads and traffic, and is a leader in bringing in ecological thinking to road design and management. ([http://www.esac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Dave-Ireland-ECO-Award-Winner-Press-Release-2014\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.esac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Dave-Ireland-ECO-Award-Winner-Press-Release-2014_FINAL.pdf))

### Collaboration

We are planning a collaboration with another national, scholarly association, aimed at hosting joint sessions and more in conjunction with our respective annual conferences at Congress 2015. Details will be announced soon.

**Program Chair and ESAC President:** Veronica Wahl

**Local Coordinators:** TBA

Please visit [www.esac.ca](http://www.esac.ca) for further information and announcements or contact [ESACconference2015@gmail.com](mailto:ESACconference2015@gmail.com).