



THE STUDENT INNOVATION CONTEST 2026

Official Rules and Guidelines

NO PURCHASE OR FEE IS REQUIRED TO ENTER

The Student Innovation Contest (the "Contest") is sponsored by **Take A Stand: Youth for Conservation** and the **Raincoast Conservation Foundation**.

1. ELIGIBILITY:

The Student Innovation Challenge is open to legal residents of British Columbia, to include young adults (aged 19-25) and students enrolled in grades 5 to 12 and not affiliated with employees of the Sponsors, contest administrators, and any other parties engaged in the development, production or distribution of contest materials. By participating in this Contest, entrants acknowledge compliance with, and agree to be bound by, these contest rules, including but not limited to the eligibility requirements set out herein.

Entrants under 18 years of age **must have parental/guardian consent** to enter (i.e. the parent or guardian's signature on the entry form, and must be the rightful owner of the e-mail address used to enter the contest as described in Sections 4 & 5 (below). Entrants who do not comply with any of the Contest Rules are subject to disqualification by the Sponsors, in the Sponsor's sole discretion.

2. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

General Entry Requirements for all submissions:

- **Must be the entrant's original creation** (modifications of a previous work shall not be considered).
- **Must not contain any copyrighted media production** including but not limited to music, films, books, television programming, etc., or identifying descriptions of any media property.
- **All music featured in any submission must be available to publicize** and broadcast on a license-free, no compensation basis.
- **Have written consent** for images from books, newspapers, television, videos, video games etc. – unless they are incidental to the shot (see below). Material available on the internet is **not** considered to be in the public domain unless over 50 years or older and/or the copyright holder has explicitly given up all rights to the material.

- **Must not contain material which is (or promotes activities which are) or may be considered or interpreted as offensive or discriminatory.** E.g. Sexually explicit, obscene, violent, discriminatory (i.e. based on race, sex, religion, natural origin, physical disability, sexual orientation or age), illegal (e.g. underage drinking, substance abuse, etc.), threatening, profane, or harassing. ***This means keep videos family-friendly!***
- **Must not contain material that violates or infringes another's rights,** including but not limited to, material that violates privacy, publicity or intellectual property rights, or that constitutes copyright infringement. Without limiting the foregoing, Video submissions must not prominently include third party trademarks, logos, insignia, location signage, photographs, artwork, or sculptures. However, visuals that are **incidental** to the shot are exempt from having to provide permissions. E.g. Branded clothing that people are wearing as a natural part of their everyday wardrobe, cars that appear in the shot, products that people use, images that people are watching on TV that are incidental to the shot.

FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS:

1) Video

- A minimum of 1 minute and maximum 4 minutes in length.
- Submitted in the formats of .avi, .wmv, .mov, or mp4. Please ensure that these videos are suitable for upload onto Vimeo. Please provide the video file via Google Drive or Dropbox or via a suitable alternative.
- Must have consent of those appearing in any video or media. This does not apply to any person or thing in public space – people and objects in public settings can be filmed or photographed without permission and used commercially (i.e. you're in the clear to shoot video in public).

2) Presentation

Selected entrants will have the opportunity to deliver a live presentation on the event day.

- Presentation entries must include a pre-recording rehearsal of the presentation that will be delivered.
- May be accompanied by a slideshow, PowerPoint or other visual for learning to be submitted as attachments with the recording.
- Presentations will be a maximum of 7 minutes total in duration.

3) Creative Expression

Entrants will have the opportunity to share or showcase their creative expression entry and present their interpretation of the entry live on the event day.

- Must include something that is an original creation of the entrant
- Examples include, but are not limited to: artwork, sculptures, photography, poem, song, dance, etc. Be creative!
- Must submit a photo of the creation expression (i.e. what you have done or will be doing or sharing).
- Must be accompanied by a written narrative attachment to describe the creative expression and educational message or meaning it is meant to portray.

3. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

A panel of judges will review all entries and select the top final ideas/projects in each category to be showcased at a virtual or alternative event. Please note, all entries will be reviewed, but only those selected will be featured in the event unless appropriate to the situation. All entrants will be invited to attend the event.

Category themes:

1. Local Wildlife and Habitats of Coastal BC
2. Indigenous Cultures and History
3. Climate Change
4. Human Connections and Impacts

Judges will select the idea entries (the “Selected Entrant(s)”) in each category/grade breakdown based on the following criteria:

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|------------|---|
| 25% | Originality and creativity (of idea, project, and accompanying message) |
| 25% | Potential impact towards conservation/stewardship or awareness |
| 25% | Feasibility to put their strategies into action or progress towards the planned action(s) |
| 25% | Overall impression |

Grade Categories for Judging:

Students of Grades 5 to 7

Students of Grades 8 to 12

Young Adults, Aged 19-25)

4. DATES AND DEADLINES:

Deadline to submit: May 31, 2026 @ 11:59 pm Pacific Standard time. No further entries shall be accepted after this date.

Judging period: June 5, 2026 to June 15, 2026

Notifications: June 15, 2026

The sponsor team will notify all successful entrants and reach out to all finalists, or their teacher during this time frame. All entries will be reviewed, however only successful applicants will be notified.

Event Showcase: TBA

All finalists selected will be attending and sharing/showcasing their projects live at our event. All entrants will be invited to attend.

5. HOW TO ENTER:

To enter, complete the contest entry form (supplied or downloaded from the website) and email with your entry materials to: **kermode@sfu.ca**

Ensure that your entry form is complete **and includes all required signatures**. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation of receipt of your submission and entry. Entries that are late, lost, stolen, illegible, contain false information, are damaged, misdirected, mutilated, garbled or incomplete, altered or otherwise irregular or that do not conform with or satisfy any or all of the conditions of the Contest Rules will be deemed void.

DISCRETION:

By entering, each Entrant represents and warrants that their entry does not and will not defame or otherwise violate the rights of any third party and does not and will not violate any Federal, Provincial, or local laws or ordinances. Both sponsoring organizations reserve the right to determine in its sole discretion which entries have satisfied the entry requirements. Sponsors also reserve the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry that it believes violates any of the Submission Requirements, does not otherwise comply with these Official Rules, or that is not consistent with the spirit and theme of the Contest. Each Entrant grants to the Sponsors a non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual, assignable, royalty-free license to publish, reproduce, distribute, display, perform, create derivative works, transmit or disseminate the Works in all media or platforms now existing or hereafter invented. Where possible, entrants will be introduced via the Sponsors to various mentors (artists, scientists and filmmakers) to facilitate them bringing their ideas into action, or propelling action projects even further.

6. CONTEST PRIZES:

The Prizes are non-transferable and non-refundable once issued. The Sponsors reserve the right to substitute an alternate prize of equal or greater value if advertised prize is unavailable at time of award. Limit one prize per category per person/group. Winners will be announced with their prizes at our live virtual event. If the winner does not attend the event, their prize will be sent to them by mail to their home or school as appropriate.

7. CONDUCT:

The Sponsors reserve the right, in its sole discretion, to disqualify any entrant it finds to be: (i) violating these Contest Rules; (ii) tampering or attempting to tamper with the entry process or the operation of the Contest; (iii) acting in an un sportsman-like or disruptive manner, or with the intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other person. Any attempt by an entrant or any other individual to undermine the legitimate operation of the Contest may be a violation of criminal and/or civil laws. Should any such attempt be made, the Sponsor reserves the right to seek remedies and damages to the fullest extent permitted by law.

8. OTHER CONDITIONS:

The Sponsors reserve the right to terminate or amend this Contest at any time and in any way, without prior notice. Without limiting the foregoing, if, for any reason, the Contest is not capable of running as originally planned, such as tampering, the Sponsors reserve the right to cancel the Contest and select a winner based on the winner selection criteria above based on all eligible entries received by the Contest End Date.