

**TSL 2019 International Schools Debates and Children's Conference – LIFE ON LAND (SDG #15)
Provisional Programme, Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada – 8-12 July, 2019**

Sunday 7th July: Arrival of International Participants to Victoria, Canada

Monday 8th July (afternoon): Delegate Registration and Opening Ceremony, Government House, Victoria

*Tuesday 9th July: Primary Schools Debate & Awards, Government House (primary schools only)
'Young people are key to achieving SDG #15 (Life on Land)'*

The emphasis at the Primary Schools Debate will be on collaboration and team work as the students ages 7-11 set about developing a shared plan for achieving SDG #15 (Life on Land). After the students make their introductory individual speeches on the topic '*Young people are key to achieving SDG #15*', the students will be assigned to one of four Thematic Groups (announced on the day), where discussions and debates will take place supported by group facilitators. The students will work together first within and then across their groups, with the aim of achieving a commonly shared plan to achieve SDG #15 by 2030.

09:00 Welcome – Government House

09:15 Introduction to the Day's Proceedings – TSL

09:30 Individual Speeches –
Young people are key to achieving SDG #15 (2.5 mins/student)

10:30 Refreshment Break

10:45 Group Debate Preparation –
Young people are key to achieving SDG #15 (students)
Or
Teachers' Workshop (teachers)

14:00 Group Debate – *Young people are key to achieving SDG #15*
(presentations by student groups, followed by inter-group debate)

15:30 Refreshment Break

16:00 Awards Ceremony

16:40 Closing Remarks and Photos (ends 17:00)

OR

Optional Educational Visits for Secondary School delegates to Downtown Victoria, including free admission to the Royal BC Museum

(note: delegates staying at Pearson College will have a separate educational visits programme)

Wednesday 10th July: **Secondary Schools Debate & Awards**, Government House, Victoria
'Young people are key to achieving SDG #15' (secondary schools only)

After their individual speeches on the topic *'Young people are key to achieving SDG #15'*, the secondary school students (ages 11-17) will work together in groups (announced on the day) to prepare their joint arguments, either pro or con, on the motion, *'This House believes that young people are key to achieving SDG #15'*. Following a break for lunch, each group will deliver its main arguments, followed by brief rebuttals from and responses to the other groups. The Secondary Schools Debate will end with closing arguments.

9:00 Welcome – Government House

09:15 Introduction to the Day's Proceedings – TSL

09:30 Individual Speeches (2.5 mins/student) (in groups) –
Young people are key to achieving SDG #15

10:30 Refreshment Break

10:45 Group Debate Preparation – *This House believes that young people are key to achieving SDG #15*
(students)
or
Teachers' Workshop (teachers)

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Group Debate – *This House believes that young people are key to achieving SDG #15* (group presentations, followed by rebuttals, responses and closing arguments)

16:00 Refreshment Break

16:30 Awards Ceremony

17:00 Closing Remarks and Photos

17:15 End

OR

Optional Educational Visits to Downtown Victoria for Primary School delegates, including free admission to the Royal BC Museum

Thursday 11th July:

Morning: Plenary Event, Songhees First Nation Longhouse, Victoria

Following on from the Primary and Secondary School Debates, conference delegates will come together and share highlights and lessons from the past three days. Attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with representatives from the local First Nations community, renowned artists, eminent scientists and other leaders in the fields of conservation and sustainable development. The plenary event will include:

- Traditional Welcome by Songhees First Nation
- Keynote Address by [Dr David Suzuki](#), scientist and broadcaster
- Panel Discussion featuring Leading Experts and eight Child Ambassadors selected at the Debates (four from each category – primary and secondary)
- Announcement of *Voices of Future Generations children's book series* Indigenous Child Authors, by Carey Newman, First Nations Artist and Master Carver
- The Royal Academy of Engineering, along with the US National Academy of Engineering and Chinese Academy of Engineering, is hosting the [Global Grand Challenges Summit 2019](#) in September this year, which is aligned with the vision of the Trust for Sustainable Living. The Royal Academy of Engineering will award a prize related to the Summit to a participant in the Schools Debates.

Afternoon: Departures to Vancouver by bus/ferry for delegates registered for Vancouver visits on July 12

Friday 12th July: Vancouver Educational Visits

Hosted by the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA) and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation at VanDusen Botanical Garden

Spend the morning at VanDusen Botanical Garden, with a welcome from the Musqueam First Nation, a short keynote address and fun, outdoors workshops throughout the beautiful 22ha (55 acres) Garden. With a great selection of workshops in science, art, storytelling, citizen science and more, participants will choose how to spend their morning outside, exploring the biodiversity of the ecosystems in the Garden or Bloedel Conservatory.

At lunch, participants will go to different areas of Metro Vancouver for their choice of afternoon activity options, all entirely outdoors. Duration of program varies for the different options.

