

2012 Summit Backgrounder

Biodiversity loss is one of the biggest challenges facing our generation. That is why, this June, a consortium of organizations in Muskoka will be holding the 2nd Muskoka Summit on the Environment on this very important topic. Biodiversity Loss – from Science to Policy will feature eight speakers that will highlight issues and trends and examine policy options for future action.

The Summit will open with native singing to set the stage for the Summit as an inclusive and multifaceted event. The speakers range in expertise from scientists to policy writers to frontline people implementing local programs. Paul Kennedy of the CBC show *Ideas* will moderate the panel discussion and record the event for a future *ideas* broadcast.

The objective of the Summit is to engage and motivate the public, university and high school students, academics and other professionals in an open debate and discussion on the implications of biodiversity loss. A formal communiqué will be developed that can be used by the public at a local, regional, provincial, or national level to encourage action to be taken on stopping biodiversity loss.

There will also be a concurrent Youth Summit held at the local campus of Nipissing University. All speaker presentations will be live streamed to the campus where students will be able to feed questions back to the speakers in real time. The students will develop their own communiqué that will be presented to appropriate decision makers as determined by them.

Speakers

Justina Ray	<i>Executive Director, Wildlife Conservation Society</i>
Jeremy Kerr	<i>Associate Professor, University of Ottawa</i>
Andrew Gonzalez	<i>Associate Professor, McGill University</i>
Steve Hounsell	<i>President, Board of Trustees, Trees Ontario</i>
Stephen Monet	<i>Manager of Environmental Planning Initiatives, City of Greater Sudbury</i>
Tom Lovejoy	<i>Biodiversity Chair, Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment</i>
Karen Kraft Sloan	<i>Chair of the Board of Directors, Canadian Pollination Initiative</i>