



Hello Friend,

September has been an inspiring month filled with events that have brought our community together to address critical issues facing our city and planet. We are excited to share these highlights with you in this month's newsletter, as well as upcoming events and actions.

Join us next week for a free screening of the powerful documentary 'There's Something in the Water' on Oct 5 at Bytowne Cinema. This event will shed light on the pressing climate challenges we face, and highlight our ongoing [climate petition](#) calling for ambitious local climate action in Ottawa.

[RSVP](#)

'There's Something in the Water' directed by Elliot Page and Ian Daniel, explores the environmental injustices faced by marginalized communities in Nova Scotia, Canada. Dr. Ingrid Waldron's groundbreaking research on the intersection of race, class, and environmental health played a pivotal role in uncovering these injustices.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of the conversation surrounding climate justice! Thank you to Echo Foundation for the support that made this event possible.

Pratigga and the Ecology Ottawa team

p.s. This film screening is a prelude to our upcoming Eco Gala on November 4th, where Dr. Ingrid Waldron will take centre stage as the keynote speaker. Save the date and get inspired to take action for a more equitable and sustainable future. You can purchase tickets to our 16th annual Eco Gala [here](#).

Thank you to our sponsors [JJ McNeil](#), [Lightenco](#), [Lumos Energy](#), [Risk Balance](#), [Hendry Warren](#), [EnviroCentre](#), and [Dancia Susilo Service](#).



### **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30**

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. This day is an important step towards recognizing and addressing the historical and ongoing injustices faced by Indigenous Peoples. As an organization, 2023 marks the first year that Ecology Ottawa recognized it as a holiday for staff, with our offices being closed on Monday, Oct 2. This allows our staff to take time to reflect on the Truth and Reconciliation process and the role we can play in supporting Indigenous communities in their journey towards healing and justice. We encourage individual learning and participation in community events on this important day to foster a deeper understanding of the impact and legacy of colonialism and the residential school programs.

### **Global Climate Strike 2023**



The Global Climate Strike, which took place from September 20th to 27th, saw millions of individuals worldwide taking to the streets to demand urgent action on climate

change. Here in Ottawa, hundreds of Ottawans came out to demand the end of fossil fuels at Parliament Hill.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers who showed up, handed out flyers, and gathered signatures for our [Climate Petition](#).

### **ICYMI: Pollinator Webinar!**

On August 29, we offered a webinar on [our pollinator program](#). Attendees heard presentations about all three of our gardens, as well as an expert on local pollinators. If you missed the webinar—or you just want to watch it again—a recording is available [on our website](#).

### **Budget 2024**

Ottawa City Council will be determining the budget for 2024 this fall, as they do every fall. A city's budget is crucial to its operations and the lives of its constituents: the budget represents in very real terms a city's priorities. In a time of concurrent crises, it is important that real investments are made to protect our environment and our community. It's crucial that Council gets Budget 2024 right. We're calling for council to:

- Fully fund the implementation of the Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP)
- Accelerate implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP)
- Reverse cuts to public transit, and instead invest.
- Accelerate implementation of active transportation infrastructure in the Transportation Master Plan.
- Implement a bikeshare system, and create subsidies for electric-assist bicycles

Keep an eye out for our piece in the [PEN Newsletter](#) where we have prepared a number of points that we'd like to see in Budget 2024. We encourage you to contact your councillor about these points, whether by email or by speaking with them. In addition to contacting your city councilor, many councilors will be hosting budget consultation sessions leading up to debate and adoption of Budget 2024 in early December. You can also fill out the [Budget 2024 survey](#) on Engage Ottawa.



# ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## **Ottawa Renewable Energy Cooperative (OREC) Looking for Board Members**

Do you feel concerned about the climate crisis and passionate about the energy transition? Consider joining OREC's volunteer board! They are looking for individuals with a wide range of backgrounds, including an experienced treasurer. Contribute in a team of committed directors and help OREC thrive in its mission to bring community financed renewable energy to more communities in Eastern Ontario.

Find out more [here](#).

## **Have your say on the Proposed Amendment to streamline the City of Ottawa's Tree Protection By-law**

In June 2022, Council directed staff to consult with the public on amending the Tree Protection By-law to reduce the size of Distinctive Trees in the suburban area of Ottawa from 50 to 30 cm in diameter measured at breast height. This change would bring the tree by-law permitting rules for the suburbs in line with those for the inner urban area of Ottawa.

The City of Ottawa is requesting input through a survey available on [Engage Ottawa](#), which will be available until October 10, 2023.

## **Land Alliance March**

On September 27th, 2023 five First Nations from Northern Ontario came to Toronto to lead a march calling on Premier Ford to end unwanted mining activity on their Territories. These five strong First Nations have formed a historic alliance to protect their lands and waters in the face of mounting concerns about encroachment on their territories by mining exploration companies who have been enabled by the Ford Government.

[Sign the petition](#), calling for the end of mining on Anishinaabe Territory.

# EVENTS

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - September 30

Attend [Reconciling History walking tours](#) presented by Assembly of Seven Generations and First Nations Child & Family Caring Society (Sat, Sept 30 & Mon, Oct 2)

Join the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) on Parliament Hill for a Remembering The Children Gathering (Sat, Sept 30)

## November 4, 6:30 pm to 9:30pm, Eco Gala

National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr, Ottawa, ON K1N 9N4



Join us for an unforgettable evening at our annual Eco Gala, a highly anticipated celebration of local environmental action in our nation's capital. Ecology Ottawa will welcome all in the Ottawa community who champion climate action, biodiversity, safeguarding of nature, and people power. We're thrilled to introduce our MC for the evening, Joanne Chianello, an acclaimed and award-winning journalist! Our distinguished keynote speaker for the evening is Dr. Ingrid Waldron, a renowned figure in the field of environmental justice and author of *There's Something In The Water*:

Environmental Racism in Indigenous & Black Communities, the book that inspired the documentary directed by Elliot Page.

[Buy Tickets](#)

Thank you to our sponsors JJ McNeil, [Lightenco](#), [Lumos Energy](#), [Risk Balance](#), [Hendry Warren](#), [EnviroCentre](#), and [Dancia Susilo Service](#).

**October 28, 10am-2pm, Circular Economy Event hosted by [EcoEquitable](#)**

404, avenue McArthur, Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8

This October will be Canada's first annual Circular Economy Month! To celebrate and raise awareness, EcoEquitable is hosting a Circularity Fair. Ecology Ottawa will be in attendance, hope to see you there!

Stay up to date with all of our [events here!](#)



The City has introduced a new video series '*City of Ottawa Waste Reduction Education*' on how to divert more waste to recycling and compost streams, watch [here!](#)

## **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

Learn more about [Assembly of Seven Generations \(A7G\)](#)

Understand the work of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the 94 Calls to Action released in their 2015 Final Report](#)

Read about the initiatives of [National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation](#)

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