Morning Breakout Workshops (10 - 11:45 am)

All VBGA Workshops:

- are open to all ages
- are entirely or mostly outdoors, regardless of the weather
- should include a visit to the Elizabethan Maze
- may include VBGA summer camp leaders, volunteers or campers (ages 8-10), as participants or assistants

Morning Workshop options:

1. **Canada's Natural Heritage Walk.** Meet native plants and animals through traditional indigenous storytelling and plant identification with VanDusen's Canadian Heritage Educator. (Limit 25)
2. **Bloedel Conservatory and Queen Elizabeth Park.** Quick bus to Queen Elizabeth Park to see the stunning view from the highest point in the city, the Quarry Garden, and the famous Love Locks. Inside the Conservatory, discover parrots and other tropical birds and tasty plants. Discuss food systems from planting to distribution that model best practices for sustainable development. (Limit 30)
3. **Citizen Science in the Garden** - Collect valuable data in VanDusen's Backyard Bird Garden and contribute to citizen science initiatives such as [eBird](#) and the [Bumblebee Atlas](#). (Limit 40)
*Classroom use
4. **Garden Photography** - Capture the biodiversity and beauty of plants, people, and animals as you develop your photography skills with your own device. (Limit 40)
5. **Artists Inspired by Nature** - Circle the lakes to see the waterlilies, read the Gitksan story poles in the BC Habitat Garden, and enjoy the beauty and complexity of nature that inspires creativity. Tour leaders will highlight famous artists like Claude Monet and Andy Goldsworthy who drew inspiration from nature. Participants will collect materials to make a collaborative Earth Art installation in the Garden. (Limit 40)
6. **Things with Wings** - You don't have to fly high to see what kind of winged creatures live near lakes, flower gardens, and forests. Using binoculars we'll discover where birds, bats, and bugs sleep, what they eat, and what makes them unique. (Limit 20)
7. **A Glimpse of VanDusen Botanical Garden** - Journey along the water's edge, between volcanic rock walls, and among forest groves to meet iconic native plant and animal species. Through storytelling and interactive games, participants will learn about coastal BC ecosystems and culture. (Limit 30)

Afternoon options:

A) Stanley Park Lunch and Walking tour

Enjoy a bag lunch at English Bay, Vancouver's most popular beach, and find A-maze-ing Laughter. Then discover the different ecosystems of Stanley Park on an easy 5k walk in this large and popular urban park. Visit the active Great Blue Heron rookery high up in the towering trees and walk along the shore of Lost Lagoon to stop at the Stanley Park Nature House. Continue the tour along the seawall, past the marina to end up at Canada Place on the downtown waterfront. VBGA hosts will stay with the participants until Canada Place, and assist with wayfinding to hotels. (Limit 50)

Bring: Sunscreen, hats, water, light clothes, and comfortable footwear

Time: 12:00 - 3:30

B) Stanley Park Lunch Only Option

Enjoy a bag lunch at English Bay, Vancouver's most popular beach, find A-maze-ing Laughter, then explore what Stanley Park has to offer on your own. Nearby options within walking distance include the Vancouver Aquarium, Second Beach swimming pool, Third beach, bicycle rentals, or a walk along the seawall (additional fees vary by attraction/rental).

Bring: Sunscreen, hats, water, light clothes, and comfortable footwear

Time: 12:00 - 1:00

C) Temperate Rainforest and Salmon Stroll

After a quick bag lunch at VanDusen, go to North Vancouver for a light walk in a lush temperate rainforest. Marvel at BC old-growth forest and learn about pacific salmon at the Capilano River Hatchery on tours presented by Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Metro Vancouver. After a short stop at Lonsdale Quay market, participants will ride the public Seabus back across the water to Waterfront Station in downtown Vancouver. VBGA hosts will stay with the group until downtown Vancouver and assist with wayfinding to hotels. (Limit 50)

Bring: Sunscreen, hats, water, light clothes, and comfortable footwear

Time: 12:00 - 5:00

D) Bowen Island Locals Adventure

After a quick bag lunch at VanDusen, travel by water taxi from Horseshoe Bay to Bowen Island, and meet up with some local youth for a light hike and tour of the forest, beach and village community of Snug Cove. The Bowen youth will take them to massive trees, fish ladder, lagoon, recycling depot, and other local interests. Participants will take the BC Ferry back to the mainland at Horseshoe Bay, and express public bus back downtown. A VBGA host will stay with the group until downtown, and assist with wayfinding to hotel. (Limit 30)

Bring: Sunscreen, hats, water, light clothes, and comfortable footwear for light hike.

Time: 12:00 - 6:00

Please note: All events and timings are subject to change without advance notice.

For accommodation options in Victoria and Vancouver, please [see our website](#).

Further information on transportation and educational visit options will follow shortly.