

An Introduction

What is ICC?

The International Climate Champions program was established in 2007 by the British Council to engage and unite youth from around the world on the subject of climate change. The program's aim is to give youth a chance to voice their concerns and ideas on the issues of climate change while inspiring and galvanizing positive action to lessen climate change's effect. Each of the G8+5 countries selected three students to be International Climate Champions. These youth, aged 16-18, attended a meeting in London, England in late March of 2008 to prepare for the G8 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Kobe, Japan set to take place later that year. At the Environment Ministers' meeting, the Champions presented their 'Kobe Challenge', a proposal capturing the essence of their concerns as to what they thought today's youth held in high priority in the face of climate change.

What is ICCommit?

Although only three teenagers were chosen to represent Canada in London and in Kobe, seven additional Climate Champions were chosen from across the country to participate in the Canadian Science Writer's Conference in Whitehorse, Yukon. Together, the twelve Climate Champions have launched a project, ICCommit, in attempts to spread awareness and to encourage fellow Canadian youth to make 'green' changes in their lives.

ICCommit week, scheduled to run from December 1 to December 5, will involve more than 17 elementary and high schools across Canada. At each of the schools, a Climate Champion will give a brief presentation, summarizing the science behind climate change and detailing possible green solutions, to launch the ICCommit week. Following this presentation, each student will be asked to make one green commitment. Examples include committing to take public transportation to school every morning for a week, instead of driving. To remind the students of their commitments, each student will be provided with an "ICCommit" bracelet. To foster a sense of unity and perspective, commitments made by youth from across Canada will be recorded online at www.iccommit.org. In doing so, the participants will not only be able to share their commitments with other Canadian students, but will also realize how their small individual actions can make a significant difference when added up on a national level.

With the help of the ICC program, a list of commitments that the Canadian students made during the week will be sent to the G8 Environment Minister's meeting in Italy next year. ICCommit aims to show the youth of Canada how easy it is to adopt an eco-friendly lifestyle as well as how powerful these changes can be in combating climate change, and essentially securing and strengthening a sustainable and safe future.

We hope you enjoy the ICCommit challenge and wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely,
ICCs of Canada

Together we can make a difference. We are the future.