

**FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

## **NEWS RELEASE: LOCAL STUDENT KICKSTARTS NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

*Canadian High school students invited to join the event and take action.*

[Victoria, B.C.] – After rallying other high school students across Canada, a Pearson College UWC student is leading the effort to host a national conference for youth on climate change called [The Sustainability Spotlight Summit](#) on **February 21, 2021**.

Using social media challenges and video conferences, Pearson student David He, hopes to invite other Canadian high school students to join the event and to kickstart ways to build back better from COVID-19 sustainably while adapting to the new digital reality.

The event will feature engaging discussions, workshops and panelist speakers from across the country as well as a special presentation by **Elizabeth May**, the Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada and MP for Saanich—Gulf Islands. Through her extensive experiences as one of Canada's most respected environmentalists, she will be sharing some of these perspectives with students in a keynote and a Q&A session.

Each youth participant will also be matched up with a mentor and encouraged to take the lead on a climate issue in their own community. Made possible through a [Government of Canada grant](#), the goal of the event is to connect, engage and transform local students into climate leaders across our communities.

“Our young voices are important now more than ever as we build back from the pandemic.” said student organizer David He, a native of Burnaby, B.C. and a first-year student at Pearson, Canada's only United World College. “We need to make sure that our voices are heard and that we build a future where nobody is left behind, especially those affected most by the climate crisis.”

Following an ongoing social media campaign this event will be hosted digitally on February 21, 2021, from 10am – 1pm. Students can sign up at [sss2021.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sss2021) and be a part of this summit.

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## NEWS RELEASE

### About Pearson College UWC

Founded as Lester B. Pearson United World College of the Pacific (Canada) and located along Pedder Bay on the unceded territory of the Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation.

Pearson's mission is "to make education a force to unite people, nations and cultures for peace and a sustainable future" through a two-year pre-university (equivalent to grades 12 & 13) school for up to 200 students aged 16 to 19 selected from up to 160 countries and across Canada offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. This year, about 80% attend on full or partial scholarships. Nearly 4,300 students have graduated from Pearson, including 14 who have gone on to become Rhodes Scholars.

For more information, please see [www.pearsoncollege.ca](http://www.pearsoncollege.ca) and our social media pages.

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