



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Nature Canada congratulates Abinaya Gnanasekar of Oakville, Ontario, as a 2024 Young Nature Leaders Grant recipient**

**(Unceded Algonquin Territory, Ottawa, August 12, 2024)**—Nature Canada's *Women for Nature* are proud to celebrate Abinaya Gnanasekar of Oakville, Ontario, as a recipient of our 2024 **Young Nature Leaders Grant**. This grant encourages, fosters and nurtures youth to demonstrate their leadership in nature.

Abinaya will be hosting a day trip to Kortright Centre for Conservation (Vaughan, ON) with 20 newcomers/refugee women, in connection with York U and Regenesiis. She will be hosting it in mid-August. Abinaya has shared that in university her studies focused on "the relationship between humans, culture, and nature. The opportunity to lead a community-based nature project focusing on nature, and culture resonated with my passion and love for the environment and the cultures I grew up with".

Abinaya is a Young Nature Leader alongside these other amazing local youth leaders:

- Humza Hassan, Toronto, ON;
- Luke Nguyen, Ajax, ON;
- Percy Ager, Cape Breton, NS;
- Samuel LeGresley, Greater Moncton, NB;
- Hayley De Turse, Peterborough, ON

"It brings me great hope and happiness to see these young people taking leadership in their local communities to help and heal nature," says the Honourable Rosa Galvez, Honorary Chair of Nature Canada's *Women for Nature* program. "Through their actions and advocacy, young Canadians across the country are creating a cleaner and brighter tomorrow," declares Galvez.

The **Young Nature Leaders Grant** began in 2017 to empower youth to develop and implement a youth-led, community-based project centered around nature and sustainability in Canada. This year's recipients join an impressive list of previous recipients with unique and complementary ideas.

## **Related Links:**

[Recipients of the 2024 Young Nature Leaders Grant](#)

## **For media assistance please contact:**

Scott Mullenix, Director of Communications  
613-462-4024  
[media@naturecanada.ca](mailto:media@naturecanada.ca)

## **For information on the Young Nature Leaders grant please contact:**

Jodi Joy, Director of Development, Nature Canada  
613-295-6769 | 1-800-267-4088  
[jjoy@naturecanada.ca](mailto:jjoy@naturecanada.ca)

## **About Nature Canada**

Nature Canada was founded in 1939 because of the passion and initiative of Mabel Frances Whittemore, a teacher and nature lover whose main goal in life was to share her passion for nature with others. Today, Nature Canada represents a network of over 175,000 members and supporters and more than 1200 nature organizations across the country. Over the past 85 years, Nature Canada has helped protect more than 110 million acres of parks and wildlife areas in Canada and countless species that depend on this habitat and connected hundreds of thousands of Canadians - especially children - with nature through its activities.

## **About Women For Nature**

Nature Canada's signature "Women for Nature" initiative raises awareness about the need to connect more Canadians of all ages to nature. Our members champion efforts to inspire youth and families to spend time in nature, to learn and experience our natural heritage and in doing so, ensure the health and well-being of our Canadian society.