

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact

Noah Mondrow

(416) 806-9427

noah@impactcanada.com

Canadian Finalist Chosen for Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Winnipeg, MB, 2025 — High school student Aiyaan Faisal has been selected as Canada's finalist for the 2025 Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) Competition and will compete at the international finals later this August in Stockholm, Sweden.

Aiyaan's project models the rate of evaporation using deep neural networks to predict how climate change could impact evaporation in Lake Winnipeg's southern basin. His findings suggest evaporation could increase by approximately 30% by the end of the century — a projection with significant implications for ecosystems, irrigation, fisheries, and hydropower across the globe.

This past spring, Canadian students in Grades 10 to 12 submitted innovative research projects aimed at tackling major water-related challenges. Following an initial selection at the Canada-Wide Science Fair, three national finalists were chosen:

- Out of the Deep End: Assessing the Impacts of Climate Change in Lake Winnipeg's Evaporation with Neural Networks – Aiyaan Faisal
- Wave to the Future: Harnessing Wave Energy for Sustainable Water Desalination – Aaron Dias and Esam Taher
- From Asphalt to Estuary: Highway-Linked Microplastic Intrusion in Salt Marsh Sediments – Willow Pass

After rigorous evaluation based on project relevance, creativity, methodology, and subject knowledge, Aiyaan was selected as the national winner by a panel of expert judges. He will travel to Stockholm to participate in the global SJWP competition from August 24th to 28th, held during World Water Week. The event brings together young scientists from nearly 40 countries to share their work, attend ceremonies, and connect with international peers and Swedish royalty.

Aiyaan's participation is made possible through the support of the five Canadian Water Environment Federation (WEF) member associations.

The Canadian SJWP organizing team is also seeking volunteer judges for future competitions. Interested individuals can contact Natalie Wilson at Natalie.wilson@aecom.com.

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About WEAO: The Water Environment Association of Ontario consists of a diverse range of technicians, professionals and academics working to ensure the future of our water and environmental industries. Our 1,100 members range from individual municipal employees and industry consultants to equipment suppliers and manufacturers, scientists, and young academics dealing with wastewater, stormwater, and biosolids.