

Connect with People to Create Change

"The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart."

Tanaka Shozo

(1841- 1913), Japanese politician and conservationist

People are a powerful force to correct or prevent environmental problems.

Sometimes they may not be aware of an issue but there are ways that you can be heard.

Write a Letter or Arrange a Meeting with the decision-makers. They need to know your concerns and hear about your ideas to deal with the challenge.

Organize a Petition to be signed by other people who share your concern.

Approach the Media or Get Your Message Out On-Line to reach more people.

Who should you contact?

If you are writing a letter, organizing a petition or want to meet with someone with the power to help you create change, you will need to do research. Whatever your project you need to connect with the right person and address them directly. A few leads—

- For a project in your community — a wetland clean-up, conserving a local wetland or wildlife habitat — a local politician, like a councilor or mayor, may be able to provide support or help
- For a bigger issue, such as the conservation of wildlife or wetlands in your province — contact the head of one of the provincial government ministries involved or even the premier. The students on page 19 chose to write their Minister of Conservation to ask him to protect Manitoba's wetlands.
- Members of the media—newspapers, television, radio - can help you get your message out. See page 21 for more about how to reach them.

Visit the Wetland Heroes section of Ducks Unlimited Canada's education website education.ducks.ca for names and addresses of who you can contact in your province.



Tanya V., a Grade 5 Saskatchewan student, presented her prize-winning speech to her Premier. Her ideas for protecting the province's valuable wetlands included tax breaks for farmers who protect wetlands, hiring of more conservation officers and supporting student conservation volunteers.