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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Giving Grade School Youth a Platform to Speak about Water Protection with AWARD WINNING CLIMATE ACTIVIST Allie Rougeot

Brought to you by **Waterlution**. Learn more about part of a series upcoming programming for youth ages 7-29 across Canada at waterlution.org/waterstorytellingcontest



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TURTLE ISLAND / CANADA (January, 12, 2021) — Waterlution is facilitating a **STORYTELLING for CLIMATE, HUMAN RIGHTS, WATER ACTIVISM WORKSHOP** – a 2 part online workshop for Canadian youth (ages 11 - 18), with training on February 10th, led by award winning Toronto based climate activist Allie Rougeot. This workshop is followed by a Facebook Live event where youth will present their water issues to local community leaders.

“Climate change is a complex issue, and both mobilizing demand for climate justice and actually co-creating solutions to climate change can pass through powerful storytelling.”

– Alienor Rougeot, Co-Founder of Fridays for Future Toronto

Allie Rougeot in her role at Fridays for Future she plans large scale climate rallies and guides youth in finding climate and water issues they are passionate about! In partnership with Waterlution, she will focus on Water Issues and demonstrate how to frame stories for impactful, effective water and climate activism. This workshop is part of Waterlution's Young Water Speaks: A Youth Storytelling Contest. For more information about the workshop and Young Water Speaks Contest please visit <https://waterlution.org/waterstorytellingcontest/>

DATE & TIMES

Workshop with Allie Rougoet: Wednesday February 10, 2021 9:30-10:30am PT / 10:30-11:30am MT / 12:30-1:30pm ET / 1:30-2:30pm AT	Youth Presenting water issues & stories on Facebook Live: Wednesday March 3rd, 2021 9:30-10:30am PT / 10:30-11:30am MT / 12:30-1:30pm ET / 1:30-2:30pm AT
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Teachers, youth group leaders or individuals can sign up! Participating in these events is free for youth ages 11-18 register here under special events:

<https://waterlution.org/waterstorytellingcontest/>

About Young Water Speaks

Young Water Speaks - Youth Storytelling Contest is Waterlution's 2020-2022 youth project. It is a national storytelling educational project that provides video resources and special webinars hosted by Waterlution's **Youth Advisory Board (YAB)** volunteers, Indigenous and non-Indigenous guest storytellers (like Allie).

Young Canadians gain the tools to connect with water and the creativity to generate captivating stories about this precious resource which can be submitted to the contest. The contest is divided into 3 different age categories (ages 7-10, 11-13, and 14-18) within 4 separate regions in Canada. The program is being funded by the Government of Canada and is being delivered in both official languages.

The free YAB volunteer-led workshops provide classes and youth groups story-creation training to learn to generate ideas inspired by water (and the rich connections water has to history and cultures). These workshops guide youth on developing characters, storyboards, and selecting a creative outlet (creative writing, visual arts, videography etc.) to share their water story. All participants can submit their water story creation in the contest, and be eligible for prizes sponsored by LUSH and United Blue Clothing. Submissions also have the chance to be featured in the **Traveling Storytelling Exhibit in Summer 2021** curated by the YAB volunteer team

About Allie Rougeot

Allie Rougeot is an Economics and Public Policy student at the University of Toronto. She moved from France to Toronto, Ontario for university. She has been an environmental and human rights activist for the past 10 years and has focused her attention on climate justice since high school. In January 2019 she took on the role of coordinator for the Fridays for Future in Toronto. Fridays for Future is a worldwide movement where students have been striking and protesting to demand bold climate action from all levels of government. Allie has been recognized for her work by the Canadian Voice of Women for peace with the Kim Phuc Youth Award, Toronto Post Magazine in "20 under 20", and Corporate Knights "30 under 30". Allie believes climate change is a complex issue, and that both mobilizing to demand climate justice and actually co-creating solutions to climate change can pass through powerful storytelling.

About Waterlution

Waterlution is a Canadian NGO, founded in 2003, that works nationally and internationally for leadership training and mentorship paired with unique learning opportunities for youth and young professionals who are passionate about water. We believe that by engaging future young leaders with mentors directly, we are facilitating the development of powerful leadership skills, effective community building, and directing passion into focused and purposeful action.

Media Contact:

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